

MORETON SAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Moreton Say Parish Council held at Moreton Say Village Hall on Thursday 23rd January 2025 which commenced at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors C Dutton, G Turner, A Wickett, P Smith and J James and Unitary Councillor P Wynn also present Mrs J Evans (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs P Duffy and C Wellon

1. **Welcome / Present / Apologises** – As stated above.
 2. **Declarations of Interest** – None
 3. **Public Session** – There were 3 members of the public present at the beginning of this agenda item who commented on the following issues:
 - The Trailers that have been abandoned in lay-bys, 2 in Moreton Say parish and 2 others in neighbouring parishes. The Clerk confirmed that this issue had been reported to Shropshire Highways via 'Fix my street' and Cllr Wynn said that, if the Clerk forwarded all the locations to him, he would take this matter forward.
 - The numerous times that there have been traffic lights on the A41 between Tern Hill and Bletchley and perhaps another solution to the constant re-pairing of the grid/manhole cover could be found.
 - The dumping of dead pheasants and ducks, possibly to do with the bird flu outbreak in North Shropshire.
- During this agenda item 2 PCSOs, from Market Drayton Police Station, joined the meeting and they confirmed that the abandoned trailers were not a police matter but were a Shropshire Council issue. They went on to advise that they had been out in the parish 10 times over the last few months, in response to the Parish Council's Police Community Charter priorities of rural crime and anti-social driving, and would try to come over again to continue to show a police presence. The Parish Council thanked the PCSOs very much for attending the meeting and the PCSOs left.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28th November 2024** - Prior to the meeting the Councillors had received copies of these minutes and it was resolved that they were a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
 5. **Clerk's update regarding on-going matters** – The Council was updated regarding the following:
 - The Clerk read out a reply that she had finally received from Shropshire Council relating to the condition of the road across Smythmoor. Basically, Shropshire Highways are aware of the issues, they will be undertaking the various site assessments but it is not on the work plan for the immediate future. It was suggested that the more people report problems via 'Fix my street' the quicker it may be investigated so the Parish Council asked the Clerk to put this on the Parish Council website and ask Cllr Duffy to put it on the Rural Watch Facebook page.
 - The school have thanked the Parish Council for agreeing to purchase £1k worth of books for the new library which is due to be created over the Easter holidays, so this expenditure will fall into the next financial year.
 - The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's nomination for the Lord Lieutenant's Garden Party had been successful.
 6. **Report from the Unitary Councillor** – Cllr Wynn reported:
 - Unfortunately, Shropshire Council no longer has its 5-year land supply and so he expects a lot of planning applications to be put in and it will be very hard for Shropshire Council not to grant these.
 - The Civic Hall in Whitchurch project is moving forwards with options to either re-roof the existing building costing £4m or knock the existing building down and rebuild costing £8.5m.
 - Shropshire Council are still meeting at the Shirehall as the IT needs to be completed at the Guildhall.

7. Report from other Committees by Moreton Say Parish Council Representatives – The following representatives reported on meetings attended.

- Cllr Smith reported on the North SALC meeting that she had attended online where the speakers were Mr Donaldson, a Rural Crime Officer, and Squadron Leader Mason from RAF Shawbury. Mr Donaldson spoke about the issues with lack of witnesses to rural crime and explained that Ring doorbells are very useful in this respect and advised that some farmers are reporting success with installing laser beams across agricultural building doorways. Squadron Leader Mason explained what goes on at Shawbury and confirmed that the 6 monthly newsletter to Parish Councils is working well. Chris Mellings, the new County SALC officer, advised that the new SALC website was easier to use and he would be publishing information about the role of the Parish Councillor ahead of this May's local elections.
- Cllr James reported on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Conference that she had attended in Church Stretton where she had learnt about the various projects that are being undertaken across the county and the funding that is available to finance nature projects. Following the conference Cllr James had written to Helen Morgan MP highlighting the issues which had been raised and had received a reply.
- Cllr James also reported on a steering group meeting for the Market Drayton Community Family Hub that she had attended. She explained that at present the group are looking into how they can create a consultation which will feedback to the steering group what form people would prefer this Community Hub to take.

8. Planning – The following planning applications were considered and *comments agreed*:

None received

Determination of Planning

None received

9. Finance

a. Expenses

Payee	Expense	Chq No	Net Amount	Vat Amount	Authority
I C O	Data Protection Registration	D/D	£35.00		LGA 1972 s 111
E-on	Street light maintenance contract	Int Bk	£95.54	£19.11	PCA 1957 ss 3 (1) & 7
Unity Bank	Monthly Bank Charges		£6.00		LGA 1972 s 111
Jane Evans	Clerk's Salary - January 2025	SO	£278.20	-	LGA 1972 s 112 (2)
Jane Evans	Clerk's Salary - February 2025	SO	£278.20	-	LGA 1972 s 112 (2)
	Total		£692.94	£19.11	

The Clerk explained that since this meeting's agenda had been published Cllr James had forwarded a claim for the expenses involved in her attendance at the Conference in Church Street totalling £33.60 and the Council agreed to pay this expense along with all the payments detailed in the above schedule.

b. Bank Reconciliation:

Balance brought forward as at 1st April 2024	£17,085.74
Add: Receipts to date	£35,737.10
Less: Payments to date	£28,855.58
Closing Balance	£23,967.26

Bank Balances as at 31st December 2024:

Current Account	£1,309.50
Interest Bearing Account	£22,657.76
Add: credits not yet applied	£ 0.00

Total Bank Balance **£23,967.26**

c. Quarterly Internal Control – Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated all financial information for

the quarter ending 31st December 2024, this was agreed and Cllr Smith initialled the bank statement.

- d. **Precept and Budget for 25/26** – Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a revised budget for 25/26, following the discussion at the last meeting, and including the financial information received by Shropshire Council regarding the Precept request. The Council reviewed this budget and it was proposed that the Clerk's salary should be increase to £4k, all agreed. The Council discussed the Precept requirement and resolved that this should be £13,649 which equates to a 0% increase in the Band D Council Tax charge. The Clerk will update the Budgets for 25/26 and then publish these on the Parish Council website.

10. Highways & Environmental – The Council discussed the following issues:

- Potholes – The Clerk advised that all the potholes she was aware of had been reported to Shropshire Council but encouraged all Parish Councillors and residents to report any they saw via 'Fix my street' as the more reports that Shropshire Highways received the more likely it was the they would be repaired.
- Longford – The Clerk advised the Council that she had asked Shropshire Highways what the criteria was to reduce the speed limit through Longford, as there were 26 properties in this village, but she had not yet received a reply.
- Wellness Bench – This SALC promoted initiative is to encourage residents to sit and walk outside to increase their wellbeing. The Clerk has, on behalf of the Parish Council, expressed an interest in having a bench, which will only cost the Parish Council £100, and at the same time asked Shropshire Highways about siting this bench on a big verge in Longford.

11. Street Lighting / Maintenance & Repairs – There were no issues reported at present.

12. Pathway from Moreton Say School to Moreton Say Village Hall – Cllr Dutton has spoken to the Headteacher who fully supports this proposal and confirmed that although the school is at full capacity but there are no intentions to expand it. It was unanimously agreed that to take this matter forward the Clerk will liaise with Peter Richards to draw up a plan that can be attached to an agreement, drawn up by solicitors, between the land owner and the school which the Parish Council will pay for along with gates at either end. Cllr Dutton reiterated that this pathway would only be used by the school, so that the children did not have to walk on the road, and was not a public right of way. As it was not known exactly how much this project would cost the Clerk had put £2k in the budget.

13. Correspondence - SALC and Shropshire Council emails have been forwarded to the Councillors when received.

14. Parish Matters – Cllr James asked why Longford was not in the catchment area for Moreton Say school, Cllr will ask the Chair of Governors and report back to the next meeting.

15. Agenda Items – No further items were raised for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on 27th March 2025 but the Clerk advised that she would put the Annual Parish Meeting on this agenda.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Approval of the Minutes held on 23rd January 2025

Minutes accepted and approved by Moreton Say Parish Council at a meeting held on 27th March 2025

Signed by the Chairman 