

MORETON SAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Moreton Say Parish Council held at Moreton Say Village Hall on Thursday 2nd October 2025 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors C Dutton, C Wellon, G Turner, A Wickett, P Smith and J James and Unitary Councillor M Myles-Hook, also present Mrs J Evans (Locum Clerk).

Apologies: Councillor J Burslem

1. **Welcome / Present / Apologises** – As stated above
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None
3. **Public Session** – There were no members of the public present.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Moreton Say Parish Council and Parish Council Meeting held on 8th May 2025 and the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th July 2025** - 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:
 - As the new Clerk had resigned due to ill health the Cllrs delegated to recruit a Clerk have asked the previous Clerk to return and cover the role, in a locum capacity, while the recruitment process is undertaken again, all Cllrs agreed to this action.
 - The job advertisement for the Clerk's role was published on 4th September with the closing date for applications next Wednesday, 8th October. So far there has been one applicant.
 - Former Cllr Phil Duffy has been removed from the Bank Mandate and Cllr Smith has been added.
 - Since the last meeting the Clerk had circulated emails regarding Fordhall Farm being registered as an Asset of Community Value but Cottage Field has not.
6. **Report from the Unitary Councillor** – Cllr Myles-Hook has continued to send out monthly updating reports relating to Shropshire Council matters. The August report explained the impact of Shropshire Council not having a completed Local Plan while the September report concentrated on the Financial Emergency that was declared by Shropshire Council at the beginning of September and the impact that this will have on the county as Shropshire Council stop spending money to avoid bankruptcy. Cllr James questioned the shared service initiative, where Town & Parish Councils provide services that Shropshire Council historically provided, and Cllr Myles-Hook advised that he would have more information on this initiative shortly and would include details in his next monthly report.
7. **Report from other Committees by Moreton Say Parish Council Representatives** – Cllr Jamse reported that at a meeting of the Market Drayton & Rural Parishes Community and Family Wellbeing Hub the Festival Drayton Centre had been recommended as the site for this service and the group were presently applying for funds to finance a full-time employee to staff this, along with volunteer help.
8. **Planning** – The following planning applications were considered and *comments agreed*:

25/03428/VAR - Variation of condition 3 attached to planning permission 22/05366/FUL dated 17 April 2023 - Land Off A53, Market Drayton, Shropshire. *The Parish Council objected to this planning application on the following grounds:*

 - *Nothing has changed regarding this busy A road since Shropshire Highways put the conditions on the original planning application and so the same issues of safety still exist.*
 - *If the pre-commencement restriction is lifted and the development goes ahead and the conditions are not subsequently met, for whatever reason, then a lengthy enforcement situation may occur while the safety to the road users is compromised.*
 - *The financial viability of the applicant's project should not be a contributing factor when considering highway safety.*

Determination of Planning

25/02768/VAR - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 22/05402/FUL to reconfigure the internal layout, erection of a single storey utility extension, changes to elevations and provision of a roof terrace and Juliet balcony - Land North Glencott, Longslow, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3QY – **Permission Granted**

25/01142/FUL - Installation of "in-roof" solar panels (14 Tiger Neo N-type All Black) - The Cornhouse, Poppiefields, Longslow, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3QY - **Permission Granted**

9. Finance

a. Expenses

Payee	Expense		Net Amount	Vat Amount	Authority
Chris Jordan	Grass cutting		£140.00		LGA 1972 s 124 (1)
Shropshire Council	Street light energy	Int Bk	£136.68	£27.34	PCA 1957 ss 3 (1) & 7
Med Uk Group	Replacement pads for M S Defib	Int Bk	£55.00	£11.00	Localism Act
E-on	Street light maintenance contract	Int Bk	£95.54	£19.11	PCA 1957 ss 3 (1) & 7
PKF LittleJohn	External Audit	Int Bk	£210.00	£42.00	LGA 1972 s 111
Unity Bank	Monthly Bank Charges - Sept & Oct		£12.00		LGA 1972 s 111
Jane Evans	Locum Clerk's wages	Int Bk			LGA 1972 s 112 (2)
	Total		£649.22	£99.45	

The Council resolved that these payments should be made.

b. Bank Reconciliation:

Balance brought forward as at 1st April 2025	£22,352.76
Add: Receipts to date	£20,277.96
Less: Payments to date	£ 7,500.59
Closing Balance	£35,130.13

Bank Balances as at 31st August 2025:

Current Account	£1,130.13
Interest Bearing Account	£34,000.00
Less: payments awaiting authorisation	£0.00

Total Bank Balance **£35,130.13**

- c. **External Auditor's Report** – A copy of this report had been circulated to the Council prior to the meeting and, having been reviewed, the Council agreed to approve this report.
- d. **Internal Auditor for the current financial year** – The Clerk explained that, as the previous Internal Auditor was retiring, she was currently looking for someone to carry out this role for the Parish Council.
- e. **Village Hall ceiling** – The Chairman advised the meeting that since the agenda for this meeting had been published a large piece of plaster has fallen from the Village Hall ceiling rendering it unsafe to use the main hall of the building. The Village Hall committee does not have the money to pay the quote for the emergency work required and so had asked for a grant from the Parish Council. The Council discussed this matter and unanimously agreed that it would grant £1,500 to the Village Hall to cover the emergency work which will allow this building to continue to be used by the community.

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

- a. Potholes at Pinfold Cottages, on New Street Lane, Longford to A41 lane and Longford to A53 lane – The Clerk will check that these have all been reported on Fix my Street.
- b. The vehicle on the grass at Pinfold – The Clerk will contact the local Shropshire Highways officer regarding this matter.

- c. Bench at Longford – The Clerk advised that she had not heard anything further about the bench buying scheme and Cllr James advised that some of the Longford residents may wish to purchase a bench between them, she will check this and report to the next meeting.
- d. Vehicles through Longford - This matter was discussed and the Clerk will chase Shropshire Highways regarding the possibility of having a 30-mph speed restriction through Longford.
- e. Farm Contractors – Cllr Wellon advised the Meeting that she was very impressed with the way that some farm contracting firms slow down when passing the school and also if they know that children are using the roads, all Cllrs agreed that this was very pleasing.

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

12. Pathway from Moreton Say School to the Village Hall – The Clerk advised she had met with the landowner and Cllr Dutton to discuss the best way forward with this project. The Clerk had subsequently got an amended plan drawn up and spoken to a Solicitor at Graham Withers who recommended drawing up a licence between the landowner and the school and the Clerk has sent the revised plans to her. The Clerk has also emailed the School Headteacher about entering into this licence agreement and the Head is referring the matter to the Education Legal Team. The contractor has pencilled in to do the work during the October half-term but this will depend on the licence being signed by that time.

13. Broadband access in Longford – Cllr James explained the difficulties with both broadband and mobile connectivity in Longford and this was discussed in detail with the conclusion that although the Parish Council must recognise the need for an improvement in both these services it is not best place to facilitate this. Cllr Myles-Hook advised that he has a contact at Shropshire Council who is overseeing projects in other parishes with similar issues and he will share information about this in his next monthly report.

14. West Mercia PCC - Town and Parish Council Survey – Cllr Dutton advised that this was discussed at the previous meeting and he was delegated to complete this survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

15. West Mercia Police Local Policing Community Charter – The Clerk advised the Council that their current priorities under this scheme were farm thefts, speeding and anti-social behaviour and the Cllrs unanimously agreed that this should remain the same.

16. Rural Services Network Survey to Champion Rural Voices – Cllr Wellon volunteered to investigate this survey and complete it on behalf of the Council; all Cllrs agreed to Cllr Wellon being delegated to do this.

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

18. Parish Matters – Cllr Dutton advised that the willow tree at the bottom of the grass by the Millennium Pool has now come down and he will investigate getting this removed.

Exclusion of press and public: That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items to be considered involves the likely disclosure of sensitive/confidential information.

19. Clerk to the Council – The temporary contract required for the Locum Clerk was discussed.

20. Agenda Items – The Clerk advised that both the Budget for the next financial year and the Quarterly Financial Information will be on the agenda for the next meeting on **27th November 2025**.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Approval of the Minutes held on 2nd October 2025

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

Signed by the Chairman