

# Moreton Say Parish Council

**Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 at Moreton Say Village Hall, starting at 7:30PM.**

**Present:** Councillors

Cllr C. Dutton, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr C. Wellon, Cllr P. Smith, Cllr J. James, Cllr J. Burslem, Cllr M. Myles-Hook  
(Unitary Councillor)

**Locum Clerk:** Jane Evans

**Members of the Public:** None

**Clerk:** Sarah Ralphs

1. **Apologies**  
Cllr A. Wickett.
2. **New Clerk**  
Chair introduced the new Clerk to the Council. Locum advised the Council of a plan for handover in the coming weeks.
3. **Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests or requests for Dispensations**  
None declared.
4. **Public Session**  
No members of public in attendance.
5. **To approve and sign Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
  
**RESOLVED: To approve and sign the Minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at the end of the meeting.**
6. **Clerk's Update Regarding Ongoing Matters**
  - a. **Tennis Courts**  
The Locum Clerk has contacted Balfours LLP regarding the overhanging trees in the Vicarage garden, which are causing the tennis court surface to green over. Balfours have confirmed that they are not responsible for this matter and advised that it falls under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Lichfield. They have forwarded the request to their diocesan contact and are currently awaiting a response.  
The Locum Clerk has also requested the relevant contact details directly from Balfours LLP but has not yet received a reply. As a next step, the Locum Clerk will approach the resident of the Vicarage, who is employed by the Diocese, to see whether they can provide the appropriate contact information to help move this matter toward a resolution.
  - b. **Moreton Say School and the proposed Village Hall Pathway**  
The headteacher of Moreton Say School has advised that significant construction work is planned at the school over the coming year. As a result, the proposed linkway project will need to be placed on hold. The Clerk has contacted the solicitor to pause the file and has been assured that the Council can resume the process whenever it is appropriate to do so.

The Chair reported that the fencing contractor engaged for the walkway project had already purchased materials; however, they have confirmed that they will not charge the Council for these costs following the project's postponement.

## **7. Report From the Unitary Councillor**

Cllr M. Myles-Hook circulated his most recent report to the Council prior to the meeting.

### **a. Financial Position of Shropshire Council**

It was reported that Shropshire Council has applied to the government for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) for the current financial year, totalling £71 million. Around half of this request relates to spend-to-date on the now-paused Northwest Relief Road project. The Council expects to receive an update on the application in February 2026.

Shropshire Council has also submitted a further request for £130 million in EFS for the 2026/27 financial year.

A full financial analysis of the Council's position has now been completed, and Shropshire Council has expressed confidence that it has a clear understanding of its income and expenditure going forward.

### **b. Fair Funding Allowance**

Cllr M. Myles-Hook showed the Council a graph which showed that funding for Shropshire Council is way below the national average.

### **c. Shirehall**

Work is ongoing to determine the most appropriate future use of the Shirehall site, the former headquarters of Shropshire Council.

### **d. Educational Planning**

Thirteen schools across Shropshire have been identified for potential expansion, including Moreton Say C of E Primary School. The Council queried whether this may lead to changes in the school's current catchment area, and Cllr M. Myles-Hook confirmed he would look into this further

## **8. Reports from other Committee's by Moreton Say Parish Council Representatives**

### **a. Devolution Meeting**

The Locum Clerk and Cllr J. Burslem attended a meeting in December at Stoke-on-Tern, where Market Drayton Town Council and neighbouring Parish Councils met to discuss the ongoing devolution of services. No firm plans have yet been confirmed.

Shrewsbury and Oswestry Town Councils are expected to take on certain services in the coming weeks, and the outcomes of these arrangements will be monitored closely. Bridgnorth is also exploring how its Town Council and surrounding Parish Councils might work more collaboratively in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm. Details to be sent to Cllr M.Myles-Hook.

### **b. Fordhall Farm Meeting**

#### **I. Planned relocation of MOD personnel**

The Locum Clerk and Cllr J. James attended a meeting last week with Stoke-on-Tern Parish Council and Sutton-on-Tern Parish Council, who are currently developing a plan for the future use of the MOD site. Both councils are seeking greater involvement in the planning process to help ensure that any redevelopment delivers a sustainable mix of residential and commercial space. It was noted that the MOD has repeatedly extended its relocation deadline, creating uncertainty around the project timeline. As a result, both councils are now reaching out to neighbouring Parish Councils for support and collaboration as the plans progress.

#### **II. Shropshire Council Wellbeing Hub**

Shropshire Council has launched a new health and wellness initiative involving a mobile advice unit that visits locations across the county to offer guidance and support. The Council discussed the possibility of the unit visiting Moreton Say Village Hall; however, it was agreed that footfall alone would likely be too low to justify a visit. It may become a viable option in future if paired with a village event to help ensure sufficient attendance.

III. Market Drayton & Rural Parishes Community and Family Wellbeing Hub  
This initiative was also discussed with the aim of including more Parishes within the local area.

c. SALC Area Committee

CLLr P. Smith attended the virtual meeting earlier this month. It was noted that there were some initial connectivity issues, which meant several attendees missed the start of the meeting, but access was eventually restored.

Chris Mellings gave an update, noting that a significant amount of current work is focused on understanding the operation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 payments. The importance of the *Shropshire Together* initiative was also reiterated.

In relation to planning matters, councils were advised not to object to applications unless there are clear, specific grounds for doing so. The emphasis is shifting from “why should we object” to “why shouldn’t we object,” encouraging a more considered approach.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16th March 2026.

9. **Planning**

None submitted.

None determined.

10. **Finance**

a. To approve the below payments

Payee	Expense	Net	VAT	Authority
HMRC	PAYE re Sandie McBennett	£66.01		LGA 1972 s 111
Shropshire Council	Street Light Energy	£136.68	£27.34	PCA 1957 ss 3 (1) & 7
Chris Jordan	Grass Cutting	£280.00		LGA 1972 s 124 (1)
Shropshire Council	Election Costs	£125.00		RPA 1983 s 36 (5)
Graham Withers	Fees re Licence over Land	£320.00	£64.00	Localism Act
CCLA	CiLCA registration (New Clerk)	£495.00		LGA 1972 s 111
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges (Jan & Feb 26)	£12.00		LGA 1972 s 111
Sarah Ralphs	Clerk Wages			LGA 1972 s 111 (2)
Jane Evans	Locum Clerk Wages			LGA 1972 s 111 (2)
ICO	Data Protection Certificate	£48.00		DPA 2018
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,482.69</b>	<b>£91.34</b>	

Locum Clerk noted that Chris Jordan has confirmed that his rated for FY2026/27 will remain the same as the current FY.

**RESOLVED: The outstanding accounts should be paid, and the transactions authorised by two nominated Councillors.**

b.) Bank Reconciliation

**RESOLVED: To accept and sign the Bank Reconciliations at the end of the meeting.**

c.) No queries

d.) As of the end of FY2025/26 the actual bank balance will be £27,911.00. For this reason, there is no need to increase the precept from last years figures.

**RESOLVED: To accept and set the precept for FY2026/27 at £14,323.00.**

11. **Highways and Environmental**

- a.) Smythmoor Road  
It has been noted that Smythmoor Road is splitting, due to the type of land the road is built on.  
Locum Clerk to report via Fix My Street.
- b.) The Drumble  
Large tankers have been using The Drumble to access local farms for deliveries / collections instead of the turning at Longford. This is causing potholes to appear, and sections of the road are collapsing.  
Locum Clerk to report on Fix My Street.
- c.) Mud on Road at Harrison Farms  
It has been noted that large amounts of mud have been left behind on the road from agricultural machinery.  
Cllr C. Dutton will approach the farmer to request that this is cleared up.
- d.) Pothole by The Castle Inn  
Locum Clerk advised that the large pothole by The Castle Inn at Bletchley has now been repaired by Shropshire Council.

**12. Street Lighting - Maintenance and/or Repair**

None to report.

**13. Parish Council Cupboard**

Locum Clerk requested that they are granted extended access to the Parish Council Cupboard within Moreton Say Village Hall. This is because files relating to the Millennium Green Committee are currently housed there, and the Locum Clerk needs time to find alternative arrangements for storage.

**RESOLVED: To grant Locum Clerk extended access to the Parish Council Cupboard until suitable replacement storage is found.**

**14. Correspondence**

- a.) Planning  
Locum Clerk advised The Council to continue with the normal planning process procedure for the development on the A53 (field behind the caravans). Unfortunately, this parcel of land was included on the Market Drayton Neighbourhood Plan, despite falling within the boundaries of Moreton Say Parish Council. As it has already been included in a plan accepted by Shropshire Council, it is very unlikely that the Parish could object.  
Locum Clerk also advised that the planned Greenfields development has been put on hold with no future date for commencement as of yet.
- b.) Buckingham Palace Garden Party  
The Council declined to provide nominations for this award.

**15. Parish Matters**

- a.) Drainage Issues at Residential Property in Longford  
The Locum Clerk made the Council aware of an issue with a residential property in Longford which is experiencing flooding at the bottom of their drive leading onto the road. This is due to a lack of drainage and also verges which require digging out.  
Locum Clerk to log this issue via Fix My Street.
- b.) Grass Triangle  
The Council are aware of issues relating to unauthorised parking on the Grass Triangle at Moreton Say by residents of the Pinfold Cottages. This has caused substantial damage to the grass.

**RESOLVED: Locum Clerk to send letters to residents of the above mentioned cottages, requesting that they avoid parking on this piece of land and kindly restore the grass to its original condition.**

- c.) The Council noted that, since the daughter has taken management of Harrisons Chicken Farm have taken over, there has been a noticeable reduction in odours emanating from the site.

**16. Agenda Items**

No agenda items were brought forward for the next meeting. Chair signed the minutes, Cllr G. Turner signed the invoices and Cllr J. Burslem signed the Bank Reconciliations.

**RESOLVED: Next meeting to be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026, at 7:30pm at The Village Hall, Moreton Say.**

**Meeting closed at 8:37pm.**