Welcome and any announcements from the Chair

AJ welcomed those present. He was sad to announce the formal resignation of Councillor Les Tucker from the Parish Council, on grounds that he has little presence in the village at this time. Councillor Tucker’s experience, historical perspectives and active support of the Parish Council over many decades will be greatly missed and we sincerely wish him well. The councillor vacancy will be advertised GD.

1. Apologies received – None.

2 Receive minutes of Parish Council held on 28th November 2018

The minutes omit a discussion about removing the defibrillator and the Vehicle Activated speed Sign (VAS) from the assets register. The intent was to make a decision whether to retain them at today’s budget discussion.

The meeting minutes were approved as an accurate record, proposed by DB, seconded by BV and approved by all present, signed by the Chairman.

3. Public time

3.1 JW supplied Councillors with a typed list of 43 parishioners who she reported are in favour of a second VAS. Parishioners were made aware of the additional costs this would incur, JW having obtained a price of £1,910 for such a unit with a ‘smiley face’ encouragement to keep within the speed limit. Villagers have seen the beneficial effect of the VAS when at ‘their end’ of the village, which seems to dissipate when the unit is moved to the other end.

3.2 There was discussion as to whether the sign might usefully be placed opposite the entrance to the church. This seems to be an area where drivers have forgotten they are within the village limits, where there are often older folk crossing rather slowly. The bus shelter may also be an appropriate location? Perhaps also turn the cameras about at the current positions, checking the speeds of drivers who prematurely accelerate out of the village confines? Monitoring the 40mph stretch before Moreton Pinkney Garage may also be beneficial?
3.3 The Chair reminded members of the previous professional advise that permanent signs tend to lose their effectiveness. All verges ‘belong’ to County Highways and a license it required to site or change street furniture, including VAS. The current license may apply to the whole of the village confines, perhaps allowing the additional positions (if a long-enough clear stretch for it to work). This will be looked at. Having a sign on the 40mph stretch will require an additional Highways license (£275 or so, once we find the replacement contact for Steve Barber), which may require monitoring to justify it GD.

3.4 The current VAS sign can record the speed of passing vehicles, which may be downloaded (via BlueTooth?) to a program on a Windows PC. The program can also adjust the monitoring speed. Having a second Swarco MVAS4 YSI unit (£2,673 paid in Sept 2018) would enable the home battery-charger pack and carry casing to be shared. Post installation kits (needed for each additional location or direction) cost £26 each.

3.5 The VAS comes with a 12 month warranty (being portable and electronic). Subject to the extremes of weather, it is hoped it will last three to five years, perhaps longer? The current budget reserves recognise that to ordinarily plan for its periodic replacement would cost £3,400 spread over the next five years, that is £680 per year or around £3.40 per household per year added to the Parish Council Precept. Consideration was given to writing-off the VAS when it is beyond economical repair; at that time the technology may be very different, or it may have become ineffective as a traffic calming measure. We may wish to fund-raise or seek grants for something entirely different at that time?

4. Councillor declaration of interest in the following agenda items - None

5. Matters arising from the minutes

5.1 Ref 3.1: NCC Road Safety Officer – replacement contact for Steven Barber pending GD

5.2 Ref 5.1: Carried forwards, the development of a Data Map GD BV

5.3 Ref 5.2: Draft Complaints Procedure distributed to Councillors 31 December. This was adapted from that used by Eydon village with permission of their Parish Clerk. Proposed by BV, seconded BC. Approved by all for placement on the Parish Council web site GD.

5.4 Ref 5.4: 8 Jan: NHB grant application for £1,549 exc VAT approved for 2x World War 1 Memorial Benches. The grant application was supported by those present and signed by the Chairman. To be submitted to Sarah Burns at SNC GD.

5.5 Ref 5.5: Car share scheme demographics query remains outstanding. Clerk has received new electoral role details from SNC and will work with PG on village demographics and the possible use of such a service GD and PG. BV supplied an item from Banbury Guardian 29 Nov 2018, showing how a special needs minibus provides a shopping lifeline to elderly residents in villages including Aynho. The Clerk will seek further input from their Clerk GD. Peter Davis (villager) has shown a willingness to manage such a venture.

5.6 Ref 7.7: DB provided an update on MPPC grit bin top-up:- This has been done, with a bag costing only £4.20 (kindly donated).
5.7 Ref 7.8: The Community Defibrillator is checked weekly (approx) and a note is made by Jane Wheeler and Barbara Keane within a notebook kept within the cabinet.

5.8 Ref 7.15: 10th Edn June 2016 of Arnold-Baker: Local Council Administration are available from £86 (£42 used) on Amazon. This is unlikely to include the current recommendations on GDPR and budgeting. The current 11th Edition is £103.99 with an N-CALC discount (in lieu of Clerk’s training). DB has also done some searching around on this and confirmed that this is in effect the ‘Clerks Bible’, with such information not available elsewhere on the net. DB proposed that the Clerk be authorised to buy a copy on behalf of the village, seconded by BC and approved by all present. To be added to Clerk’s expenses since under utilised GD.

5.9 7.19: Costs for independent Councillor email addresses supplied by Richard Lingard. The Clerk presently uses an email address of parishclerk@moretonpinkney.info which is supported by a free Gmail account. We are advised this cannot continue. The Google replacement is G Suite email at £3.30 per councillor per month (£320 pa for all councillors).

It is recommended that councillors also be have similar Cllr***@moretonpinkney.info type addresses, which can automatically forward emails to their preferred email account. Such an email system can be supplied by our current USA domain name host (name.com), or by a UK based host (fasthosts) for about the same charge of about £10 - £15 per month. The Clerk suggest a move to a UK host, since then the Councillor email data is not subject to the intrusive USA Patriot Act. This amounts to a budgetary item of £200 pa. Councillors decided not to pursue this option at present; for the Clerk to continue using the free gmail account for as long as it is accessible. Proposed by BV, seconded by DB; approved by all present.

5.10 7.11: Update from PG regards local HS2 activities (meeting on 14th Dec). There are expected to be 1,000 to 1,200 trucks daily (A43 to the relief road). The line itself includes an access road by its side, which will take some of the haulage load, so reducing some of the load on nearby villages. They will try to build ‘crossings’ over local roads in a sequential fashion, to mitigate local traffic disruption. However, they will be unable to give much notice of the closures and a part of the B4525 may be closed for up to two years, commencing this New Year near to Thorpe Mandeville. Subsequent minutes of the meeting are so vague as to be useless.

6. Correspondence
6.1 03 Dec: Confirmation from Norris & Fisher that Speed Sign is covered by PC insurance
6.2 04 Dec: Quotation for Dog Bins received from Marcus Young and distributed to Councillors.
6.3 06 Dec: Suitable location for a Salvation Army textile collection bank? This could be quite a money-earner if supported by villagers. The Parish Council has no suitable locations of its own with hard standing. Therefore it was passed to the Village Hall committee for consideration DB.
6.4 15 Dec: All local elections are postponed for 2019 due to Unitary Authority changes.
6.5 31 Dec: Tenders for mowing over the next three years have been received from RTM Landscapes and Leicestershire Gardens (Market Harborough). Alan Muxlow Garden Design and Scotts Landscapes have declined to tender. The Clerk is to approach Marcus Young Landscapes in Old Stratford with a tender request (supplied Dog Bins quotation recently), since a decision on contractor is not required until the February meeting GD.
6.6 3 Jan: A faulty street lamp on Upper Green reported by Clerk to E.ON – Fixed.
6.7  7 Jan:  A SECOND DRAFT of the budget circulated to Councillors for consideration.

6.8  7 Jan:  An opportunity for free vocal training for novice singers circulated to councillors

6.9  9 Jan:  A faulty street lamp on Gravel Hill reported by Clerk to E.ON – duplicate of 6.6.

6.10 9 Jan:  A list of proposed meeting dates for 2019 circulated to councillors. Approved by all present for display on the Parish Council web site GD.

6.11 9 Jan:  An email of formal resignation received from Cllr Les Tucker.

6.12 10 Jan:  A proposal for local council reorganisation into 3 unitary authorities distributed.

7.  Planning (snc.planning-register.co.uk – Moreton Pinkney Parish)


7.5  S/2018/2342/FUL: Replace existing outbuildings with garage, annexe and store at Wood Farm, Banbury Road. No Objection. Site visited.


7.7  S/2018/2308/FUL: Convert outbuildings used as stables to a separate residence at Home Farm House, Banbury Road. Councillors agreed to No Objection.

8.  Finances and Accounts

8.1  Marcus Young is used by Eydon village for its dog bins and charges £190 + VAT to install each red bin on a post; also **£182 + VAT pa to empty it on a weekly basis.** Invoiced in January in arrears. This amounts to a **budgetary item of £440 pa** for two bins, plus purchase by grant. Why is this suddenly such a problem with bags in the hedge? Councillors considered this and decided to try some polite notices for now, to change dog walkers’ behaviour. **DB** can provide some through her employment, using offcuts (similar to those by the village hall gate).

8.2  Ref 7.17: Grant request received from Citizen’s Advice Bureau in Daventry to support local villagers. £50 was discussed but it was not approved by Councillors.

8.3  Does MPPC wish to apply for the NCC mowing grant of £250 towards verges in 2019? This may be the last such provision. Approved by all present and signed by the Chairman for submission by the Clerk. The Clerk also to invoice for 2018-19 GD.

8.4  Review of Clerk’s hours worked during 2018 (against budgeted 3.5 hours per week). This activity was recommended by our internal auditor. Over the calendar year 2018 there are some months when the Clerk is particularly busy, for example when preparing for the AGM and budgeting; other months are quiet such as June, August and December when no Parish Council meeting. Overall, the Clerk exceeded the planned working hours by ten hours (5%). Thus GD is willing to continue with 3.5 hours per
week for the current work load. Note however, there is no ‘spare time’ for additional responsibilities, should they arise from any Unitary Authority changes.

8.5 Review of accounts summary spreadsheet to the end of December 2018 (used for budgeting), compared to bank statements by BC and signed off on behalf of Council.

8.6 Review of budget against actuals for 10 months with second draft budget 2019-20. BC affirmed that the Village Hall discount the Parish Council’s use of the village hall and that there is no intent to raise it above £10 a session. Therefore its budget was reduced from £160 to £100. The Dog Bins provision was removed. The provision for email hosting was removed. The county grant of £250 for verges mowing was added. There was discussion over this not really making any inroads on the reserves shortfall. BC proposed a Precept increase of 5% (in effect £2 per household). Seconded by DB. Supported by BV. Opposed by JS and PG. Carried 3-2. BV volunteered to phone the mowing Response to Tender contractors to find whether reductions might be agreed.

8.7 The following invoices were initialled and cheques signed on behalf of the Parish Council by BC and AJ:-

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description / Power</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>VAT</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norris Fisher insurance extension to cover speed sign</td>
<td>£14.04</td>
<td>£14.04</td>
<td>£14.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.ON Street light maintenance to 31 Dec 2018</td>
<td>£47.88</td>
<td>£9.58</td>
<td>£57.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>E.ON Street light electricity supply to 31 Dec 2018</td>
<td>£131.92</td>
<td>£6.60</td>
<td>£138.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S Fountain for Village Calendar printing December 2018 &amp; January 2019</td>
<td>£15.00</td>
<td>£3.00</td>
<td>£18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Denby Clerk gross remuneration and expenses 29 Dec 2018 to 16 Jan 2019 (7 weeks) inc. home office</td>
<td>£298.56</td>
<td></td>
<td>£298.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Councillors' Comments

9.1 GD raised the issue of a Barclays Bank ‘Update Form’ received towards the end of last year. To all intents and purposes, it is a re-hash of the bank mandate forms last completed in September 2016 (completed multiple times). With Cllr Tucker’s resignation, Council will have to update the signatories again (on appointment of a new Councillor). It was agreed to leave the ‘update’ pending for the time being.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 27th February 2019

Meeting ended at 10pm.

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Chairman

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Date

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