

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORETON PINKNEY PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Andrew Jalland (AJ) Chairman
Ben Vincent (BV) Vice Chairman
Dorothy Brooke (DB) Councillor
Brian Collett (BC) Councillor
James Smith (JS) Councillor
Peter Gaydon (PG) Councillor
Gary Denby (GD) Parish Clerk

Public: Jane Wheeler (JW) Barbara Keane Polly & Bella Mills
Mac & Jan MacKay Liv Pearson Joan Carpenter
Jim & Judith Bryant Liz Davies Richard Prior
Gale & Russell Howarth Hilary Foxton Margaret Goodwin
Hugh & Linda Raby Peter Foster Jane Atterby
Susan & Jerry O'Connell Bob Simmonds John Richmond
Nic & Christian Finn Roger Scrivener Don Golledge
Tim & Alison Eastwood Tim Aber Sue Upton

Welcome and any announcements from the Chair

AJ welcomed those present – a record attendance (32) for any Parish Council meeting, so far as he can recall.

1. Apologies received – Simon Leibling

2. Receive minutes of Parish Council held on 16th January 2019

The meeting minutes were approved by all Councillors as an accurate record, signed by the Chairman.

3. Public time

3.1 JW supplied Councillors with a typed list of 64 parishioners (including those present) who are in favour of a second Vehicle Activated Speed sign (VAS). At last month's meeting, she thought that the Parish Council had voted for it? AW responded that Councillors are generally in favour of a second sign. They must consider its ongoing maintenance or replacement, as well as its purchase and additional insurance costs. The Parish Council budget is very tight.

3.2 JW appreciates that it is a slow process to obtain a VAS. Villagers would clearly like one permanently at each end of the village. AJ reminded the meeting of the professional advice received from Steve Barber MIRS, Highways Road Safety and Travel Choices; Collision analysis and Investigation / VAS projects (Feb 2017, **Jul 2017**, Nov 2017, Feb 2018, April 2018 minutes, on-line):-

There are about 120 parishes within Northamptonshire with a flashing Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) or a Speed Indicator Sign (SID), usually portable and battery powered, as part of a self-purchase scheme. Batteries have a 3-4 year life and keep the sign going for 7-10 days before requiring a recharge / swap-out. These use 'shock awareness' to deter speeding. They must be moved or changed in order to retain their shock effect. They are advisory and cannot

enforce any penalty. VAS cost is about £1,700. SID cost is about £2,100. Add £200- £400 for a date and time record of speeding events (downloadable to a PC program or mobile phone app). Add £260 for an NCC license for installing private apparatus on the highway.... Overall, budget £2,000 - £3,000 for a VAS or SID, shareable with neighbouring villages. Steve Barber is willing to visit the village to discuss suitable VAS / SID locations (they require a clear view to measure the speed).

To have permanent cameras is likely to reduce their effectiveness over time. Whilst we have funds available to use for the purchase of a second VAS, we need additional locations as well, in order to retain the shock effect.

- 3.3 Those present expressed concerns for child safety and for the elderly caused by speeding drivers, having to walk on the road at the garage-end of the village. It is ridiculous to wait for a fatality, before proceeding with the second camera. The 40mph stretch approaching a blind bend should also not be overlooked.

GD reported on clarifications gained in reviewing the Highways license: it covers the whole of the 30 mph area, but has only two VAS sites indicated. Steven Barber has been re-allocated to another role, so efforts are being made to find his replacement (presuming there is one), to consider extending or having an additional license **GD**.

- 3.4 AJ reiterated that the Parish Council budget is very tight, with the Precept (rates demand) already set at £7,850 for 2019-20. Consideration was given to fund-raising and sponsorship of the ancillary costs for a second sign, to avoid delays caused by adding them to the next budget. Alison Eastwood kindly offered to Chair such a fundraising committee, so as not to affect the budget.
- 3.5 AJ proposed that the council pursue the availability of funding for a second VAS (not a done-deal through New Homes Bonus) and also at extending or adding to the Highways license to obtain some additional sites. The council will commit to the purchase of a second VAS which does not affect the budget, aided by some fundraising to address the ancillary costs. This will also allow some time to monitor the ongoing benefit of the first sign, as suggested.

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

5. Co-option of a Parish Councillor (authorised yesterday)

Given the 45 minutes spent in Public Time, it was agreed to consider co-option at the next meeting in April.

6. Matters Arising

- 6.1 Ref 5.1: Replacement contact for NCC Road Safety Officer – ongoing **GD**
- 6.2 Ref 5.2: Carried forwards, the development of a Data Map **GD BV**
- 6.3 Ref 5.3: Reviewed complaints procedure posted on web site
- 6.4 Ref 5.4: Two galvanised steel village benches were received this week and await immediate payment and must be added to the council insurance **GD**. It was agreed that one shall be installed on Upper Green, between the bus shelter and Catch Corner. The damaged wooden bench on Plumpton Lane shall

be removed immediately, where there are some mast works. Upon their completion, the second bench shall be suitably installed here **AJ**.

- 6.5 Ref 5.5: The village demographics remain elusive (for car share / public transport). PG looked into the viability of a village bus service (however limited) and sadly found it to be non-viable (as experienced by similar villages). Development of a village car-share scheme also comes with its own insurance and safety issues. The current Rural Wheels (volunteer driver) scheme at Woodford Halse / Byfield may be open to villagers.
- 6.6 Ref 5.8: Large yellow 'Clerks Bible' issue 11 received, £103.99 owing to GD.
- 6.7 Ref 6.3: DB reported that the Salvation Army textile banks are huge and look like a graffiti magnet. The Village Hall committee have yet to decide, but it seems unlikely that they will agree to host one.
- 6.8 Ref 6.10: The council meeting dates for 2019 are now posted on the web site.

7. **Correspondence**

- 7.1 17 Jan: Shopper Bus details circulated, more info was requested from Aynho.
- 7.2 19 Jan: NALC open letter distributed – challenges & opportunities
- 7.3 22 Jan: Precept request acknowledged by SNC for £7,850 for 2019-20
- 7.4 23 Jan: there are opportunities for villagers to volunteer at Sulgrave Manor. These shall be circulated on the web site and to the Village Calendar **GD**.
- 7.5 30 Jan: Payroo wish to charge £5 per occasion for HMRC reporting (Clerk's salary). Council agreed to pay this until April, pending the Clerk trying an alternative free HMRC registration approach.
- 7.6 4 Feb: Parish Councillor vacancy notice acknowledged (to display 14 days)
- 7.7 7 Feb: Future Police & Fire Priorities consultation
- 7.8 7 Feb: Next Parish Forum meeting Tue 26 Feb at 10am
- 7.9 7 Feb: N-CALC e-Update – local government re-organisation
- 7.10 8 Feb: Registering a village Spring Clean (Keep Britain Tidy)? Councillors agreed to keep this as a local event, organised by Mr Woodward.
- 7.11 8 Feb: Northants PFCC Newsletter
- 7.12 18 Feb: Request for Shopper Bus details circulated from Aynho Clerk.

8. **Planning (latest items available at snc.planning-register.co.uk)**

- 8.1 S/2019/0089/FUL: Steel framed storage barn and 30x60m outdoor riding arena on land at Brook Street. Councillors' Objections acknowledged 9 Feb
- 8.2 S/2018/2342/FUL: Replace existing outbuildings with garage, annexe and store at Wood Farm, Banbury Road. No Objection. Approved.
- 8.3 S/2018/2308/FUL: Convert outbuildings used as stables to a separate residence at Home Farm House, Banbury Road. Councillors agreed to No Objection.

9. Finances and Accounts

9.1 Ref 6.5: Appointment of a mowing contractor for the next three years. The Clerk provided three suitable responses to tender:

Tom Cooper, Leicestershire Gardens: £3,070 pa + VAT

Tanith Samuels, RTM Landscapes: £3,500 pa + VAT (page 4)

Luke Warren, Ground Care: £4,760 pa + VAT (page 3)

Discussion included their proximity to the village, the quality of tender document and the responses obtained from the references. Councillors accepted that provided by **RTM Landscapes** based in Loughton, Milton Keynes, using the 'wiggle room' provided by an improved street lighting electricity supply deal (follows).

9.2 Ref 8.6: Approve the revised budget for 2019-20 having a Precept of £7,850.

The Clerk has been working with Opus Energy (based in Northampton) to secure a better electricity supply deal for the street lighting. Our current contractor E.On has served notice of a deemed increase from 17.9p to 22.1 p / Kwh (a 23% increase without discussion or justification), effective 21 Jan 2019.

Obtaining an updated Certificate of Inventory schedule from Western Power Distribution has enabled Opus to offer a four year contract to power our 14 lights at around £437 pa (compared to an estimated £654 pa from E.On, being 23% above the last year's cost of £532. Potentially, the council might save £217 pa on its budget by moving to Opus. This was proposed by BC, seconded by PG and approved by all present, **GD** to action.

Thus GD was able to present a revised 'draft budget h' to councillors, which allows for an increase to £3,500 for the mid-range mowing contractor, taking advantage of a lower £440 for electricity supply (fixed for 4 years with Opus). This keeps to the £7,850 Precept now acknowledged, giving a small planned surplus for the year of £349. Proposed by BC seconded by BV, approved by all.

9.3 Ref 8.3: Clerk generated NCC order for 2018 mowing grant of £250.84 on 14 Feb (NCC can no longer simply pay an invoice!)

9.4 Ref 8.6: Progress report on alternative electricity supplier for street lighting **GD**

9.5 BC validated the accounts spreadsheet against bank statements to 22 Feb 19. The following invoices were initialled and cheques signed on behalf of the Parish Council by BC and BV:-

Description / Power	Amount	VAT	Total
Gary Denby Clerk gross remuneration and expenses 17 Jan to 27 Feb 2019 (6 weeks) inc. home office and reimbursement of 'Clerks Bible' Arnold Baker Issue 11	£226.34 £34.50 £103.99		£364.83
Village Hall Hire ending 31 st March 2019 – 9 meetings	£90.00		£90.00
S Fountain for Village Calendar printing February 2019	£7.50	£1.50	£9.00
David Ogilvie Engineering for supply of two WW1 benches, galvanised steel, powder coated with 25 year warranty	£1426.50	£314.30	£1885.80

Moreton Pinkney Parish Council

Budget for 2019-20 and audited for 2017-18, budget with actuals for 2018-19 (first 11 months)

Expenditure Item		Previous Budget 2017-18	Expenditure 2017-18	Budget 2018-19	Expenditure 2018-19 (11 months)	Budget 2019-20
1	Grass Mowing S96	£2,640	£2,160.00	£2,640	£2,160.00	£3,500
2	Tree Maintenance	£300	-	£300	-	£300
3	Subscription N-CALC	£260	£258.39	£270	£257.12	£270
4	E.ON S301					
4a	Electricity supply un-metered	£400	£473.30	£500	£531.84	£440
4b	Street light maintenance	£220	£258.00	£230	£258.00	£260
5	Parish Council Insurance	£350	£322.63	£350	£307.46	£350
6	Clerk / Expenses / Training	£2,200	£2,175.93	£2,340	£2,222.52	£2,430
7	Auditing					
7a	Internal - N-CALC	£167	£167.00	£172	£172.00	£176
7b	External - BDO	£250	£36.00	-	-	-
7c	N-CALC acting as DPO					£10
8	Village Hall rental	£140	£90.00	£160	£90.00	£100
9	Grants (upon request) towards:					
9a	Church mowing - S215 LGA 72	£100	£200.00	£100	£100.00	£100
9b	Play Eqpt Ins contribution- S19	£300	£300.00	£320	£320.00	£330
10	Village Newsletter- Sec 137	£160	£163.60	£180	£102.20	£160
11	Village web site & maintenance - S142 Gov't Info	£160	£140.00	£180	£140.00	£160
12	Remembrance Wreath - Sec 137	£20	£20.00	£20	£20.00	£25
13	Miscellaneous contingency	£200	£50.00	£250	£200.91	£250
14	Community Defibrillator / VAS		£1,423.20		£4,323.26	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (inc VAT):		£7,867	£8,238.05	£8,012	£11,205.31	£8,861

20	Precept request	£6,900	£6,900.00	£7,450	£7,450.00	£7,850
21	Bank Interest + return Con stock	£1	£11.20	£1	£18.25	£10
22	<i>Community Infrastructure Levy</i>	-	-	-	£11,538.27	-
23	New Homes Bonus grants	-	£1,186.00	-	£3,648.00	-
24	Donations / awards	£250	£501.68	£250	-	£250
25	VAT refund:	£400	£502.67	£450	£701.11	£1,100
TOTAL INCOME		£7,551	£9,101.55	£8,151	£23,355.63	£9,210
Excess income over expenditure		-£316	£863.50	£139	£612.05	£349

**Moreton Pinkney Parish Council Summary of Predicted Expenditures,
as agreed for 2019-20 budgeting**

The village Precept (collected via your rates) is based on the following figures.
The predicted expenditure will be covered by the Precept plus reserves plus VAT reclaim.

Expenditure Item		Budget	Explanation
1	Grass Mowing	£3,500	The mid-range response to tender from RTM Landscapes based in Loughton, Milton Keynes (23 miles away), for a new three year contract under competitive tendering for 2019: 3/4/5a/5b/6a/6b/7/8/9/10 + misc verges twice yearly. Allows an extra mow in the year if required, as well as fortnightly in May & June.
2	Tree Maintenance	£300	Trees on recognised green spaces
3	Subscription NCALC	£270	A useful subscription, locally supporting small Parish Councils.
4	Opus Energy supply with E.ON maintenance	£700	Street-lighting maintenance and electricity supply. Unmetered E.ON electricity was £32 over budget this year, with a 23% increase 21 Jan 19. A nominal £30 increase to cover sensor failures, NOT covered by our maintenance!
5	Parish Council Insurance	£350	Village assets and public liability. Achieved a significant reduction in 2018-19 by changing from Came to Ageas.
6	Clerk / Expenses	£2,430	3.5 hrs/ week with auto annual increment to LC1 point 22 at £11.22 per hour (£2,042 now Spinal Column Point 12) plus contribution towards use of home office facilities (£288), stationery and postage (£100). A nominal 4% increase.
7	Internal & External Audit	£186	N-CALC fee for internal audit band 2 from £172 to £176, zero external audit so long as council complies with 'openness'. N-CALC will act as our Data Protection Officer for a nominal £10 pa.
8	Hall rental	£100	Approximately nine meetings per year, discounted to £10 a time
9	Grants (on request) towards:		
9a	Churchyard mowing	£100	Assisting with a public amenity (war memorial)
9b	Play Eqpt Ins contribution	£330	Assisting with a public amenity. Allow for a 3% increase.
10	Village Newsletter- Sec 137	£160	Monthly copying costs, underspent by £50 in 2018
11	Village web site hosting, development and maintenance	£160	Required for 'openness', providing information for residents; More Parish Council control (internal audit) than social media. New recommendation for council-controlled emails at £180 pa omitted
12	Remembrance Wreath	£25	Increased at request of councillors November 2018
13	Miscellaneous contingency	£250	Contingency for everyday operating costs.
TOTAL BUDGET:		£8,861	

Precept to be requested: **£7,850** A 5.4% rise over 2018-19 (roughly £39 per household, rising £2)

Net Assets 1/4/18 £5,701 Barclays + NS&I accounts, per audit to 31/3/18

Budgeted increase 2019-20 £349

Estimated underspend 2018-19 £612 *Mowing and insurance savings, unused trees and grants*

Estimated Net Assets 31/3/19 £6,662 *For budgetary allocations to 'savings pots', 85% of precept*

CIL restricted cash assets **£11,538** Restricted to (new) infrastructure projects, not day-to-day

