

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORETON PINKNEY PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 17th July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present:	James Smith (JS)	Chairman
	Andrew Jalland (AJ)	Councillor
	Dorothy Brooke (DB)	Councillor
	Brian Collett (BC)	Councillor
	Claire Poulton (CP)	Councillor
	Gary Denby (GD)	Parish Clerk
Public:	Marion Holloway (MH)	Barbara Keane (BK)

Welcome and any announcements from the Chair

JS welcomed the members of the public present for the meeting. AJ was thanked for his four years in post (from May 2015) and wished well for his next foot operation. JS attended the N-CALC Chairmanship training course (a 2½ hour seminar) on 3rd July.

1. Adoption of Cllr James Smith as Parish Council Chairman

JS thanked members for their support and completed the paperwork for his acceptance of the post as Parish Council Chairman, signed by GD.

2. Apologies accepted – Cllrs Ben Vincent and Peter Gaydon (holidays)

3. Receive minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 29th May 2019

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

4. Public time

BK asked how the Parish Council reaches its decisions, representing villager views? The response from Councillors included use of the Parish Council web site to announce the agenda and previous minutes, of being available for villager comments, of bringing their own ideas and lived experience. Little of what the council does is news-worthy or suits the Calendar news-sheet, being limited in the main to planning, village infrastructure and responding to survey requests from the district and county councils.

CP is new to the Parish Council (fresh eyes) and is developing some ideas for promoting Parish Council activities, which are non-political in nature. BK encouraged the use of the informal village FaceBook page, since in the public interest.

5. Matters arising

5.1 Ref 5.1: Destruction of the stump outside the Baxter's home is ongoing **AJ**.

5.2 Ref 6.1: The revised Highways license for speed sign sites remains under discussion with Steven Barber (delayed by his wife being unwell). Issues have

arisen regarding high voltage cables above the intended site, requiring movement of the pole backwards or forwards a few yards from the location near to the Heartwood Kitchen Company. There is now also a requirement for an additional post near to Moreton Pinkney Garage (the present position now being deemed unsuitable). We await another site visit. *The cost for a revised license remains unclear* **AJ**.

The Parish Council has been awarded 91% funding of a second re-locatable Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), to a maximum of £2,726.91 excluding VAT through the revised New Homes Bonus scheme. *Thus £270 is required to complete its purchase.* It was agreed by Parish Councillors that the Chairman shall sign its acceptance form, for return by the Clerk **GD**. Its additional Parish Council *insurance cost is £14 pa* through Norris Fisher.

Steven Barber has indicated that the typical cost for a single pole to be installed on the verge is *around £600 depending upon type, discounted* when two or more are installed at the same time. The sign suppliers Swarco also offer an extended warranty option (year 2 onwards) for the *sign at £80 pa* which includes cost of labour and parts for any unscheduled visits (within 5 working week days), plus any telephone support required. This does not include any preventative maintenance inspections of the equipment (an extra £200 pa!).

At the meeting of 27th February 2019, it was agreed that this second sign shall not impinge upon the Parish Council budget (rather tight, set in January 2019). Therefore Alison Eastwood kindly agreed to chair a fundraising committee to address the ancillary costs. From the above, it appears that £1,000 may be a reasonable fundraising target for the ancillary costs **BK**.

- 5.3: Ref 6.2: On 10 July BV and GD reviewed the model Data Map by telephone, removing data items not applicable to Parish Council business. These have been distributed to Councillors for their consideration. They raise relatively small issues of the Parish Council maintaining an Accident Book **GD**, appraising the Parish Clerk (training requirements, generally – for the November 2019 budget). The use of personal email addresses by Parish Councillors will be added to **CP**'s review list (associated with any upgrade to the Parish Council web site).
- 5.4 Ref 6.4: Removal of the lower branches to aid the new mowing contractor remains outstanding. Arrangements have now been made for the disposal of lower branches removed from trees bordering the greens **AJ**.
- 5.5 Ref 6.6: Swarco extended warranty – see 5.3 para 3 above. The first VAS was invoiced on 17 October 2018, the start date of an extended warranty therefore being October 2019. The Clerk will contact Swarco so a cheque may be ready at the Sep meeting **GD**.
- 5.6 Ref 9.11: Review of policies, procedures and practices into a single document – ongoing **GD**.
- 5.7 Ref 10.1: An extra July mowing has been arranged for the Sports field, for just prior to the village fete.

5.8 Ref 10.3: Ongoing, ways to raise the public profile of the Parish Council **CP**.

6. **Correspondence**

6.1 14 Jun: Policing – how would you decide? No response from Councillors.

6.2 14 Jun: Transport and Highways news (a gold award already, for their web site, not the work completed!)

6.3 14 Jun: N-CALC training opportunity on 17th July for village greens & common land. BV considers that the main green is a suitable candidate.

6.4 24 Jun: Update on Eydon minibus trial with Ability Northants. A useful take-up of the service. GD forwarded leaflets by Ability Northants.

6.5 24 Jun: Internal audit report by Terry Waterfield distributed to councillors, with some ideas for accessible Parish Council web sites.

6.6 1 Jul: NCC Highways works schedule for July – of no interest.

6.7 1 Jul: Northants Police tackling local drug crime. A good news story!

7. **Considerations for the church path and local stiles**

The Clerk asked our Footpath Warden Judy Bryant to look into the relevance of a DRAFT Rights of way Improvement Plan (2018-2028), being proposed by Northamptonshire Highways (27 June 2019 – Rebecca Miller). Judith felt that if the Parish Council wants to respond, the project is only likely to be useful if stiles are exchanged for kissing gates (as a possible suggestion). However, there is an obvious lack of funds presently, to secure such improvements. We can live in hope!

There is a cost for installation and also for ongoing maintenance to the landowner for kissing gates. Judith has two locations in mind, where neither landowner was thought to be amenable to such costs. It was agreed not to pursue this further at this time.

Jul 3: Charles Behrens is keen to improve access to the church. He has asked Paul Lewis to make some temporary repairs to the worst bits. Ideally, there would be a new path from the church door to the village green. He has no costs so far. The path ownership and responsibility for its maintenance is unclear.

Councillors considered that the present path is not wide enough for a wheelchair or wide buggy. Judith will approach Charles for two or more quotations for a wider path.

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

8.1 S/2018/2114/FUL: Appeal of former refusal of proposed new garage and change of use at Moreton House, Culworth Road.

8.2 S/2019/0970/FUL: Proposed canopy porch at Lantern Cottage, The Square. This appears to match its neighbour.

8.3 S/2019/0875/TEL: Installation of a 17.5m monopole with three antennas and cabinets on land at Plumpton Lane: Telefonica & Vodafone (joint venture). Withdrawn 1.7.19 The Clerk will inquire of Galliford Try Telecoms what this withdrawal means **GD**.

- 8.4 S/2019/0848/TCA: FYI pruning of an 'Epaulette Tree' at The Old Cottage, Brook Street. No Objections.
- 8.5 S/2019/0754/FUL: Single storey portal frame building as per an equine crematorium at Bishopstone, Weston Road. Refused.

9. Finance and Accounts

- 9.1 3 Jul: SNC have offered 91% to fund a second Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) from the revised New Homes Bonus, to a maximum of £2,726.91 exc VAT. Councillors agreed to accept this funding offer, with the Chairman signing the acceptance paperwork for return to SNC by **GD**. The implication is that additional fundraising shall be required from villagers.
- 9.2 Consideration of internal audit report by Dr Waterfield from 24 June 2019. See also 6.5 above. The Parish Council has passed its Annual Internal Audit, with issues raised at the previous audit being dealt with or are a work-in-progress. Dr Waterfield noted some non-compliance with the Transparency Code, regarding some confusion with the current site structure. The Clerk should also improve the introduction to approved payments to be made within the minutes.
- 9.3 8 May: SNC NHB payment for WW1 benches for £1,549 has been received.
- 9.4 3 Jun: Interest earned 4 Mar to 2 Jun: £8.27
- 9.5 24 Jun: Upload of internal and external audit reports, assets and public rights
- 9.6 Update on VAT reclaim (new online process?) for £1,468.02: On 16 Jul Danny Moody of N-CALC kindly supplied a link to an on-line form by which the Clerk can fill-in the claim, print it and THEN post it back to HMRC **GD**
- 9.7 Councillors' consideration and approval for payment, the items listed below. Proposed by AJ, seconded by DB and agreed by all present.

Description / Power	Amount	VAT	Total
RTM Landscapes 1789 mowing June 2019	£350.00	£70.00	£420.00
Qanvas for website to 30 June 2020, inc name renewal	£142.00		£142.00
E.On street light maintenance to 30 June 2019	£47.88	£9.58	£57.46
N-CALC Councillor training (Chairmanship)	£42.00		£42.00
S Fountain for Village Calendar printing May 2019 + parking	£15.00 £1.60	£3.00	£18.00 £1.60
Gary Denby Clerk gross remuneration and expenses 30 May to 17 July 2019 (7 weeks) inc. home office	£274.89 £42.00		£316.89

10. Councillors' Comments

- 10.1 AJ reported that the bench on Plumpton Lane has been repaired. The second Royal British legion bench is awaiting construction of a concrete plinth for it to

stand upon (this will lengthen its working life), to be on The Green next to the garage on Banbury Road.

- 10.2 Ref 10.2: PG reported that the intended HS/2 meeting was cancelled. However, a contractor appears to have started work again at Aston-le-Walls.
- 10.3 DB reported upon a payment lag for meeting the costs incurred by Stephanie Fountain, who voluntary produces the Village Calendar monthly, for distribution around the village. Whilst Stephanie is sometimes claiming for parking fees incurred, she is making no claim for mileage covered when collecting them. It was discussed whether the Parish Council might pay her expenses three months in advance, rounded up to £20 per month (in keeping with the budget)? Proposed by AJ, seconded by JS and approved by those present. The Clerk to draft a letter to Stephanie, to accompany this meeting's payments **GD**.
- 10.4 AJ reported upon the great success of this year's re-constituted village fête – it was a great team effort by the fete committee and those who donated very generously towards it.
- 10.5 CP reported the concerns of her friend in the village, over the Haygate lorries passing through the village. A perennial hot chestnut, beyond the scope of the Parish Council (they are using the highway legally).
- 10.6 JS (along with other councillors) found discussions over one of the planning applications last month to be somewhat fractious and at times, going around in circles. Consideration was given whether to implement the time limits within the Councils Standing Orders for meetings generally (3f: refers to a maximum public time of 15 minutes; 3g: a member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes; 1f: does not specify the time limit for a councillor). AJ felt it important to allow time for all views to be aired, even if going a little beyond the norm.

11. Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 4 September 2019**

Meeting closed at 9:45pm.

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Chairman

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Date