

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MORETON PINKNEY PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

<b>Present:</b>	James Smith (JS)	Chairman
	Andrew Jalland (AJ)	Councillor
	Dorothy Brooke (DB)	Councillor
	Brian Collett (BC)	Councillor
	Peter Gaydon (PG)	Councillor
	Gary Denby (GD)	Parish Clerk
<b>Public:</b>	Jim & Judy Bryant	Alison Eastwood (AE)
	Barbara Keane (BK)	Jane Wheeler (JW)

**Welcome and any announcements from the Chair**

JS welcomed the members of the public present for the meeting.

- 1. Apologies accepted** – Cllrs Ben Vincent and Claire Poulton.
- 2. Receive minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

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

**4. Public time**

AE & JW reported upon the successful fundraising to date, towards the second Vehicle Activated speed Sign (VAS). Requirements were expressed through a note through doors using Moreton Pinkney Matters and through the village FaceBook page. Contributions have been received from villagers, some most generous; also from the film night and the coffee morning. To date £930 has been received. It is planned to have an informal 'thank-you' party at £2 a head to cover costs on 11<sup>th</sup> October. This may top-up the donations to £1,000.

JS thanked the fund-raising committee for their remarkable efforts. During August the Clerk presented the committee with a summary of costs, dependant upon the outcome of the revised license awaited from Steve Barber at Northants Highways. This will determine the eventual positions available for the new sign and how many post(s) and pole extensions are required. Whilst we await this, there is opportunity to see if we can find an independent contractor to install such posts in the verge, meeting Highway's liability insurance and working terms.

The VAS comes with a 12 month warranty, extensible after 12 months at £80 pa. To order the device before its mounting poles are installed will use-up the manufacturer's warranty unnecessarily. This VAS2 project was costed on the basis of sharing the 'spare battery' and charger, together with the protective case used when relocating the signs. This shaved about £800 from the costs, by using the same Swarco sign.

## 5. Matters arising

- 5.1 Ref 5.1: AJ has again reduced and treated the stump outside the Baxter's home. We need to wait awhile, to see if it manages to grow again. Then we can arrange to have it ground-down, which may take £500 from the budget.
- 5.2 Ref 5.1: AJ advised that Steven Barber dropped into the village during his travels over the summer, to help resolve the 40mph pole site issue raised by his engineers (overhead high voltage cables). He is aware that the VAS2 funds are now available. By email, he advised that we might consider using our own contractors to install the new poles.
- 5.3: Ref 5.3: The Clerk still needs to source an Accident Report book **GD**.
- 5.4 Ref 5.4: AJ reported that the lower branches have now been removed, to aid contractor mowing beneath them. He was thanked for his endeavours.
- 5.5 Ref 5.5: The Clerk is awaiting a call from 'Michelle' at Swarco, advising how to activate the extended warranty for our first VAS. It transpires that our model is susceptible to battery and data download issues in some limited circumstances. We have a good battery charge-discharge regime and do not collect VAS data, so have not been affected to date. Councillors agreed that the October agenda should include an item to consider the expenditure of £80 pa to extend the device's warranty, though excluding regular maintenance **GD**.
- 5.6 Ref 5.6: Review of policies, procedures and practices into a single document – ongoing **GD**.
- 5.7 Ref 5.8: Ongoing, ways to raise the public profile of the Parish Council **CP**. AJ reported that the present web site's home page is lacking any 'latest notification' such as for the village fete... it requires access via a link and is thus 'hidden'. It is also not entirely obvious how to get the latest Parish Council agenda (two / three clicks down).

## 6. Correspondence

- 6.1 7 Aug: Advance notification of cycle event – Cobbler Classic on **19 Oct 2019**. The Clerk will forward this information to JW.
- 6.2 19 Aug: A blocked footpath drain on The Square has been reported. The Clerk has taken an effective picture of its context (ownership) and will advise the residents how to use the **Fix My Street** site (includes pictures) at [fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk) to report and monitor progress **GD**. If Highways refuse ownership of the problem, then Thames Water may have to be contacted about this as a drainage issue.
- 6.3 21 Aug: Online application for for New Homes Bonus – this is confusing / irrelevant. Callum Fairbrother at SNC thanked the Clerk for his feedback!



- 6.4 25 Aug: N-CALC mini-update, includes invitation to AGM on **Sat 5 October**. The Clerk hopes to attend **GD**.
- 6.5 28 Aug: Explanation behind the withdrawn pre-application consultation on a new telecommunications base station: *"Following further discussions with the planning case officer it was suggested that the development be relocated to the opposite side of the hedge to the west of the current site to help increase the degree of screening to the proposed apparatus. The application has since been withdrawn to allow us to investigate this option with a view to submitting a new application for the revised position."*
- 6.6 28 Aug: Invitation to respond to a draft SNC 'Sport & leisure strategy 2018-2024'. The Village Hall committee has investigated the possibility of installing a set of outdoor 'Adult Gym' equipment on the sports field. Regulations mean that it must be sited well-away from the children's play equipment, in effect the far corner. This was considered impractical. Thus there is little the village can add to this survey.

## **7. Update regarding the village's second Vehicle Activated speed Sign**

See sections 4 and 5.2 above. The project is on track for installation within 12 – 18 months of commencement (as with its predecessor). Councillors do not wish to pressurise KierWSP at this time, given their operative is on compassionate leave and his replacement would likely have to start afresh. We hope to have the VAS2 license and its poles installation resolved, before onset of the new Unitary Authority (which sub-contracts to KierWSP).

## **8. Planning (latest items available at [snc.planning-register.co.uk](http://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. Appeal refused 22 Aug 2019.
- 8.2 S/2019/0970/FUL: Proposed canopy porch at Lantern Cottage, The Square. Approved.

## **9. Finance and Accounts**

- 9.1 The Clerk has submitted a VAT Reclaim for £1,468.23 for the financial year 2018-19. This used the link kindly provided by Danny Moody at N-CALC.
- 9.2 Councillors considered and agreed that in future Stephanie Fountain shall be paid three months in advance from the planned budget, for her production and collection of the Village Calendar. Receipts shall be returned to the Clerk, to permit VAT reclaim. The Clerk shall produce a mini-contract to be signed by Stephannie, agreeing to produce all issues for which payment has been received in advance **GD**. This will commence with the October – December 2019 issues.
- 9.3 Councillors' consideration and approval for payment, the items listed below. Proposed by AJ, seconded by BC and agreed by all present.

Description / Power	Amount	VAT	Total
RTM Landscapes 1789 mowing July & August 2019	£700.00	£140.00	£840.00
S Fountain for Village Calendar printing August & September 2019 + parking	£15.00 £1.60	£3.00	£18.00 £1.60
Gary Denby Clerk gross remuneration and expenses 18 July to 4 Sept 2019 (7 weeks) inc. home office	£274.89 £42.00		£316.89
Opus Street Lighting, electricity supply to 24 Aug (DD)	£69.95	£3.49	£73.44

## 10. Councillors' Comments

- 10.1 AJ reported that 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. Richard has kindly offered the use of his mini-digger. The concrete + aggregate cost is approximately £95 if mixed locally, or £200 if delivered (a better consistency and finish). This needs to be raised as an expenditure item next month **GD**.

During August AJ was obliged to remove the bench on Canons Ashby Road due to its broken arm and general ricketyness!

A bench on Weston Road in memory of Mrs Sterne in 1975 is also rickety.

There is a further bench near the bottom of Brook Street with its wooden joints in disrepair. This was donated to the village 35 years ago by the Garden Club's 30 year anniversary. The Clerk will contact Hilary Fox at the Garden Club, to inquire whether they may wish to celebrate another anniversary **GD?**



The Clerk will seek costs for 2 replacement benches and a concrete pad **GD**.

- 10.2 PG reported that HS/2 is now under ministerial review. In the meantime, the Chipping Warden Relief Road contract has been awarded to Buckingham Plant Hire. Questions with regards the timings of local road closures remain unanswered.
- 10.3 DB reported a terrible pothole has developed in the village near to the garage. This needs to be reported by villagers on **Fix My Street** site (include pictures) at [fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk)

11. Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Meeting closed at 8:55pm.

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Chairman

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Date