

# MORETON SAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Moreton Say held at The Clive Hall, Moreton Say  
on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Present:** Councillors M Joyce, C Dutton, P Duffy, C Wellon, H Podmore, P Nuttall, Unitary Councillor P Wynn and Mrs J Evans (Clerk).

- 1. Public Session** – There were 5 members of the public present and they expressed their views on Vantage Farm's new building and Biomass Boiler but the Chairman explained that as the planning application had been received after the agenda for this meeting was published the Parish Council would not be able to comment on this matter but would be having a meeting in the near future for this purpose. The new signs on the A41 were also discussed and the Clerk will check the original planning documents to confirm the signs are as per the conditions. Broadband was discussed and the Clerk was asked to advise Chris Taylor, of Connecting Shropshire, about the problems still being experienced in the Parish especially Bletchley. A discussion took place regarding the Parish Plan and the Chairman advised the meeting that a review of the Parish Plan would be undertaken over the coming months as this had already been agreed at a previous Parish Council meeting. The administrator of the Moreton Say parish website has decided not to continue with it and has expressed his disappointment that the Parish Council now have their own website but have not liaised with him. On behalf of the Council the Chairman expressed their apologies for this oversight. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Turner to explain about all the new and changing legislation regarding what Parish Council information needs to be available to public and why the Parish Council had decided that the Clerk should have the responsibility to ensure that the Parish Council was always compliant but apologising for not advising him of this and also thanking him for all the hard work and time that he had put into the parish website.

## **2. Chair's Report – 2016-2017**

I should like to begin this year's report by thanking Josie Davies, Alan Porter, Denise Shaw and Karen Martin for their many years of service to Moreton Say Parish Council. Thank you also to those Councillors continuing for the next 4 year term of office and a very warm welcome to our new Councillors. It is most encouraging to see new members joining the Parish Council.

The 16/17 municipal year has been a busy and productive one for Moreton Say Parish Council. We started the year carrying forward a balance of just over £3,600. Our annual precept of £7k came in April and spending over the year amounted to just over £8,600. We are beginning the new financial year have taken forward in the region of £2.5k. Out of this year's finances we were able to give annual grants to the village hall of £750, to the millennium group £500 for the maintenance of the pond and amenity area and £750 for the maintenance of the churchyard. We replaced a street light in Longford with a new LED light. The annual street lighting maintenance contract with Eon was renewed. We have incurred legal costs to enable us to take over the lease of the land formerly used as the bowling green from the Diocese of Lichfield. To help us with our intentions to create an extended car park and eventually a small playground, we have secured a financial commitment from the village hall committee and the PTFA. All village groups and residents will benefit from this facility.

This year the School appointed a new head teacher, following its merger with Adderley School. We were delighted to learn of the 'good' rating it received from its recent Ofsted inspection. It is now within the top 1% of primary schools nationally, an excellent achievement.

At the beginning of the year, with the appointment of our Clerk, we developed a new dedicated website in order to comply with the Transparency Code. This is managed by the Clerk and displays all of the information we are legally required to publish, within the specified time frames. We successfully applied for funding from the Transparency Code for a grant of c£1100 which will enable us to ensure we are fully compliant.

During the year the PC successfully objected to a Governance Review of the Market Drayton town boundary to extend to encompass an area within our parish. We have spent much time and consideration reviewing the Market Drayton Town Council Neighbourhood Plan, which has incorporated areas within MS Parish into the Plan



for the relocation of the Greenfields sports facility and for future development. The Parish Council has objected to inclusion of land from within the Parish into the MD NP, and has taken a decision to formulate its own 'complex' Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with the parishes of Norton in Hales and Adderley, keeping all areas within its own plan.

We have continued with our routine Parish responsibilities, considering planning applications, maintaining street lighting and reporting the usual potholes as necessary. We are looking forward to the promised re-surfacing of the lane from the Pinfold and into the village past the Hall. This will be much welcomed by all cyclists and drivers alike. We have followed closely news of Shropshire Council's planned devolution of services, the full effects of which have yet to be seen.

Michael Last, our Vicar left in January and we are due to welcome his replacement shortly. Thanks to Michael for looking after our Parishioners during his time here, and we wish him well in his new location, Elgin.

I would like to finish by saying a very big thank you to Jane, our Clerk, for her patience and hard work. She is an important and valued member of the Council. Thank you.

### **3. Unitary Councillor's Report**

Firstly I would like to thank those of you who voted for me. I am privileged and honoured to represent this area again.

There have been Unitary and Town & Parish Council elections on 4th May to re-elect members for the next four years.

Younger Councillors have been elected and will bring in some new blood.

There has been an increase in the minority from 46 to 49 Conservative Councillors to 49.

Secondly, hard decisions have had to be made with cuts. This means staff redundancies, whilst hoping to still keep a reasonable level of service going. Unfortunately there are still more cuts to come, as yet unknown.

A new Leader was selected on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, in the form of Councillor Peter Nutting and the Vice-Chairman selected alongside him is Stephen Charmley. The Cabinet has been selected and they will all be sworn in on Thursday alongside the new Leader and his deputy, also, all the newly elected committees and chairs of those committees. I am due to be sworn in as the new Chair of the North Planning Committee at the same time.

Finally, I look forward to working with all the new members including old ones in the next four years.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.53 pm

Minutes proposed and accepted as a true record of this meeting dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Signed by the Chairman .....  .....