

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
of Moreton in Marsh
will be held in the Redesdale Hall on
Monday 24 May 2021 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Viviani (Chairman of Moreton in Marsh Town Council), County Councillor Mackenzie-Charrington, Cllr Bryson, Cllr Kenney-Herbert, Cllr Berry, Cllr Webster, Cllr Blackbeard

Staff: E Bennett (Locum Clerk) & T Maull (Assistant Clerk)

In attendance: 3 members of the public

1. Welcome by Cllr Viviani

Cllr Viviani welcomed parishioners to the meeting advising that the Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to discuss any matter of interest relating to Moreton in Marsh. Only parishioners were entitled to vote on any matters.

The Chairman's Report was provided:

"ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 24 MAY 2021 - Chairman's Report

Welcome – I must apologise for the noise upstairs as the NEW Performing Arts Group for children is on until 7 15pm.

This meeting has to be held before 1 June and so it is short notice owing to COVID restrictions and a limit on space however it's nice to see residents again.

Quick update from me on what has been happening – the last time this meeting was held was in 2019!

Looking back on previous the Annual Parish meeting a 20 MPH speed limit was discussed and here we are in 2021 as the County Council is about to put this into place.

Parking was also a topic for discussion in 2019 with the previous Parish Council's unsuccessful 2018 bid for the Royal British Legion Site mentioned. Following the elections held in 2019, and during 2020 the Council bid for the site again and was successful in acquiring it to become a Transport Hub in order to rationalise parking on the High Street and enable improved transport options for residents and visitors in the area.

During 2020 four Councillors left the Council and have only recently been replaced following an election. During COVID in 2020 the Council remained operating albeit meeting remotely and short of four councillors. But Councillors and Council staff have continued their work and this is some of what they have been doing:

- *Installation of the track on the Multi Use Games Area field on the London Road near the football club.*
- *Also during 2020 the Town has seen a croquet green established near the Bowles Club in Redesdale Place and we wish the club lots of luck and hope to see many residents of all ages enjoying this game soon.*
- *Councillors had been working to update Queen Victoria play park and resolved at the 25 February 2020 meeting **To carry out the most urgent repairs and to investigate renewing and relocating the play area. Voting EV/EH 10 in favour 1 absent.** The play area was subsequently deemed to be unsafe particularly following hot weather when some of the safety*

surfaces lifted and the Council reluctantly closed the park on COVID and safety grounds unable to invite work to be undertaken during lockdown. Later in 2020 remaining Councillors decided on a fresh approach and during December, residents responded to the Council's consultation with the hope to have a new park in place by summer this year. Clearly it was an optimistic hope to have a new playground in place by this Summer, but the working group held its first meeting on 3 March 2021 and have undertaken research with a number of suppliers and we are grateful to the Group for its work on behalf of the Town to date. This project is ongoing and we hope to hear more from you during this evening.

- I have already mentioned the RBL project which the Council is working on with its partner GWR and the District and County Councils but there are other projects that link to this one and the Council has engaged Consultants to support its traffic and movement work to take forward improvements to making the High Street safer for people to access. Our new Councillors will be meeting to be updated on this and other projects soon and once we have an agreed way forward, we will share this with you and the wider Town.
- The Redesdale Hall, previously voted as the most loved building in Moreton at a Neighbourhood Development Group event, has been closed during COVID but, as we hear above – is open again. Whilst the Hall clock has been in working order for a while, this building is known to be in need of repair (not least to the leaking clock tower). The Trustees and Council have come together to seek a way forward for the Hall and I will call of the Chairman of the Trustees later to speak about the project now underway to maintain and refresh the Hall.
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan Group has had good responses from residents to its Housing Needs survey conducted towards the end of last year and the recent residents and business surveys. We look forward to hearing the results of the surveys and attending some events for all of us to provide views on green spaces, heritage and other work as the Plan for the Town is developed. Thanks to the NDP working group for their time and effort.
- Planting in Queen Victoria Gardens and trees in Blenheim Meadow and a hedge in croft allotment has been carried out. As part of the Wild Towns initiative a bat box has been put into the cemetery Bier House. The Council has recently supported a wildlife initiative (£2K) to create town wide biodiversity opportunity plans to link to natural capital maps and a nature recovery network. This will help when we look at our open spaces in future.
- Towards the end of last year, The town put forward its objections to the planning application for the development of the Dunstall Farm site on the basis that this development was being brought forward too soon in the current Local Plan life span – which was set to last from 2011 to 2031 and on the basis that Moreton in short of Primary School places and an early years provision. The point to say is that if an area for development **is or becomes** part of the Local Plan – it is too late to say no – the only thing that the District Planning Committee can do is to consult further and introduce constraints on the development but it does not mean that the development will not happen
- So what can we do about Development? This is the question the Town Council has been considering. The Local Plan is being refreshed in parts and so we aim to challenge CDC on the basis of the Infrastructure Development Report commissioned in 2016 by ARUP, which stated that (paragraph 1.19) Regional Critical Infrastructure elements did not include utilities. Last December on the 23rd Moreton experienced severe rainfall and as a result the Council looked at issues surrounding water management in the Town. On 19th March the Council hosted a multi agency water meeting with the District and County Councils, Thames Water and the Environment Agency. We know that by 2025 the tanks at the Primrose Court Pumping Station are due to be increased in capacity but 18% (5 Kilometres) of the current public sewer and drainage in Moreton needs to be surveyed and eventually the drains re lined. This is only a small part of Water related issues facing Moreton and so our view is that Utilities need to be impact assessed before any further Housing development is planned for the Town. In basic terms we

need to understand the plans to improve the existing infrastructure provision before more development is added.

- *COVID The Town has been quiet during COVID but new businesses do not seem to have been put off setting up as the wine shop, bakery and new restaurant's and places to eat are opening. I want to say some of what I noticed during this unusual period and not least because I know how difficult it has been for families and friends who have lost loved ones and have been unable to hold funerals in the ways they might have wished. I think it is worth taking a minute to reflect not only on the sad elements of the situation but also to be thankful for the things that kept people going – Rainbow pictures in windows, painted stones on pathways and those who came out into the streets of Moreton to Clap for Carers. Let's take a moment to think **1 MINUTE silence**. Thank you I think we are grateful to Teachers and Key Workers, for Cotswold Friends volunteers and the North Cotswold Food Bank – for keeping services running and not least for the volunteers and those in the North Cotswolds Hospital who are working hard vaccinating the population in this area.*
- *I hope that clubs and societies will be able come back again but this might take time. It has been a very different year but one I think where Moreton can look forward to the future as restrictions reduce and life returns to a more normal pattern. Thank you”.*

2. To approve the minutes of the Parish Meeting 4 March 2019

The minutes were available on the website and a number of copies were available at the meeting. Cllr Viviani highlighted previous points raised.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4 March 2019 (not held in 2020 due to Covid restrictions) were an accurate record of the meeting. Voting; all in favour.

3. Discussion on matters of interest raised by parishioners

- Cllr Viviani was thanked for her report
- A resident thanked volunteers who helped to improve the Town.
- Communication was raised as an issue – a resident highlighted the projects being undertaken and stressed the need to improve communications on projects. It was noted this was an issue. MIMTC's www was not fit for purpose and a new site was currently being developed which would enable weekly e-newsletters to be produced. Leaflet drops were prohibited during Covid. The office staff were under capacity at present. A staffing review was underway. The number of Councillors is now back up to full strength following the election which will help.
- A resident queried town parking and an update on the work of the consultants was provided.
- Redesdale Hall was a key part of the High Street. Grant opportunities were being explored. It was hoped to improve the hall facilities and increase public use, address traffic flow around the building and improve parking as vehicles are damaging stone work. The work of experts such as Consultants and Architects to work on this building was highlighted. Inter related was the RBL scheme and parking outside Lloyds Bank. Diagonal car parking spaces were a safer option outside the Bank. Work required to the RH building was extensive. The Council will seek to identify repair priorities and future works and a cost estimate for the RH building.
- Flooding – continue to press GCC on flood management issues. CDC are looking at surface water issues. Any new builds should consider impact assessment and surface water drainage. Flooding at QVP is also an issue.
- The Council are looking to hold a meeting with the new County Councillor to explore issues with GCC and pick up on items separately.

- GCC are planning on undertaking their own parking review. Details on this are not known yet.
- With foreign travel restricted to Covid domestic tourism will increase in the area. CDC had some grant monies for High Street improvements. Time limits were noted. It was noted that for the Levelling Up Fund the Cotswolds were in priority 3 (lowest level) and the Cotswold area was unlikely to receive funding, There were National Lottery and Heritage Funds potentially available for the Redesdale Hall.
- RBL Site – slowly moving forward with pre-application work taking place. GWR are the key partners. The drop in session had been well received.
- NDP – the work of the NDP Team was noted and they were thanked for work done to date.
- The Chairman of the RH Trustees provided an update on the roof leak, issues related to storage, access and accessibility, lift, drain pipes, stonework, kitchen and toilet facilities. It was noted that the order of works would be established by the experts and a drone would be used to check all areas of the building. He also hoped that the area by the RH building could become greener.
- The complex water issues were raised. It was noted that Cirencester had similar issues. Issues are known at GCC, CDC and EA. MIMTC are pressing for a plan to be developed. Priorities of Thames Water were noted. Obtaining CCTV of the drainage system was discussed as a possible option to gain a better understanding of the system issues. It was noted that all Councils and companies would need to work jointly with each other to sort out flood issues. The impact of the Dunstan Farm development was highlighted as this would lead to increased issues.
- A resident queried the resources of the Council and whether the Council could call on the Town residents to help. Number wise the Councillors were at full capacity. Getting staff up to capacity was a known issue and the Staffing Review was taking place. The Council employ advisers when necessary. A formal meeting and committee structure and would be established.
- A resident queried the CIL monies from new developments. MIMTC had some CIL monies.

4. To identify concerns, priorities and projects for the Town Council to consider

Besides areas discussed above other issues were highlighted as:

- Mini Roundabouts
- Sewage capacity
- Need for a second primary school and site location
- Inadequate nursery provision

The Dunstall Farm application was discussed noting the development will increase on existing roads, sewage system and schools. MIMTC were a statutory consultee on the process. CDC's decision was disappointing and the NPPF infrastructure is not in place. Residents and Councillors were advised to read the planning conditions in full.

The potential for a public health disaster regarding the sewage capacity was discussed. It was noted that pipes went under the school and allotments which was an issue. The work of the Windrush Group was noted. Data was being analysed.

The Council were willing to engage with other tiers of Government regarding issues in Moreton.

The issues from the Adlestrop Bridge were discussed noting the mileage increases and carbon footprint issues and knock on of the issues for Moreton with large lorries using mini roundabouts. The boundary issues were also an issue as there was a need for joined up thinking between Councils. Complex discussions with the traffic consultants were taking place.

The need for developers to deliver on promises and enforcement be taken forward where necessary was discussed. Close scrutiny of timeframes is also necessary. A large % of the Cotswolds is in the AONB which impacts on where developments can take place. The CDC Local Plan had also run out.

Cllr Mark Mackenzie-Harrington, Stow Division, advised he had been elected in May 2021 for 4 years. He paid tribute to his predecessor Nigel Moor. He advised he lived in Little Rissington where he used to be District Councillor and Planning Cabinet Member. He advised on his committee appointments. He commented that he knew highways and flooding were key issues for Moreton and he was in contact with GCC Highways over Moreton. He made reference to the GCC Highways Plan and recent road resurfacing between Moreton and Stow. Issues should be reported to GCC using [Your Highways - Report it - Highways \(goucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/your-highways-report-it). He referred to the new 20mph restrictions in Moreton and the parking review. GCC were looking at flood prevention and the report was awaited. He also reported on the Free School Meal scheme and NHS Cheltenham Hospital A&E opening hours as well as new radiology equipment. He advised that he had 20 parishes to cover and would try to attend as many meetings as possible. Each County Councillor had a sum of money and he could potentially help support small projects.

5. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....