

The Annual Parish Meeting

of Moreton-in-Marsh
held in the Redesdale Hall on
Monday 17th April 2023 at 6.30 pm

Chair Cllr E Viviani, Clerk S Hart, 12 members of the public present.

Minutes

- 1) Welcome and reports from by Cllr Viviani chair of Moreton in Marsh Town Council. See Annex A for reports
- 2) Reports from Chair of the Redesdale Hall, the Football and Cricket clubs, Cotswold Friends. See Annex A for reports.
- 3) The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 31st May 2022 was **APPROVED**.
- 4) Close of meeting 7.02pm

Annex A – Reports

Town Council Chair welcome and report

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting and as you know this is not a council meeting but it is a chance for residents of the Parish to meet, and raise topics of interest.

First, I would like to introduce Sara Hart who is the Clerk to the council working alongside Teresa Maul the Deputy Clerk, Alexa Turner Barnes our Administrative Assistant and Brian Tombs, the Council workman. We are grateful for all the staff do to keep the Town going. Sarah has been with the Council for a few weeks and has been out on the ground with Brian getting to understand the Town.

Apologies from the usual attendees. The County Cllr has sent an update that will be included with the minutes and District Councillors are unable to attend owing to this being an election period.

Later in the meeting we will hear from the Redesdale Hall Trust, Football &, Cricket Clubs, the and Cotswold Friends Charity. Gemma Hall from Inspire to Aspire has sent in a brief update on the Youth Club which will be included in the minutes.

Council – a brief round up events during the year

Redesdale Hall

This building - Redesdale Hall. Shortly Nick, the chair of Trustees will give an update on the future of the Charity. Ownership of the building has often been questioned, as residents know it was said that the Council owned the outside of the building and the Trustees the inside, but, given the state of the building the Council and Trustees have been working together to understand the issues in order to end up with a building fit for

the future. The Council currently insures the building (possibly the idea of owning the outside?) and during the year has pursued the insurers to conduct investigations into potential subsidence following drain investigation. It took till late in 2022 for the Test Pits to be dug and we await the report from the insurers ... In the meantime, as I explained last year, the scaffolding needs to remain in order to prevent roof tiles slipping onto the A429. At its meeting of 21st February 23

The Council declares The Redesdale Hall to be a key building of central historic importance to the Town of Moreton-in-Marsh and, as such, agrees to support The Redesdale Hall Trust to modernise its governance, and renovate and develop the Hall to be fit for purpose for use by the people of Moreton-in-Marsh as a significant asset for community use.

I leave it to Nick to explain the future of the charity which will hopefully sort out building ownership once and for all.

Grant to the Town

On 21st September 2022 Cotswold District Council (CDC) voted to allocate £250 thousand pounds of Developer Contributions (from 2014 Unilateral Undertaking Agreement) to the Town to be split between 2 infrastructure projects in respect of the Redesdale Hall and Transport Hub. The Council recently had sight of the draft Grant Agreement and will be engaging with CDC to draw on it. This is good news for the Town.

Transport Hub

Work towards establishing a Transport Hub for the Town continues as the Council appointed Fatkin as Design Consultants to work on the project. Some land clearance and survey work has been undertaken in preparation for design of the space. Again if you were present in the Hall on Saturday 21st January 2023 you may have seen an outline concept design which illustrated an improved area around the station. Apart from a bus pull in and turning circle and improved parking, a main feature for me was the desire for a footpath that would link those using the area directly to the Town. As it is people have no idea of how close they are to shops and retail facilities they are and could use if they have time. On a positive note, work has started today to put in a number of covered cycle spaces.

Bus

A key aim of the Transport Hub is to enable improved Bus connectivity to the Town. You may have seen the introduction of **The Robin** an on-demand bus service wheelchair accessible and dog friendly and free for concessionary pass holders where you can book a journey and be picked up and dropped off close to your home? The robin is operating around the area to connect to other bus services and the wider transport network. (Call Centre 0345 263 8139). The Council has recently been informed of another new service is coming soon as Community Connections Organisation will introduce the **Moreton Shopper** to operate on Tuesdays. Again this service will accept Bus passes.

Traffic Management

Effort to decongest the Town centre, to improve parking and traffic movement to make Moreton more accessible has continued. The Traffic Consultants are nearing the end of their work to enable discussion to take place with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). Again during the year, discussion has not always been possible as the staff of GCC have changed but we continue on.

Local Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plan

During 2022 CDC engaged in a consultation about the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (known as the SHELAA) This is part of how future development is planned as part of the CDC Local Plan (2011 to 2031 Adopted in 2018) where the Government sets out the minimum number new houses it requires the District to build over a period of time it was assessed that 700 to 900 additional dwellings are required across the District up to 2031. To date, the council has not seen the outcome of this consultation. This is important as it links to the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). If you were around on Saturday 21st January 2023 you may have come to the Hall to speak to members of the NDP? From January to 5 February 2023 The NDP Group (a working group of volunteers) consulted the Town about the Vision and Objectives for Moreton via a survey. The Vision is described as follows:

In 2031 Moreton-in-Marsh is an attractive, vibrant and prosperous market town with a wide range of housing options. Moreton benefits from excellent transport links, a network of safe walking and cycling routes. The Town successfully blends its role as a key retail and service centre for businesses, residents and visitors in a green, bio-diverse, low carbon environment.

The NDP survey response rate of between 10-12% was achieved with 473 responses and so the next step is for the Group to work on drafting suitable policies to go forward for independent examination and to ultimately be put to the Town in a Referendum.

Parks

Residents will be happy to know that the Council has agreed to improve the Skate Park and this work will commence in the week beginning the 8th May. Similarly, the Council has agreed a tender for the QVG Playground and will meet the contractor soon to discuss a start date. These are the pictures of the equipment and layout.

Volunteers

The Council and Town would not function if it was not for those who volunteer their time. I want to pay particular tribute to Councillors, Allotment and Cemetery Representatives and Working Group members and those who run Charities, Scouting, Youth clubs, sports clubs and societies for the benefit of the Community. The Poppy Appeal organised by Ellie Hamilton for example, raised in excess of £6000. Rupert Firkin regularly takes readings of nitrates and ammonia from the River Evenlode. (Recently river monitoring was featured on the Radio 4 Farming Today Weekly Roundup programme which you can hear on BBC Sounds). Volunteering shows during

events such as the Jubilee and especially on the death of the Late Queen where many members of the WI, Councillor, Church, Charities and Organisations manned the Hall in order for residents and visitors to the Cotswolds to sign the book of condolence. The book of condolence and photographs will go to the Gloucester Archives for preservation. For the Coronation the Union Jacks and Coronation flags will go up in Town soon and the Council is currently hoping to be able to screen the Coronation live in the Redesdale Hall but more details to follow soon.

We are going to hear from volunteers from some of the Charities and Town organisations and I think we should be grateful to all those who step forward to support and play a large part on our community.

Report from the Youth Club

We have signed the



This means we...

- ★ work hand in hand with families
- ★ understand the effects of poverty and trauma
- ★ ensure we are compassionate and strengths-based

...so that no child is left behind.



'Being able to feel safe with other people is probably the most important aspect of mental health; safe connections are fundamental to meaningful and satisfying lives.' - Bessel van der Volk, author of The body keeps score.

This is probably the most important aspect of a youth club, this is the reason I started Inspire to Aspire to create safe spaces where young people can come and be connected to each other and with safe adults learn to navigate the challenges of life. Young people can talk to our trained and experienced staff about whatever is on their minds and we can support and signpost them if they need a bit more than just a listening ear.

Moreton Youth club is on at the St Davids Centre every Tuesday from 6-7:30 for ages 8- year 7's and from 7:30 for year 8's to age 18.

We have a strong Senior group attending but would particularly like to grow the attendance at the junior session.

The sessions planned for the coming weeks include

18th April - Pizzas

25th April - Nature walk to the park

2nd May - Upcycled coronation decorations

9th May - Newspaper challenges

Subs are £1 and there is a tuck shop available. If costs are a barrier to attending please let us know as we can make provisions for you.

No need to book, just turn up. If you have any questions you can email

hello@inspiretoaspire.club

Look forward to seeing your young people soon!! Gemma - youth worker at Moreton in Marsh youth club.

Report from the County Councillor

STOW DIVISION

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

The Division, made up of 20 different parishes, is fundamentally rural, with the exceptions of Stow-on-the-Wold, Moreton-in Marsh and Upper Rissington to a certain extent. The central axis being the Fosseway (A429), which in its self-causes major traffic issues for both Stow and Moreton. The Division police station being in Stow, national rail network station in Moreton along with the District Council's northern office.

Ward is in a thriving area that has attracted much development over recent years. Moreton having the most pronounced growth, which in its self brings capacity issues. More and more traffic, more and more congestion, especially with extensive tail-backs on the approaches to Stow, where a mixed-use development of up to 250 new homes is mute in their draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Highways are one of the County Council's responsibilities and like most, if not all councils, will be always criticised for the scourge of potholes. Often a case of 'damned if we do, damned if we don't' with repairs often take too long, especially if you've suffered a puncture as a result. That said you'll have seen significant amounts of resurfacing in our area over the last year, all part of the commitment to £150m investment over the term of the council. The last year has seen a 22% increase in the maintenance budget, the highest increase in many years. Priorities will always go to the A & B classified roads but you should have seen more of the lower rated roads now being fully resurfaces – not simply patched, although this is necessary on a sacrificial basis if they become badly damaged, before full resurfacing. Do remember that I'll have my 2023/24 Councillor's Local Highways Budget of £30,000 to assist your issues. Finally, the best way is to report it: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit

County Council planning doesn't generally come up on resident's radar as it covers rather different topics to that are generally the responsibility of the Cotswold District Council, which handles commercial and residential development, in the main. The GCC looks after Infrastructure, schools, transport, environment, flooding and minerals, amongst many things. The last two items are very much in my focus.

We have suffered badly from flooding as recently as December 2020 in both Moreton and in particular Bledington, where in particular I'm pleased to say we are close to resolving matters. At a cost of personal heartache and several millions of pounds, working closely, possibly for the first time, with multiple agencies we have an agreed program for mitigating flooding disasters in the future.

The communities around the cluster of North Cotswold Quarries have been suffering considerable aggravation over recent years as many of these quarries, centred around the village of Ford, have reopened and seeking to substantially increase export, as well as import of aggregate for reinstatement. Residents are seeing a significant increase of HGVs, now of up to 35 tons, dust, with stone on roads, damage to the highways,

structural impact to houses and long hours of noise. Working with the various communities and the relevant GCC officers we are working towards a way that all can live and work together in harmony.

I'm delighted to say that my Build Back Better budget of £40,000 has been well spent around the parishes. Grants of £1,000 for playground sand to £10,000 towards two new tennis courts are now being enjoyed. Others included grants towards Cotswold Friends, playground equipment, benches, facilities at Moreton Croquet Club and new cricket nets at Adlestrop Cricket Club. All for the communities' benefit, at a local level.

Your Council Tax will have increased over the year 2023-23 by 5%, or £5pa to the CDC and £1.38pw to the GCC for the average Band D property. To put things in perspective the CDC has a budget of circa £13.5m against the GCC's of £596m. Well over 60% of the County Council's revenue goes towards funding social services, which is under increasing pressure following the disruption caused by Covid, leaving little scope for introducing increases in other areas.

The County Council has worked closely in trying to improve public transport, especially in light of Stagecoach surrendering a significant number of routes, especially around the south west of the county. New contractors have been found and routes reinstated. Additionally, with government funding, we have established new 'diel-a-ride' services (0345 2638139) in the Forest of Dean and North Cotswolds under the banner of The Robin. The service collects and returns to isolated villages with no regular public buses.

Moreton is to see some significant transport improvements over the next few years with a doubling of the train service between Worcester, Oxford and London. The North Cotswold Line Tsk Force, Chaired by Lord Faulkner, is working with the Department of Transport and Network Rail, along with Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire County Councils to come forward with a workable and financially viable solution, that will include dual tracking missing stretches. With the former Royal British Legion site now in joint ownership between Moreton TC and Network Rail a close study of how the station can be best developed is under consideration.

Motorists will be pleased that the infamous A417, 'Missing Link', has now been signed off by Central Government for a £460m new road that will dual carriage the last section of the entire route between the M4 at Swindon to the M5 at Gloucester. Scheduled to start in the autumn of this year it should be complete in 4 years. No more Air Balloon traffic jams!

With health in mind the County Council is well into creating a 26-mile cycle and walking route between Stroud and Bishop's Cleeve. It will pass through the shortly to be completed Arle Court transport hub on the west side of Cheltenham. This in turn is close to the new M5 intersection that will vastly improve transport into and out of west Cheltenham as well as opening up land for significant commercial and residential development.

Further funding has been made to Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue to replace essential vehicles and equipment with the very latest, environmentally sensitive available. Furthermore, a number of fire stations will host the police with a new sharing

agreement. This will give the police a greater exposure in areas lacking a permanent police presence. Chris Nelson, Police & Crime Commissioner, was elected on a basis of increasing the numbers in Gloucestershire's police force and is fast closing on his targets, two years into his term.

MM-C/13th April 2023

Report from Chair of the Redesdale Hall Trust

The Redesdale Hall Trust has applied to be a CIO. This should clarify ownership of the hall and will create a better way to run the hall; providing clarity of governance, and making it better for recruiting trustees and applying for fundraising opportunities. The Charity Commission have clarified some details, and some progress is expected in the next few weeks. An architect – Andrew Townsend is due to be appointed to help with the works required to fix the roof and the future development of the building. In the meantime, events are still happening at the hall – there will be an Elton John event in the next two weeks and there will be an additional events programme running September to May through sign up to the Arts in Rural Gloucestershire events.

Report from the Football Club

The season has been affected by poor weather. Players (who do not get paid) have done well in attending all possible fixtures. It is anticipated that a reserve team will be created this year from existing young members who have outgrown the younger leagues. Many thanks to the coaches who give up their time.

The club will be celebrating the Coronation with a Coronation Cup 6 aside Fundraiser on Sunday May 7th.

Report from the Cricket Club

The season starts next week – weather permitting. There are two teams and the ladies team is expanding. The Ladies team is combining with Chipping Campden Ladies to form a North Cotswolds Team to take part in the County League Hard Ball competition. There are 70 children signed up to the juniors (the maximum allowed for the 7 coaches the club has). Some of the 14/15 year olds will be eligible to join the adult team this year. The aim is to get everyone involved.

Report from the Cotswold Friends

The aim of the group is to combat loneliness and isolation.

Vision.....

The group has been established for 45 years and has its offices in the CDC offices on Moreton High Street.

Some of the key services provided are: volunteer drivers (100), befriending service, independence service, community activities programme, intergenerational services.

There are 21 part-time staff but it's a volunteer led organisation – the staff providing support to the volunteer team. 2,400 clients are looked after. Some of the activities local to Moreton are: Men in sheds, pop up shop on market day, support services, 2 x lunch clubs, knit and knatter, day club, quiz at the Black Bear and a Frindship café at Jameson Court.

100 of the groups' volunteers are from Moreton with 450 clients in Moreton.

This year there is a campaign 'Are you free in 23?' to try and get more volunteers.

The groups funding comes mainly from community fundraising and grants with 15% coming from District and County council funding.

Signed.....

Date

DRAFT