

MORETON-IN-MARSH TOWN COUNCIL

	<p style="text-align: center;">COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Date: Tuesday 5th March 2024 Time: 6:30PM</p> <p>Venue: Council Offices, Old Town, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0LW Telephone: 01608 651448 E clerk@moretoninmarshtowncouncil.gov.uk www.moretoninmarshtowncouncil.gov.uk</p>
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Present: Cllrs M Berry (chair), F Matthews, E Viviani, J Blackbeard, M Danks, D Curry, M Beresford

In attendance: S Hart, Clerk; T Maull Deputy Clerk and 8 members of the public

ITEM	TITLE
1.	Apologies Apologies received from Cllr R Eastoe.
2.	CO-OPTION a) It was RESOLVED to vote for the co-option by paper ballot. b) Matt Beresford was co-opted to the councillor vacancy.
3.	Declarations of Interests and Dispensations a) There were no declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda. b) There were no requests for dispensation relating to items on the agenda or made in writing relating to pecuniary interests.
4.	Reports from County and District Councillors were NOTED . See Annex A.
5.	Public Participation Topics raised by members of the public: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAS locations. • Decline of the High Street. • Bus shelter and fence – waiting response from the clerk. • Blocked ditch pipe Blenheim Meadow. • Skatepark/outdoor gym sign. • Skatepark concrete surface repairs.
6.	Minutes a) The minutes of 6 th February 2024 were amended to replace the word ‘notice’ with ‘minutes’. They were then AGREED as accurate and SIGNED . b) The minutes of 20 th February 2024 were AGREED as accurate and SIGNED .
7.	Finance a) The list of payments was NOTED . b) The January finance reports were NOTED . c) It was NOTED that the clerk approved a transfer of £10k from CCLA to Lloyds for cashflow purposes. d) It was NOTED that a transfer of £80k from Evelyn (approved by council on 09/01/24) was requested by the clerk on 25/02/2024 and will go via the Lloyds account for cashflow purposes. e) It was NOTED that transfers from Unity incur a fee of £28 each, transfers from Evelyn and CCLA have no fee. f) A transfer of £125,062.64 from Evelyn (£85,062.64 to replenish Unity and CCLA and £40,000 for cashflow in current account before April precept comes in) was APPROVED . g) A transfer of £4,800 from CCLA (potential VAT element of grasscutting) was APPROVED .

	<p>h) A transfer of £70,262.24 from Unity (£61,638.04 for reserve expenditure and £8624.60 to cover remaining shortfall for end of year payments) was APPROVED.</p> <p>i) It was NOTED that a revised invoice had not yet been submitted by the grasscutters because they were waiting to see if the council wished to negotiate any further reductions. It was AGREED to pay the reduced offer of £23,901.13 subject to completion of cutting all the ditches as per the contract by the end of March 2024, including the pipe clearance (raised by a member of the public) in Blenheim at no extra cost.</p>
8.	<p>Local Plan</p> <p>a) It was NOTED that the informal discussions relating to the Local Plan Consultation from the District Council (CDC) had been productive but at least two more would be needed to draft a response and a letter to CDC. The next one to take place on 11th March following on from the Planning meeting.</p> <p>b) It was AGREED to organise a public meeting on March 21ST 2024 to provide residents with a forum for discussing the Local Plan Consultation from CDC.</p> <p>c) It was AGREED to invite the District and County Councillors and let the public know these councillors have been invited.</p>
9.	<p>Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)</p> <p>a) To NOTE that Gloucestershire Highways require the council to identify 3 locations for the VAS sign.</p> <p>b) To NOTE the Community Speedwatch group have suggested 3 locations.</p> <p>c) 3 potential locations for the VAS sign were AGREED as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Street immediately after the bridge before the CoOp turn. • A429 between Redesdale Place turning and the zebra crossing. • A44 London Road coming into Moreton near the 20 sign.
10.	<p>Exclusion of public and press</p> <p>It was NOTED that there were no members of the public remaining. It was nonetheless RESOLVED to exclude the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of items 21 and 20 from the agenda which were brought forward due to time constraints (9:05pm).</p>
11.	It was RESOLVED to extend the meeting to 9:30pm.
12.	<p>Sick Leave – contracts</p> <p>a) It was RESOLVED to amend all the office contracts to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) recommended occupational sick leave template.</p>
13.	<p>Transport Hub</p> <p>a) It was NOTED there has been a delay to the Transport Hub draft design for pre-application because the topographical survey of the land needs to be extended to include the whole station parking area – not just the jointly owned land.</p> <p>b) It was NOTED the council has received a quote for an extension of the topographical survey using the supplier of the original survey.</p> <p>Cllr Viviani declared an existing dispensation to take part and vote on Transport Hub items.</p> <p>c) It was AGREED to extend the survey with the original supplier for expediency and consistency at a cost of £2,285 plus VAT.</p>
14.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>a) It was AGREED to have an additional March meeting, primarily to allow for finalisation of the budget, review of the risk register and to finalise the Local Plan response.</p> <p>b) It was NOTED that the April meeting scheduled for April 2nd is the day after the Easter Bank Holiday which will entail meeting preparations over the Easter weekend.</p>
15.	<p>Spring Litter Pick</p> <p>a) It was AGREED to hold the Spring Litter pick on Saturday April 13th 2024.</p> <p>b) Cllr Curry was AGREED as lead councillor for the Spring Litter pick.</p>
16.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) It was AGREED to give permission for temporary pedestrian signage in QVG for Moreton Show.</p> <p>b) Reports from the Youth Club were NOTED.</p> <p>c) An invitation from CDC to all councillors to discuss the Cotswold District Council parking strategy on April 11th 2024 was NOTED.</p>

	<p>d) The request from the Christmas Lights Switch on Committee that the date for this year be Saturday 23rd November 2024 was AGREED.</p> <p>e) It was NOTED that a young resident had requested weekly activities for locals, especially the younger generation. It was AGREED to invite the resident to join the Youth working group and to signpost them to the Redesdale Hall, Youth Club and other town providers of activities.</p> <p>f) It was AGREED that Moreton Scout Group Executive could book the High Street parking area from Corders Lane to the War Memorial on Sunday 7 July 2024 for their annual street fayre fund raiser.</p> <p>g) It was AGREED that the clerk will discuss and arrange a placement for the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service's recruitment banner.</p> <p>h) It was DECIDED NOT to give permission to a resident for metal detecting on any Town Council land in Moreton.</p> <p>i) It was AGREED to get a quote for the services of LPR (Land and Property Registration) to finalise registration and consolidate documentation of the council's land assets.</p> <p>j) To NOTE correspondence regarding anti-social behaviour at QVG, parking on the High Street Greens and the newly formed High Street Gardeners - and DECIDE whether to take any further action. This item was DEFERRED.</p> <p>k) To CONSIDER a communication from the Community Speedwatch Group regarding fixed Speedwatch cameras and DECIDE next steps. This item was DEFERRED.</p>
17.	<p>Personnel Committee – these items were DEFERRED.</p> <p>a) To CONSIDER the following recommendations from the Personnel Committee:</p> <p>i. To AGREE to the installation of a suitable secure counter as soon as possible in the council foyer.</p> <p>ii. To AGREE to the purchase of a mobile phone for offsite use.</p> <p>iii. To APPROVE the revised Training and Development policy.</p> <p>iv. To APPROVE the revised Health and Safety policy.</p>
18.	<p>Tree Survey – this item was DEFERRED.</p> <p>a) To receive the annual tree survey and AGREE any actions.</p>
19.	<p>Skate Park – New Surface Damage</p> <p>a) To NOTE the clerk approved emergency repair works to the new skatepark surfacing due to football club vehicle damage – costs approximately £800 plus VAT.</p> <p>b) To NOTE the football club are investigating the possibility of moving one of their floodlights and re-marking the vehicle route to improve vehicle access around the vulnerable section of the skate park.</p>
20.	<p>High Street Greens Parking Damage</p> <p>a) To NOTE that a van was reported parked on the High Street Greens which has caused some damage.</p> <p>b) To NOTE the clerk has contacted the companies involved and is waiting for a response.</p>
21.	<p>Fence damage</p> <p>a) To NOTE the University Allotment fence was damaged by a vehicle last month. This should be paid for by the insurance due to the individual involved coming forward.</p> <p>b) To NOTE the gate at the Croft allotments has been damaged due to trespassers climbing over it and it is recommended that the gate is replaced with a palisade type gate to deter climbers.</p> <p>c) To NOTE the clerk is seeking quotes for the University Allotment fence, the Croft Allotment gate and for the London Road fence due to the same type of fencing required.</p>
22.	<p>The meeting closed at 9:30pm.</p>

Signed.....

Date.....

Annex A

Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council

Meeting 7th March 2023

Report from GCC Cllr. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington

- Major road closure. The A435 Charlton Hill will be closed from 20th March till the end of September. The road, between Charlton Kings and Seven Springs roundabout, Cheltenham has been suffering from landslips and ongoing movement for some years. To prevent further movement over 440m of road will need to be shored up with 12m sheet piles. The estimated cost is £3.5m.
- Council budget for 2023/24 was set at £596m on 15th February. This is an increase of £46m over the current budget.

A total of £235m has been added to the capital program for further investment benefiting all residents and business. Funding of £119m has been agreed to complete projects such as the Gloucester South-West Bypass, Arle Court Transport Hub, the 26 mile cycle and walking spine, and flood alleviation schemes in Nailsworth, Coleford and Pitsville.

Additional investment will be made with £21m for protection of vulnerable children and a further £20m supporting vulnerable adults and those with disabilities.

The budget includes £44m for schools across the county, including a £9.9m new primary school in Bishop's Cleeve, £1.1m towards our libraries, and £4.4m to our Fire & Rescue Service, including £2.9m for new fire engines and equipment.

Significant operational savings, totalling £32m, have been identified.

Based upon a band D property, the increase will equate to £6.04 monthly.

- Nathaniel Hooton has been appointed as the new Deputy Chief Fire Officer. With 22 years' experience, he's coming from Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service where he was a strategic leader and incident commander. Previously he was with Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service.

- Looking for a new career – the GCC's Adult Social Care team are looking for new people to join them working in their Friendship Cafes. The recruitment team will be at the Friendship Café, Chequers Bridge Centre, Painswick Road GL4 6PR on Saturday 11th March between 10am and 3pm to explain all. Use the link to learn more.

<https://thefriendshipcafe.com/contact-us>

- Extra winter fuel payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts. The GCC will extend making additional monthly payments of £125 to assist in combating increased costs during February and March 2023. The scheme was initially a 3 month period for November and December 2022 and January 2023.

So far more than 1,300 people from the Ukraine have come to live in the county.

Should people be interested in becoming hosts information can be found at

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/ukrainian-support

- World Book Day – children will be allowed to wear costume of their favourite book character, in a move to promote reading on Thursday 2nd March. Gloucestershire's libraries will be in full swing with the vent throughout the week, putting on themed events.

- First mile of flagship B4063 cycle and pedestrian route is complete. This is a small part of the ambitious 26 mile, traffic free, route that will link Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve for enthusiastic walkers and cyclists. The completed section is from Pheasant Lane to the newly completed Arle Court transport hub, including the M5 overbridge at Staverton. The new link adds to the A40 cycle route of the West Cheltenham

Transport Improvement Scheme. Other sections currently under construction include from the M5 overbridge to Brickhampton Golf Course and on to the Elmbridge Court roundabout.

- 1st March is National Allocation Day – the day parents learn where their children have been offered places at secondary school, starting in September 2023. Parents of primary age children will hear about allocations on 17th April. The current year moving up to secondary school is unusually large so special arrangements are being made for the increased numbers, which is unlikely to repeat next year. Nevertheless, suitable accommodation will be required throughout the year's as they progress through to students moving on to college or university.

6,772 Gloucestershire students are being offered secondary school places. Of these 83% will be at their 1st preference, 8% at their 2nd preference and 6% have not received a preference.

Owing to the general cost of inflation fewer students are moving out of the state sector to the independent sector. 373 children have been offered in selective Grammar Schools, an uplift from 306 in 2022 and up 151 from 2021.

MM-C/ 28th Feb 2023

Report by Cllr Angus Jenkinson

Apologies for having missed recent sessions.

While there are important matters and lots of detailed matters that could be reported, perhaps only a few need to be mentioned. Please advise what you would like to hear more about.

Sewage

This is a local key issue. CDC has a team meeting with all the water companies to engage them in responding to the various water crises. I am on that team because of the issues in Moreton and my role with ecology. We have met Wessex Water who are something of a benchmark for the possible and we have also met Thames twice going into detail on issues. While the process is confidential for the moment, they do understand the need for investment. You may know that the company is in the news over its claimed financial insecurities. We have secured good, detailed maps that will be passed on to the citizen scientists.

Budget

A new Corporate Plan and Budget has been approved. It provides for the tense situation national government has imposed on local government. It affects CDC car parking and rates amongst other measures. The goal was to revise our current fees and charges to try to generate small surpluses in the years 24/25 and 25/26 so that the more difficult years later in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) are bolstered. We are taking steps on 2nd homes not being used as rental businesses to collect more rates. There is much detail to it so interested persons are referred to the council agenda pack. It includes receiving the rates for town and county, including Moreton, who collectively take almost all the money.

Area Plan

As you know, at Full Council on 24th January, the CDC Council agreed to begin the process of a full local plan review. Work for a plan had already been done for a partial review, but a looming deadline of June 2025, after which the government will change the rules, means it needs to extend to 2041. This week is a busy week in Moreton as part of the Regulation 18 consultation. Your Councillors have called for a master plan and have also arranged for a working group to be formed. One of the town councillors has called for a master plan too, and this is an option the officers are considering, on which you might have a point of view?

Housing Strategy Consultation

There is a housing affordability crisis in the Cotswolds with the average house costing 15 times the average salary and very little on offer for rent due to a high number of short term lets for tourists. We want to tackle this crisis and ensure that young people and families can stay in the Cotswolds in good quality, affordable housing. This strategy will shape our policies and ensure we focus on delivering what our residents need and want.

https://your.cotswold.gov.uk/en-GB/folders/cotswold-housing-strategy?fbclid=IwAR1DZ9uvv6xOnwGSdZDNPKr4vzpkY5Rv3Zm04d_DdgHJE7Mbgq_kpOv6FeE

Town and Parish Council Forum

This took place recently. It included direct community led action delivering for communities rather than waiting for local government or other bodies to do it for them.

Crowdfund Cotswold

The next round of funding for projects has launched after an information event on Thursday 22nd February at 1pm. Details here:

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/from-ideas-to-impact-unleash-your-imagination-with-crowdfund-cotswold>

The virtual introductory workshop:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crowdfund-cotswold-spring24-project-creator-workshop-tickets-798656612427?aff=oddtcreator>