



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Date: Saturday, 26 March 2022
Time: 9:45am
Venue: Parish Hall

Present

Cllr Vivienne Hodges (Chair)
Cllr Mike Warner (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mike Jeffery (District Councillor and Chair of Planning Committee)
Cllr Jan Evans (Chair of Finance and Policy Committee)
Cllr Malcolm Chudley
Cllr Penny Simpson
Cllr Richard Short
Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)
Representatives from the following groups and organisations:
Neighbourhood Police Team, Moreton Action on Plastics, Moretonhampstead Swimming Pool, Moretonhampstead Development Trust, Wellmoor, Moretonhampstead History Society, Moretonhampstead Information Centre, Moretonhampstead Scout Group, Trees in Time, Fairtrade Moreton, Moretonhampstead Twinning Association, Extinction Rebellion, u3a, Biodiversity Group and Zero Waste.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Hodges thanked everyone for attending.

2. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Jeffery and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2021 as a correct record.

3. SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL'S YEAR

The Council had a presentation summarising the Council's activities which included:

The Clerk had prepared the Accounts and the Council approved them at the June meeting. There were no issues to report on the External Audit Report carried out by PKF Littlejohn. Internal checks are carried out monthly. The Council are grateful to Sian Colridge for volunteering to carry out the Council's internal Audits.

The Council have maintained the Churchyard to a high standard throughout the year. St Andrew's Churchyard achieved a Certificate of Merit in the 'Devon's Best Churchyard Competition'.

Every year the Council gives grants to Organisations based in the parish that provide services which enhance the economic, social or cultural well-being of the community of Moretonhampstead. Last year successful applicants included:

- * Community Swimming Pool – £250 to implement a covid-secure booking system
- * South West Ambulance Charity - £59 to purchase medical equipment for the community first responders
- * Greenhill Arts - £350 to organise and curate a May Day gathering in the Sentry
- * Wellmoor - £530 to purchase and erect a Greenhouse on the community Allotment
- * Skate and Ride - £250 to purchase and install an information sign at the Skate Park
- * Wellmoor (Bumps and Beyond) - £200 to purchase equipment to enhance the possibility for outdoor play and learning

The Council also gave the Community Swimming Pool a discretionary grant of £7,500 to support their renovations. The money came from the Teignbridge Business Support Grant the Council received during the Covid pandemic.

The Council signed the Devon Climate Declaration on 6th April 2021. The Declaration sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses that are based or operate here. The Council are working with MDT to review our organisations carbon emissions.

The Council are working with the Primary School, Biodiversity Group and the Scouts to enhance the open spaces we care for. The Primary School have planted seeds and bulbs beside the Church. The Biodiversity Group and the Scouts have planted a mixture of seeds in the corner of the Sentry; they are hoping to create a wildflower area.

The Councils Climate Change and Ecological Working Group have created a monthly Green Tip of the Month to encourage the community to think about their carbon emissions and the environment.

With the support of the community, The Council purchased additional Christmas lights for the Square. This year's light switch on was the biggest to date. The Council wanted to bring the community together after the isolation of the last two years.

2022/23 Objectives:

- * Churchyard Restoration – The Council have agreed to repair the railings and gates in the Churchyard
- * Queen's Jubilee – The Council are hosting the Jubilee celebrations, keep an eye out for News in Moreton updates and Posters
- * Housing Survey – The Council have agreed to work with Teignbridge District Council to conduct a Housing Needs Survey and to review the Local Lettings Plan

4. UPDATES FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Local Community Clubs/Groups/Organisations attended the meeting and the following updates were provided:

Neighbourhood Police Team

The following report covers the period from 1st April 2021 to 14th March 2022 when report was compiled.

During this period, Moretonhampstead has had an identifiable neighbourhood team run by Police Sergeant Seth Sanders.

PC David Gibson is the Neighbourhood Beat Manager (NBM)

PCSO's Tina Jordan and Paul Wilson are the PCSO's for the area.

In this period, we have seen approximately 54 recorded crimes across the Moretonhampstead Parish area. This area includes the Town of Moretonhampstead, as well as the area down to Doccombe and parts of Dartmoor.

This total is down by 4 (-6.9%) in comparison to the same period for the previous 12 months.

The most recorded offences in this period are, *Harassment 19; Assaults 14; Vehicle offences 5; and public order offences 5.*

In the same period there have been over 87 other calls for Police assistance, these includes anti-social behaviour, road traffic incidents, missing persons, concerns for welfare.

It has been another tough year to engage with our communities but, going forward we are still looking to develop the way we engage with our communities.

We will continue work with The Town council, community groups and partners to remain connected too and serve our communities in the coming year.

PCSO 30382 Paul Wilson

Chudleigh & Ashburton

Neighbourhood Police Team

Moreton Action on Plastics

MAPs is a group that aims to reduce single use plastics wherever possible. Already 19 organisations in the town and 13 businesses have agreed to commit to this.

The year 2021 was the second year when activities were limited by Covid regulations. However – we were able to do two outdoor actions:

In March we cleared more of the old fragmenting plastic tree guards around the young trees on and behind the hedge along beside the Wray Valley Trail where it passes the Community Orchard and beyond. About 16 of us collected 20 bags of plastic rubbish.

On 1st April we did a Town Litter Pick. Starting from the Square, we (8 of us) worked outwards to roads and areas that are not part of the round of our TDC road sweeper. We talked to everyone we met and did a collection for St Petrocks – the charity that helps Exeter homeless. It was surprising how many plastic bottles and wrappers had got deeply lodged and hidden along some of the hedges.

In terms of meetings we managed to have one real, and well attended, meeting in September 21 which incorporated our AGM.

In this year we have already done a tree guard unwrap. This was at Blackingstone and was done in conjunction with the National Park and local group Trees in Time. As always, we had a successful and sociable time.

If you are interested in being on the mailing list of MAPs to hear of upcoming events – please contact Liz Prince, email: elizyprince@aol.com tel 01647 440690

Moretonhampstead Swimming Pool

Having not opened the pool in 2020, preparing for our 2021 opening brought a raft of challenges. This included the need to shift to an online booking system to avoid cash transactions to comply with Covid regulations at the time. We were therefore very grateful that Moretonhampstead Parish Council were able to give us a grant of £250 towards the cost of our new iPad and the installation of the BookWhen online booking system. This allowed us to open for the 2021 season confident in the knowledge that we had a new efficient booking and payment system in place that was also helping to protect our pool users from Covid infection.

The good news was that the community had missed the pool so much in 2020 when we remained closed, that on the whole, everyone was only too pleased to get to grips with the new system, and we were busier than ever. We will continue to use this system for 2022 and beyond.

Kerry Chappell

Trustee

Moretonhampstead Swimming Pool Trust

Moretonhampstead History Society

We have continued to record, conserve and present the heritage and history of our parish during this past challenging year.

Our monthly meetings delivered by the Zoom digital platform have been well-attended with the added value of enabling members who live outside the area and abroad to take part. We have begun to record them so that those with poor or no internet can see them by other means. We have also helped the DNPA archaeology team prepare a talk on Mardon Common and hope to follow that up with a joint field trip to there and other historic sites when that becomes possible again.

An audit of the graves and memorial stones in the parish graveyard and the burial records was carried out in between the lockdowns to bring the records and plans up to date.

We have provided information for the Bidder memorial site and are revising our booklet on his life to coincide with the forthcoming public opening. A revised booklet on the memoirs of an Edwardian childhood in this area has sold well and brought fresh information on interwar Moreton from a Moretonian living in New Zealand. We continue to answer local and family history inquiries from all over the world.

Finally, we have continued to add to our archives as material is donated from lockdown tidy-ups and have built a new website to make our vast collection of digitised images available for viewing.

Bill Hardiman

MHS Chairman

Moretonhampstead Information Centre

The Information Centre like other businesses in Moretonhampstead has been greatly effected by the Covid pandemic. Due to a second imposed lockdown and volunteer staff shortages the Centre was on reduced opening hours for most of the year, and this reflected on our cash flow. However we did succeed in our aim of providing shorter, but still regular availability to visitors and locals alike.

Once again we held a very successful scarecrow trail at Christmas, and then again in the summer. Support and interest was very high and everyone enjoyed the chance to get out and about safely after all the lockdown restrictions.

As always our thanks goes to all the "Friends of the Information Centre" who have remained staunchly supported us with their donations during the last two difficult years.

This year we are planning to host a 'Secret Gardens' week-end in June which will be our main fund raising event of the year.

Margaret Spittles

Moretonhampstead Twinning Association

Moreton-Betton Twinning Visit 2022

Get an insight into life in another country and make new friends by offering to be a twinning host and joining in fun-filled activities with our Betton twinner!

Moretonhampstead twinning association has been running for over 40 years and is one of the last remaining Twinning Associations left in the area. After the cancelling of the previous years' twinning activities because of Covid, this year we are finally hoping to host around 30 people from Betton (adults and children) and are actively looking for people who will be able to make them feel welcome (as we are made to feel welcome when we visit them!)

We are looking for hosts and participants for this year's visit from 16th to 21st August 2022.

Contact Astrid on astridashford@outlook.com or Lucy on infolucypatrick@gmail.com for more details.

Trees in Time

Trees in Time are based in Moreton, we are group of 6 people planting trees in the village and surrounding area. Our goal is to plant at least 1 tree per person over 10 years so approximately 2,000 trees. So far we have planted at the following sites: hospital, allotment, sports centre, housing estates, Sentry, Pound, Henge, public toilets and Chagford Cross. We operate a small tree nursery on the allotment hosted by Wellmoor. We work closely in partnership with the Parish Council, Dartmoor National Park,

Devon and Teignbridge Council, Moreton Against Plastics, Sports Centre, Wellmoor, Allotment Society and the Scouts. We would like to thank Paul Dodd, Parish Council for supporting us during our set up and for the walks around the streets to identify tree growing areas. In 2022/23 we will be planting at Blackstone Rock, Pepperdon, Sports Centre and two additional sites which are mid negotiation. We also manage the community orchard. We are mostly self-funded.

Moretonhampstead Scout Group

The Scout Group has had a busy year. All sections began the year meeting fortnightly; now that Govt. restrictions have lifted all sections have returned to weekly meetings. Through the spring and summer months all sections made good use of Budleigh Farm playing games and concentrating on badge work; meetings at Budleigh concluded with a Bonfire! Subsequent meetings were held in the Parish Hall.

Beavers – Despite uncertainty over leadership, the Beavers have had an action packed year. They took part in a Hike in May and had lots of fun despite the rain. The Beavers have completed various badges and made the most of the weather at Budleigh. The Beavers are looking for a leader, if you are interested; please contact Mike Collins for more information.

Cubs – Cubs also made good use of Budleigh, doing food based activities, games and learning to light a Fire! Meetings in the Parish Hall have focused on completing the Scientist and First Aid badges.

Scouts – Scouts have taken part in the Mini 5 Tors, caving trips, shooting and concentrated on badge work. The Scouts have two new leaders.

Explorers – The Explorers have successfully merged with the Dartmoor Beast Explorers who meet in Bovey. Prior to this, the Explorers took part in the Cremyll Challenge and completed lots of adventurous activities alongside the Bovey Explorers.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.00pm.