

MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Adriana Jones

Email: clerk@mbllparishcouncil.co.uk

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers Parish Council, which will be held on **Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30pm at MAGDALEN LAVER Village Hall.**



Adriana Jones
Parish Clerk and RFO
4th March 2024

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. OTHER ABSENCES

To note any absences for which no apology has been received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Interest by Members. A Member with a personal interest in a matter must consider whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable or Non-Registerable Interest, and declare it accordingly. A Member who is unsure as to how to declare their interest should seek independent advice.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the 14th January meeting as previously circulated.

5. PARISHIONERS' FORUM

To receive questions from members of the public. In accordance with an agreed procedure, the time allocated for public questions may be limited to 10 minutes or such other period determined by the Chairman of the Meeting.

6. REPORTS

To receive any verbal reports from Councillors, which may include those who are representatives on Committees, Working Groups, Outside Bodies or who have attended other meetings. Councillors are asked to note that no decisions can be taken under this agenda item.

- a) Chairman's Report
- b) Vice Chairman's Report
- c) District and County Councillor Reports
- d) Parish Councillor Reports
 - *Bobbingworth Salt Bin – perhaps source a different location? Cllr Collins to update*
- e) Police reports

7. REPAIR PEDLARS END SIGN

As requested the Clerk contacted a local contractor for a quote to complete the works to repair the Pedlars End sign. The contractor advised that prior to progressing he would require proof of permission from ECC to confirm the Parish Council was authorised to do the works. The Clerk requested this permission be obtained by Cllr McIvor, and has chased him regarding this request.

8. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL REQUEST SIGNAGE / SPEED BOBBINGWORTH

The Clerk is still awaiting confirmation from Cllr McIvor that he has submitted this application to the Local Highway Panel as requested by the Clerk on 14th January 2025.

9. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PRoW)

To **NOTE** any updates or issues.

10.COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

The Chairman has confirmed that works to install the new unit and defibrillator in the Little Laver phone box and cabinet in Moreton will be completed by the end of March. Councillors are asked to note that the £500 grant funding promised by Cllr Mclvor has now been received.

11. CHANGES TO PLANNING – GREY BELT / EFDC

Councillors are asked to note that following publication of the updated NPPF, there are significant changes to planning with the introduction of Grey Belt. The Clerk will provide an update at the meeting, along with providing a brief summary of the position of EFDC in terms of housing supply, and what this means for how the Parish Council considers planning applications.

12.SCHOOL PARKING / TRAFFIC

To receive an update on any issues or concerns.

13.EPPING FOREST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Council is asked to **CONSIDER** if it wishes to become a member of the newly formed Epping Forest Association of Local Councils. The Clerk will provide a brief update at the meeting.

14.COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

To receive an update on any community speedwatch activity.

15.VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Following on from the success of D-Day 80 in 2024, the country is focusing efforts on the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the war in Europe and WWII as a whole on 8th May 1945, in a similar way. On Thursday 8th May 2025 communities are being encouraged to light beacons at 9.30pm, and where possible hold parties or celebrations throughout the day in the streets, gardens at home, churches, villages, town halls, pubs, clubs, hotels and all manner of locations throughout the UK. At the January meeting, Cllr Day advised he would liaise with Community Spirit to see if any community events were being held, and if so consideration would be given to providing funding to support any events. Cllr Day to provide an update at the meeting. Councillors are asked to note that the event must be a free event available to the whole community.

16.RCCE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The meeting arranged for 30th January with members of RCCE, representatives of Moreton Village Hall Committee, and the Landowner, to discuss proposals for the village hall alongside a possible rural affordable housing scheme was postponed, the reason being the landowner wanted to meet with RCCE separately. As such, it was agreed there would be no point in the Parish Council meeting with RCCE until after this had taken place. A new date for the meeting has not yet been arranged, and it is unclear if the RCCE and landowner have met.

17. POWER CUTS IN THE PARISH

Councillors will recall that a number of complaints were received regarding the frequency of power cuts in the Parish, and the Clerk was tasked with obtaining a response from UK Power Networks. A response has now been received as follows:

I have been liaising with our lead field engineer regarding the power cuts and I can see that the main cause of the power cuts are because of Auto recloses. The short power cuts are due to an item of equipment operating on our overhead network. These devices (auto-reclosers) form part of our protection equipment and automatically cut off the power when a transient (unknown) fault is detected. Wind-borne debris, trees, birds, other animals, severe weather conditions and other unknown cable impacts can cause this to happen. Once the fault has cleared, the power is automatically reconnected, this operation usually lasts a few seconds. We do understand the inconvenience these can cause but we believe that these devices offer better customer service as there is no need for an engineer to attend site to restore power. Without them, it would inevitably result in a much longer power cut. However, when the auto reclose activates on the same span in quick succession line patrols are triggered which are carried out on foot, by radar equipped (LIDAR) helicopter or drones. If no fault is detected, then fault direction devices are employed to narrow the area of the transient fault.

The power is fed from an overhead network – and these are unfortunately subject to the whims of the weather – most of these interruptions have been caused by branches, twigs, squirrels, and birds on the line and some of the overhead cables cross water. There are also environmental concerns regarding trees and animals .

Trees are the responsibility of councils and other landowners to maintain, and planned shutdowns may be

required to carry out this type of work safely. We are regulated to give at least 48 hours notification if we believe a customer will be affected by a planned outage, this is not to be confused with an emergency isolation that can be carried out anytime and is mainly due to safety. UK Power Network's tree cutting policy moved from cyclic to risk based cutting in 2015. This means that, rather than cut every span at 'x' year intervals, we fly the circuits every 2-3 years using laser measurement technology called LIDAR (light Intensive detection & ranging) which returns data informing our control engineers, almost to a leaf, how far vegetation is from above, below and to the sides of our overhead power lines. This is then prioritised as either Very High (<1M), High (1-3M), Medium (4-5M) or Low risk (>5M), which then drives the cutting plan for the next 2 years.

Trees, and other shrubs, grow at different rates which, mixed with the abnormal weather conditions, will also impact the cycle of tree trimming. When we are aware of a sequence of outages and believe these to be tree related, our Lead engineers will request line patrols to identify any spans being affected. Once identified a tree manager will then arrange for contracted tree surgeons (Arborists) to complete an inspection and then plan the tree clearance. If an emergency situation occurs, then this process would be resourced but can add to delays with the planned outages required to facilitate the trimming of trees in our network. We recommend that if you see tree branches touching the cables to alert our faults centre by calling 105, we will arrange for a linesman to carry out an inspection and perform immediate work, if necessary, as long as we have the necessary land permissions. If you see areas where the branches are almost touching the cables, a tree-trimming job can be logged via our general enquiries team. The General Enquiries line is open from 9-5 Monday to Friday, the number is 08000 294 285.

I would like to apologise again for the supply interruptions, regrettably we are unable to guarantee an uninterrupted power supply as faults occur for many reasons, most of which are beyond our direct control. I can assure you that we are always determined to deliver a reliable supply of electricity and will always attend to faults and carry out repairs as efficiently and as safely as possible. The LFE is doing everything possible to locate these faults and a significant part of the budget has been used to improve network equipment, insulate cables and tree privately owned trims away from the cables. In the meantime, if you experience a power cut or another supply anomaly, please call us anytime on 105. 105 is free to call from UK landline and mobile networks and will enable our advisors to keep you informed by text messages, call-backs or both. If the residents would like to complain they can either call on 0800 028 4587 or they can go on our website, I have provided the link below. <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/help-and-contact/im-unhappy-with-the-service-that-i-have-received>

Councillors are asked to **NOTE** this response.

18. CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

To receive the oral report of the Clerk on matters which may be of current interest to Members and which require a formal update, and to receive such correspondence and communication, as the Clerk may place before the Council. Items under this agenda item are for noting only, and at the time of printing the agenda includes:

- a) ECC, EFDC, EALC and RCCE communications are emailed to Members on a regular basis and where relevant information is included
- b) Overflowing litter bin Moreton Village Green – reported and cleared
- c) Clerk chased ECC with regard to progress on the Moreton Village Green registration application (submitted 15th January 2025)
- d) Clerk chased EFDC with regard to the review of the Neighbourhood Plan (submitted 14th November 2024)
- e) Update on Council Tax rates set by EFDC placed on the Parish Councils website.
- a) Clerk contacted EFDC regarding overgrown hedging at the Glebe. Response from EFDC is that they do not have any features (trees) or maintenance at The Glebe, Magdalen Laver, so they will be unable to assist. They state the hedges may be on Essex Highways maintenance schedule, so suggested the clerk report this matter to them, especially if they are causing an obstruction to the highway. Clerk checked, and this is not on ECC schedule.
- b) EFDC notified of precept request for 2025/2026

19. COMMEMORATIVE BENCH CAROL FOULSER

The Chairman has advised that the wording and plaque and layout has been agreed with the village hall committee, however the committee now need to find the words for their recipient. An update is expected in Spring.

21. LOVE YOUR BUS GRANT FUND INITIATIVE ECC

As agreed, the Clerk placed a post on the Parish Councils social media pages in order to establish if there was any evidence of need for an additional or extended local service. There were two 'non specific'

responses, and as such this would not be deemed sufficient evidence of community need in order to apply for this funding.

22.PLANNING

- a) To **AGREE** responses to planning applications which may not have been responded to before the date of this meeting:

APPEAL EPF/2136/24 EFDC AP-13451 #3356423	Firs House, Moreton Road, Bobbingworth, Ongar, CM5 0LU	Certificate of lawful development for the proposed construction of a swimming pool building with gym and plant room. Deadline for response 19/3/25
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- b) To **NOTE** the following planning applications below which have been responded to by way of the Clerk's delegated powers following email consultation with Councillors:

EPF/0223/25	Humphreys, Greenman Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0ER	Extension to patio, construction of a gazebo. NO OBJECTION
EPF/0237/25	2, Moreton Bridge, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0LL	Construct single storey rear extension to enlarge a bathroom and replace space to be used as a bedroom by a registered disabled person. NO OBJECTION
EPF/0050/25	3, Gainsthorpe Road, Ongar, CM5 0NG	Single storey rear extension. NO OBJECTION
Councillors are asked to note that the Clerk has been liaising with a Neighbour of this application site who expressed concern on a couple of matters. The Clerk will provide an update at the meeting.		

- c) To **NOTE** the following planning application for which EFDC **do not** accept comment:

EPF/0091/25 CLD Prop	2 Brookside Cottages, Tilegate Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar	Certificate of lawful development for a proposed hip to gable and rear dormer roof extensions.
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- d) To **NOTE** the following Planning decision by EFDC:

EPF/2490/24	Blossom Lodge, Maltings Farm, Maltings Hill, Moreton, CM5 0JY	Revised application to EPF/1877/24) Construction of outbuilding to facilitate home gym and home office.	Approved 16/2/25 <i>PC had no objection</i>
EPF/2567/24 & EPF/2568/24	North Wilmore Barn, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Permission for already constructed lobby which has been built with an eaves level higher than that of the originally consented scheme, and LB application for the same.	Refused 17/2/25 <i>PC had no objection</i>
EPF/0164/25	Maltings Farm, Maltings Hill, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0JY	Confirmation of conditions 7 and 8 on planning permission EPF/0181/18 allowed on appeal (Outline planning application for removal of outbuildings and existing dwelling. Erection of three detached dwellings. Formation of new highway access and ancillary work	Refused 18/2/25 <i>PC had no objection</i>
EPF/0050/25	3, Gainsthorpe Road, Ongar, CM5 0NG	Single storey rear extension.	Refused 24/2/25 <i>PC had no objection</i>
EPF/2252/24	Humphreys, Greenman Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0ER	Grade II listed building consent extension of patio and erection of a gazebo.	Withdrawn 6/1/25
EPF/2215/24	6, Maltings Hill, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0JY	Proposed front porch, proposed ground floor side and rear extensions and proposed first floor rear extension. Proposed recladding on all elevations. Proposed repositioning and sizing of existing windows. Proposed new roof tiles.	Refused 7/1/25 <i>PC Objected</i>
EPF/2589/24	North Wilmore Barn, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 'Additional Drawings' on planning permission EPF/0909/24 (Grade II	Approved 20/1/25 <i>DRC – PC unable to comment</i>

		listed building application to infill an unauthorized door and reinstate a door).	
EPF/2588/24	North Wilmore Barn, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 'External Finishes' on planning permission EPF/0897/24 (Revised design of flat roof addition).	Approved 21/1/25 <i>DRC – PC unable to comment</i>
EPF/2406/24	4, Mill Lane, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0DN	Removal of an existing garage at rear of dwelling. Removal of existing residential annexe. Proposed replacement outbuilding on site of existing annexe to provide a single garage space and a home office and gym. (Revised application to EPF/1914/24).	Approved 21/1/25 <i>PC had no objection</i>
EPF/2005/24	Spencers Farm, Tilegate Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0ER	Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 3 Levels, 5 Surface Water Disposal and 6 Flood Risk Assessment of EPF/0161/24 (The application consists of the construction of an agricultural storage building at Spencers Farm, Greenman Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar)	Approved 21/1/25 <i>DRC – PC unable to comment</i>
EPF/0016/25	Firs House, Moreton Road, Bobbingworth, Ongar, CM5 0LU	Certificate of lawful development for a proposed swimming pool building with gym and plant room.	Lawful 28/1/25
EPF/1944/24	6, Maltings Hill, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0JY	Proposed new access to highway to provide additional off street parking including gate and landscaping works	Approved 31/1/25 <i>PC had no objection</i>

23. DEVOLUTION

Councillors may be aware that the Government has agreed that Essex County will be one of the pilot counties for its devolution programme. Essex currently has between 1.5 and 2 million residents. The government want the new Unitary authorities to have around 500,000 residents in each, meaning there is expected to be 3 or 4 unitary authorities in the whole of Essex. ECC have until 21st March this year to submit their initial draft proposals for unitary authorities in Essex. They then have until August to submit their firm proposals. What this will mean for this Council is a unitary authority consisting of EFDC and perhaps 2 or 3 other district councils in Essex. ECC will be responsible for deciding these and will only be consulting with the leaders of the district councils. The 2025 ECC elections have now been postponed which has been agreed by Government. Instead, in 2026 there will be mayoral elections for the mayor of Greater Essex. In 2027 there will be elections for the newly agreed unitary authorities, and these new unitary authorities will run alongside both ECC and EFDC for a period of 1 year. Therefore in 2028 the new strategic unitary authority will be the formal authority for the area, and both EFDC and ECC will no longer exist. It is understood that it is up to the Unitary Authority to decide what happens to parish and town councils, therefore we are not expected to know until 2027 what the potential future for this parish looks like. The government's white paper suggests that Parish Councils will have a role to play in devolution, but it is not clear in which form that will be. In this regard, the Government is currently running a consultation seeking views on the proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas of Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend-on-Sea City Council (referred to as Greater Essex in this consultation). Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if they wish to respond to this consultation as a Parish Council, full details of which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/devolution-priority-programme-consultations-launch>. The Closing date is 13th April 2025.

24. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) To approve the payments listed below:

BACS	A Jones	November & December Salary	£1,109.26
BACS	HMRC	November and December PAYE	£277.40
BACS	A Jones	Home Office Nov'24 to March'25	£216.67

b) To **NOTE** the Bank Balance and bank reconciliation as at 28th February 2025, as attached to the agenda.

25. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

To suggest possible items for the next agenda.

26.DATES AND LOCATIONS OF MEETING 2025

Tuesday 13th May2025 – Moreton VH

Tuesday 15th July 2025 – Magdalen Laver Village Hall (this is third Tuesday)

Tuesday 9th September 2025 – Moreton VH

Tuesday 11th November 2025 – Moreton VH

Tuesday 9th December 2025 – Moreton VH