

MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE

14th May 2024, 7.15pm at Moreton Village Hall

PRESENT:

Councillors (7): Cllr Crosbie (Chairman), Cllr Stuart, Cllr Darken, Cllr Offord, Cllr Padfield, Cllr Dawson, Cllr Collins

Also in Attendance (1): Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public: (3)

Members of the Press (0)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed everybody in attendance, and stated that it was a requirement that an Annual Meeting of the Electorate (also referred to as an Annual Parish Assembly) must take place between 1st March and 1st June every year. The Parish Council also has an Open Council meeting held in December each year, which is well attended by the public, and is normally where residents take the opportunity to address the Council.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023-2024

The Chairman read out the Annual Report as follows:

2023/24 has been a year of change, not only in the parish but also for the country, with the coronation of King Charles III. Closer to home we have seen much change within the council itself with several retirements. We lost long serving councillor Graeme Cooper who supported the parish for many years. We also saw the retirement of councillors John Dawson, Michelle Hall, and Gary Kessock-Phillip, and we thank them all for their support during their time on the council. However, we also welcomed two new councillors, Colin Offord and Martin Day. In addition, our Parish Clerk, Gurdip Paddan also chose to retire. Whilst this was a loss to the council, it did give us the opportunity to welcome Adriana Jones back to the council to fulfil the role of Parish Clerk. Something which is a huge benefit to the council and the councillors.

There was one moment of sadness, with the passing of Carol Foulser. Carol was a long serving and dedicated councillor who is missed both for the work she undertook for this Council, and very much as a person too. In a final list of goodbyes, we should mention Angela Busch, Rhys Martin and Janet Leverich, who chose not to stand for re-election. In particular a big thank you should be recorded for Angela who had been on the council for many years, providing tremendous support and bringing huge experience to the council.

We also oversaw and supported several local issues, including:

- Pressure put on Biogen and the ultimate change of ownership shows the power of resident groups and council support (although much of the credit goes to the residents group).*
- We continue to provide input to planning applications, doing our best to ensure a consistent approach to all applications in our role as a statutory consultee.*
- Following the successful refusal of the 5g mast planning application, the council is pursuing the possible adoption of the village Green in Moreton to give further protection from future applications.*
- We also engaged with Moreton school to help address issues caused by parent parking during drop off and pick up times.*

We continue liaison with other organisation and individuals, including PC Warren Shepherd, Epping Forest District Council and Essex County Council, Rural Community Council of Essex, The Essex Association of Local Councils, as well as posting regular updates in the two parish magazines. We are also now on Facebook, and plan to increase our postings over the coming year. The Parish Council continues to represent its residents on matters of local concern, and with the elections that took place on 2nd May 2024, we have a new council (following an uncontested election) to continue this work.

A copy of this report would be published on the Parish Councils website.

3. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

There were no reports.

4. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2023-2024

The Clerk provided a summary of the accounts, full details of which were detailed in the Final Accounts of the Parish Council, a copy of which is published on the Parish Councils website for members information.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions.

Meeting Closed