

Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers Parish Council

MINUTES

Meeting: Parish Council Meeting

Date: 10 January 2023

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: Moreton Village Hall

PRESENT:

Councillors (11): Cllr Padfield (Chairman), Cllr Collins, Cllr Cooper,
Cllr Crosbie, Cllr, Dawson, Cllr Darken, Cllr Foulser, Cllr Hall,
Cllr Leverich, Cllr Martin, Cllr Stuart

Also in Attendance (1): Gurdip Paddan – Clerk

Members of the Public: (15)

Members of the Press (0)

PC.233 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Kessock-Philip.
Councillor Ian Hadley (EFDC)

PC.234 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

PC.235 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PC.236 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of Council meeting held on 8 November 2022 were approved and signed as a correct record.
Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Collins. All AGREED.

PC.237 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

1. Mr Jim Padfield asked those present to write to Biogen at Ashlyn's compost site if affected by the stench and to continue reporting and writing to the Environment Agency. The stench was not bad at this time of the year but it will return in the spring with warmer weather.

2. Moreton Village Green – Application for 5G Telecommunication mast. 15 residents attended the meeting to voice their objection to application EPF/2911/22 Mobile mast in Moreton.

The main issues discussed were:

- It was clarified that the application had been put forward by the Telecommunication company. Residents should send in their objections to EFDC's Planning Department.
- The Parish Council will be discussing this item later in the meeting and resident's views will be taken into account.
- It was confirmed that Cllr Hadley (EFDC) had advised that this application would be considered under Permitted Development. Deadline for comments had been extended to 27 January 2023. A brief discussion ensued on whether this was a pre-application.
- Members were reminded that the application does state that objections should be purely on visual impact. A number of residents agreed that adequate consideration should be given to harm caused by electromagnetic radiation to health.
- The proposed development is too close to the school.

- A discussion ensued on the Government's acceleration of allowing operators to submit applications for 5G masts (the signal will only go 500m from the mast) with equipment cabinets under permitted development rights. This is a most recent Central Government statute.
- It was suggested that a representative from the Telecommunication company (the applicant) should be present at a Council meeting to answer questions that were being put forward. 4G masts can be located in nearby fields. A representative of the telecommunication company and an EFDC planning officer should be present to hear the resident's views on this application.
- The mast and cabinets will dwarf the bungalow next door to the proposed development. Also the area in question is nearby to a conservation area and would be overbearing and have a detrimental effect on the character of street scene.
- 5G is better suited to urban areas not rural idyllic village greens. Is the village green registered?
- Not everyone nearby had been informed of the application. The Council had not received the application via the normal process. The Council acted swiftly to deal with this application, which had been sent to a neighbouring parish council.
- It was suggested to contact the applicant and get them to agree an alternative location.
- Planning notice should have been placed on the lamp post near the site. The village green must be protected.
- Moreton Village Green has seen a number of accidents in recent years, whereby cars have missed the bad bend and careered across the village green taking out the bungalow's garden brick wall which would be sited behind the proposed mast, the village sign and the bin.
- Residents to look into organising a petition supporting the objection to the proposal of 5G mast.
- The Council had invited both the District and County Councillors to the meeting and they were informed of the 5G mast item on the agenda. Unfortunately, neither were able to attend. Cllr Hadley sent his apologies, as he was unwell and quite often Cllr McIvor has other meetings on a Tuesday evening.

3. Speeding traffic through Moreton – This item had been discussed at previous meetings and the Parish Council supports the speed reduction from 30mph to 20pmh under the initiative of 20 is plenty.

PC.238 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

1. The Chairman reported that over the festive period, she attended the licensing of Revered Hazel Aucken, Priest-in-Charge of Ongar. Who now has pastoral oversight of the churches in Bovinger and Moreton. Last Sunday the Chairman attended the licensing of Revered Julia Baldwin who is the Priest-in-Charge for Matching and the Lavers.

2. Cllr Martin reported on the issue of postal service within the Parish. A number of people are not receiving their post regularly and it was reported that in Pedlars End there had been two postal deliveries in a month. It was noted that Stanford Rivers Parish Council wrote to Royal Mail regarding this matter. It was noted that this lack of service has continued for months; before the current strikes. The problem has been shortage of staff.

It was agreed to write to Royal Mail. Proposed by Cllr Martin and seconded by Cllr Busch. ALL AGREED.

3. Cllr Cooper reported on the following three points:

- a) Biogen – the stench from the compositing plant has been very bad and it has been reported. Updates will be reported to the Parish Council. This will appear on the Council minutes.
- b) Cllr Cooper will be meeting Damien Weller on Monday 16 January at 2pm at the Nature Reserve. Members of Community Spirit will be present. Items being considered include – bird boxes, bins, entrance sign and further help with the area.

- c) Everyone has been asked to join Moreton Watch (WhatsApp Group) and report all incidents to the police. If no instances are reported there is the likelihood of losing the police presence for the Parish and as they will assume that this is a crime free community.

PC.239 TREE PLANTING AND PLAQUE LOCATION(S)

Cllr Stuart advised that Cllr Cooper and himself will meet at the Nature Reserve before the scheduled meeting on 16 January to seek out potential site(s) for the trees. The owner of the site is EFDC and permission will need to be sought from them before any planting takes place. Cllr Stuart will report on this item.

PC.240 NOTICEBOARD FOR LITTLE LAVER

Cllr Darken had reported on the Little Laver noticeboard and provided photographic evidence, which was circulated, the noticeboard was in need of repair or replacement. The noticeboard had not been used for some time. Members were advised that a replacement would cost just under £700. It was suggested that the noticeboard be removed if not used. It was further suggested that it be looked at with a view of repairing it first before removing/replacing. Cllr Crosbie agreed to look at the noticeboard to see if it can be repaired and report back.

PC.241 WASTE BIN STICKERS FOR 20mph IS PLENTY - SPEED REDUCTION

Members were reminded that at the December 2022 Open meeting it was suggested that waste bin campaign stickers be purchased to advertise the 20mph speed restriction in Moreton only. Members agreed to purchase the stickers at the cost £160.80.

It was noted that the Council had written to Essex County Council (ECC) in support of the 20 is plenty campaign and a response was received from Cllr L Scott (ECC – Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport), advising that as part of their place and movement strategy they will be looking at the speed management strategy. He was unable provide any other comments on what the approach will be, as it was still being developed. A number of parish councils have signed up to support this campaign to reduce speed within their areas.

Proposed by Cllr Crosbie and seconded by Cllr Cooper. ALL AGREED.

PC.242 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members noted that PKF Littlejohn LLP have been appointed as the External Auditor for the next five years.

PC.243 COUNCIL INSURANCE

Members were advised at a previous meeting that the Council's defibrillators had not been included within the Council's Insurance Schedule. Zurich Insurance were contacted by the Clerk to amend the policy and they have now updated our policy and it has not had any effect on this year's premium, however, there will be an increase of around £30.00 to next year's premium. Current annual premium with Zurich Insurance is ££368.56.

A quote was obtained from BHIB Council Insurance for £389.00 inclusive of 12% insurance premium. A three-year long term undertaking would reduce the annual premium to £369.72 including insurance premium tax. It was noted that this quotation does not include the defibrillators.

Following consideration of the quotations above it was agreed to stay with Zurich for 2023/24. Proposed by Cllr Foulser and seconded by Cllr Busch. ALL AGREED.

PC.244 CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

1. An email was sent to Affinity Water asking them to collect abandoned road work signs from the Parish. They advised that they will go on site and pick up the signs.
2. An email was sent to Sergeant Ben Felton following the Police attendance and presentation at the December Open Parish meeting. Sergeant Felton has confirmed the he will add the speeding issue location to his list for checks when officers are in the area. Unfortunately the parking outside the school has to be covered by community policing, as his Team is small and covers the County.
3. Communication has been received from EFDC in respect of a session at Bobbingworth Nature Reserve – Play in the Park for summer. EFDC have increased their contribution per session from £95 to £140.

Following a discussion on the limited attendance at the play session last August it was agreed not to participate this year.

4. The sign by Bovinger Church, at the end of Gainsthorpe Road had been damaged by a vehicle and the sign's metal posts were badly bent. The Chairman advised that Cllr Crosbie agreed to pick up the damaged sign/noticeboard and repair it but when he went to collect it the sign had disappeared from site. Over Christmas, an email was received advising that the damaged sign has been collected by the EFDC's Rangers. They have confirmed that they will fit new posts and replace the sign; free of charge. It was agreed to thank the Rangers for their service once the sign is replaced.

It was noted that other signs were being worked on by the Rangers and one has been installed.

5. ECC, EFDC, RCCE and EALC emails for information are circulated regularly.

PC.245 PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

- a) Regular maintenance report from Paul Elliott – The Bobbingworth defibrillator has been repaired but still waiting for its return. The Moreton village unit is fine (last checked 22/12/22). Paul Elliott will let us know once the Bobbingworth unit is reinstated. The Chairman to liaise with Cllr Leverich in respect of clearing the items in the kiosk.

The Clerk to write to Highways regarding the phone box sign on the A414, the sign needs to be removed and a new sign to show defibrillator direction.

- b) Defibrillator training – training dates to be confirmed for this year and open to all. Dates will be advertised. PC Shepherd was currently away.

PC.246 RIDE FOR LONDON 2023

Cllr Martin reminded Members that the Council had written ECC in respect of the lack of communication on their decision to proceed with the Ride for London event. Fourteen responses had been received from residents and these had been reported at a previous meeting. It may be a good idea to visit this again, in terms of the route consultation for the future event in May 2024. It was noted that the route for Ride for London event in May 2023 would not be going through the Parishes of Moreton, Bobbingworth and the Lavers.

There is a £3k grant available from London Marathon Charitable Trust via ECC for sport related projects within ECC parishes. If anyone wishes to apply for this grant from ECC; please put forward a sport connected project. It was suggested that Moreton School could benefit from such funding. Cllr Martin to liaise with the Headteacher and report back. There is an opportunity of securing £6k in total – £3k this year by end May 2023 and £3k next year.

PC.247 MBL COMPLAINTS POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

Members considered the draft complaints policy and it was approved.

PC.248 PLANNING APPLICATION EPF/2911/22 – MAST ON MORTON VILLAGE GREEN

Members considered the application and took into account the objections raised by residents present. 15 residents attended the meeting and they unanimously agreed that the proposed mast with cabinets was completely inappropriate and would be an eyesore and overbearing. The proposed installation of the mast would be in the heart of the village, adjacent to resident's properties and close to a conservation area, which will be severely detrimental to the visual amenity and the character of the area and local environment.

Members agreed that the proposed site is too close to a roadside footpath, on a dangerous blind corner; it was reported that a number of accidents have occurred at this bend. Further consideration was given to its height which will be dominant and ancillary cabinets would create a major visual distraction especially to drivers and pedestrians.

Moreton Village Green will be completely dwarfed by the proposed installation, detracting immensely from the existing desirability of the area.

There has been very little local consultation. The Parish Council did not receive the application, as it was sent to the wrong parish. The closing date for comments was 27 January. It was felt that the additional concerns people have on health and well-being, stress and anxiety should be addressed. It was suggested that the press be contacted and also David Jackman (Everything Epping Forest – local news) to emphasise the concerns raised.

Members took into account the points raised above under minute number PC.237 and agreed to object to the application. The draft objection to be circulated to Members for comment. A copy of the approved objection to be sent to EFDC planning, Cllr Hadley (EFDC), Cllr McIvor (ECC), Alex Burghart, MP and the applicant. Proposed by Cllr Leverich and seconded by Cllr Dawson. ALL AGREED.

PC.249 PLANNING

a) Members noted the following planning applications below which have been responded to by way of the Clerk's delegated powers following email consultation with Councillors:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| EPF/2204/22 | Police House, Church Road, Moreton, CM5 0JD | Single storey rear extension, loft conversion and new roof above converted garage |
| No objection | | |
| EPF/2364/22 | Black Hall, Bridge Road, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0LJ | Application for Grade II Listed Building for proposed cleaning & removal of black exterior barn paint on historic exterior beams. |
| No objection | | |
| EPF/2372/22 | Maltings Farm, Maltings Hill, Moreton, Ongar CM5 0JY | Application for Variation of Conditions 2 & 11 for EPF/1656/20. (Reserved matters application to EPF/0181/18 for removal of outbuildings and existing dwelling. Erection of three detached dwellings. Formation of new highway access and ancillary works). |
| No objection | | |
| EPF/2460/22 | Glenwood, Pedlars End, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0LW | Prior approval for change of use of office into one dwelling (Class C3) and associated development |
| No objection | | |
| EPF/2025/22 | Stone Cottage, Little Laver Road, Little Laver CM17 0RH | Detached cart lodge with room over. |
| <p>The Parish Council has no objection to the application, as it supports 'working remotely from home'. The Planning Authority should include a condition; that the existing overuse parking at the front of the building known as Stone Cottage is prohibited once the Cart Lodge is developed.</p> <p>Any damage caused by the development to the verges, hedges and nearby footpath to be made good to preserve the surrounding environment. As Little Laver Road is a much valued and used Lane for recreation by rambler, cyclist and horse riders connecting to nearby villages, as well as the historic Little Laver Church.</p> | | |
| EPF/2520/22 | Ashlyns Organic Farm Shop, Epping Road, North Weald Bassett, Epping, CM16 6RZ | Removal of Existing Lean-To Buildings and Construction of Replacement Extension to Existing Farm Shop |
| No objection | | |

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| EPF/2596/22 | 3 Envilles Cottages, Abess Road, Little Laver, Ongar, CM5 0JH | Proposed double storey side extension |
| No objection | | |
| EPF/2712/22 | Auckingford Bridge Cottage, Epping Road, Bobbingworth, Ongar, CM5 0DD | First floor rear extension. Front extension to create feature entrance. Change of windows. |
| No objection | | |
| EPF/2769/22 | The Lodge Harlow Road High Laver, CM5 0DR | Extend existing detached garage with three more bays |
| No objection | | |

b) Councillors are asked to NOTE the following Planning decision by EFDC:

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|-------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| EPF/0761/22 | Laughters Farm Faggotters Lane Matching Tye CM17 0NU | Demolition of existing rear conservatory and replacing with new rear extension. | Approve with Conditions |
| EPF/1719/22 | Maltings Farm, Maltings Hill, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0JY | Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 3 'Types and colours of external finishes' for EPF/1656/20 (Reserved matters application to EPF/0181/18 for removal of outbuildings and existing dwelling. Erection of three detached dwellings. | Approved |
| EPF/1699/22 | Maltings Farm, Maltings Hill, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0JY | Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 7 'Flood Risk Assessment' 8 'Foul and surface water' and 12 'Construction method statement' for EPF/1656/20 (Reserved matters application to EPF/0181/18 for removal of outbuildings and existing dwelling. | Split |
| EPF/1691/22 | 3 Envilles Cottages, Abess Road, Little Laver, Ongar, CM5 0JH | Side return first floor 1950 x 4 metre timber framed extension supported by a steel mezzanine. Small window located on the east side facing a private road. | Withdrawn |
| EPF/1811/22 | Leather Bottle, Watery Lane, Little Laver, Harlow CM17 0RQ | Application for a Lawful Development certificate for existing use of a biomass boiler in the workshop for Ofgem. The biomass boiler replaced an existing woodchip boiler in 2013 in the same building. A building has been at the site since early 1980s. | Lawful |

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|-------------|---|---|--------------------------|
| EPF/1844/22 | Land at Blake Hall, Stony Lane, Ongar, CM5 0DG, adj to A414 (opposite Water End Farm) | TPO/EPF/105/10 (Ref: T8) T1: Oak - Reduce, as specified. | Approved with Conditions |
| EPF/2345/22 | Maltings Farm, Maltings Hill, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0JY | Application for Approval of Details reserved by condition 3 'External finishes' for EPF/1656/20. (Reserved matters application to EPF/0181/18 for removal of outbuildings and existing dwelling. Erection of three detached dwellings. Formation of new highway | Approved |
| EPF/1983/22 | High Laver House, Harlow Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DR | Amendments to elevational materials and alterations to extension roof along with associated works (Approved under EPF/1534/22) | Refused |
| EPF/1572/22 | Little Mushrooms, Pedlars End, Moreton, CM5 0LW | Single storey front extension | Approved with Conditions |
| EPF/2539/22 | Croxton, Weald Bridge Road, North Weald Bassett, Epping, CM16 6AU | Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Larger Home Extension measuring 8.00 metres, height to eaves of 3.00 metres & a maximum height of 3.00 metres. | Not Required |

c) To NOTE the following planning application(s) for which EFDC does not normally accept comment:

None

d) To NOTE the following planning applications that are still to be considered by the Council, the deadline for this Council's response being 11 January 2023 (these applications will be dealt with by the way of delegated powers to the Clerk)

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| EPF/2883/22 | Land Adjacent to Tilegate Farm, Tilegate Road, High Laver, Ongar CM5 0EA | Construction of a natural pond together with new tree planting and associated landscaping |
| EPF/2884/22 | High Laver House, Harlow Road, High Laver CM5 0DR | Amendments to elevations and windows and alterations to extension roof along with associated works. |

A short presentation was given on the proposed natural pond at Tilegate Farm site (Application EPF/2883/22). Members viewed the plans and the following points were raised and discussed:

- The blue line on the plan has moved and now included more of the Green Belt land and tennis courts have re-appeared. The previous red lines have all been removed and land incorporated into the main house site; further encroachment on Green Belt.
- The garden will substantially increase with associated hard landscaping features. The pond has paved area shown on the plan with planting.
- It was suggested that earlier plans need to be reviewed and compared with the current ones. More plots have been created and will be built upon over the years and the practice has been allowed to continue by EFDC.
- Issues of contaminated waste have been reported before.
- The impact on the setting of the Grade II listed building – Tilegate Farm and Tilegate Barn.
- A further plot appears to have been earmarked for future development on the left hand side. The plans are not drawn correctly – EFDC needs to go back to Section 73, for the actual development site.
- Members were reminded about the wooden stable and the development and how the site has been allowed to be developed over a number of years. Especially a dwelling which had disappeared from the EFDC planning portal. Cllrs Busch and Foulser provided the background to this site.
- Each planning application on this site – whether under permitted development or a full planning application has been deceitful with fabricated modifications which then appear on future proposals as having been approved.
- Jim Padfield gave a brief update in terms of the Area Planning Sub-Committee East meeting held in May 2022, whereby the applicant together with his representatives misinformed the Councillors and no proper consideration was given to the application and objections had been ignored. The EFDC planning officer present misled District Councillors.
- This application should have a contamination report due to the waste on site. The waste may even be deposited in the pond. A Tree and Landscape EFDC Officer has objected to this application and the objection has been disregarded.

Members agreed to object to this application.

PC.250 BUDGET 2023/24

Members considered the draft budget spreadsheet and a discussion ensued on expenditure. Clerk reminded Members of the Council's Reserves Policy and the internal auditor's recommendation. It was agreed that sufficient funds are required to cover expenditure. It was further agreed that a contingency heading be created and £2k budget be allocated. A number of small amendments were made and agreed. The updated spreadsheet to be circulated to Members.

PC.251 PRECEPT 2023/24

It was agreed that the precept should be increased for the 2023/24 financial year due to increases already seen this year. This equated to an annual precept of £24,800 for 2023/24. Proposed by Cllr Busch and seconded by Cllr Stuart. **AGREED:**
Vote:10 for, 0 against & 1 abstention.

PC.252 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The following payments were approved. Proposed by Cllr Collins and Seconded by Cllr Hall.
ALL AGREED.

| Payment | To | For | Total |
|---------|-----------|--|--------|
| BACS | G Paddan | Travel – Thornwood and Moreton 28 x 45p = £12.60 Xmas flyer – printing (£65) Heating 8 Nov - £3 | £80.60 |
| BACS | E Crosbie | Hosepipe for watering + batteries for Xmas lights | £90.47 |
| BACS | A Rogers | Nov Payroll | £25.00 |

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| BACS | G Paddan | Nov Salary | £941.76 |
| BACS | HMRC | Nov NI + Tax | £319.24 |
| BACS | Dawson Flower/Landscape Ltd | Christmas Tree + delivery charge | £552.00 |
| BACS | V Butler | Vikatechost – email domain | £28.00 |
| BACS | G Paddan | Wine, orange juice and mince pies = £47.50 Heating and kitchen use at V/Hall £8 Travel 6/12/22 – 13 x 45p = £5.85 Ink cartridge £14.00 | £75.35 |
| BACS | Moreton VH | Hire of hall 8 x £25 | £200.00 |
| BACS | E Crosbie | Batteries & cable for Xmas tree | £18.98 |
| BACS | G Paddan | Dec Salary | £768.00 |
| BACS | A Rogers | Dec Payroll | £25.00 |
| BACS | HMRC | Dec Tax & NI | £219.88 |
| BACS | ICO | Data Protection - Sub | £40.00 |

The Chairman thanked Cllr Dawson for seeing to the delivery of the Christmas Tree for the Parish.

b) Members NOTED the Bank Balances as at 31 December 2022:

| Balance per bank statement as at 31 October 2022 | £ | £ |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Unity Deposit Account | 31,665.73 | |
| Unity Current Account | 1211.94 | |
| | | £32,877.67 |
| Less: Any unrepresented cheques at 31 December 2022 | | |
| CASH BOOK | | |
| Opening Balance 1 November 2022 | 32,877.67 | |
| Less: Payments to 31 December 2022 | 3,389.80 | |
| Add: bank interest | 98.62 | |
| Bank Balance as at 31 December 2022 | | |
| Unity Deposit Account | 28,264.35 | |
| Unity Current Account | 1322.14 | <u>£29,685.11</u> |

PC.253 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 14 March 2023 at Magdalen Laver Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman

Date