

MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: Council Meeting

Date: 14th January 2025

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: Moreton Village Hall

PRESENT:

Councillors (7): Cllr Crosbie (Chairman), Cllr Padfield, Cllr Collins, Cllr Carpenter, Cllr Offord
Cllr Day, Cllr Darken

Also in Attendance (1): Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public: (1) – PC Shepherd

Members of the Press (0)

PC.528 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Stuart and Dawson. EFDC Cllr Balcombe had offered his apologies.

PC.529 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

PC.530 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PC.531 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2024 were approved. **PROPOSED** Cllr Darken and **SECONDED** Cllr Day. Unanimously agreed.

PC.532 PARISHIONERS' FORUM

There were no questions.

PC.533 REPORTS

- a) Chairmans report – No report
- b) Vice Chairmans report – No report
- c) District and County Councillor reports – No reports
- d) Parish Councillor reports – Cllr Padfield advised that she held on behalf of the Council 15 bags of salt, and asked those Councillors who oversee the salt bins to check each bin and advise if they needed replenishing. She reminded Councillors that the location of the salt bins owned by the Parish Council were Bovinger by the phone box, Pedlars End, Gould Close, and Magdalen Laver (nr the Glebe, where there is always an icy stretch due to the layout of the land).

Cllr Darken provided a report on the Police and Crime Commissioner public event she attended in December, advising that it was very well attended however mostly by residents in the larger villages and towns, and as such most of the issues raised were not relevant to this parish.

- e) Police Report – PC Shepherd provided an update on the crime statistic for 2024, stating there had been a total of 103 calls, 40 of which were recorded as crimes including 3 residential burglaries, one attempted burglary, 2 burglary from outside premises, 2 business burglaries (farms), 4 theft of motor vehicle, 1 vehicle interference, and 2 reports of hare coursing. Compared to 2023 when there were 123 calls, 39 of which were recorded as crimes, including 2 residential burglaries, one attempted burglary, 6 burglaries from outside premises, 2 business burglaries (again farms), 4 theft of motor vehicles, 1 theft, 1 interference, and 2 hare coursing. Cllr Padfield asked what area these reports covered, to which it was confirmed it was the Parish as a whole, however it was noted that potentially crimes did cross over into other parish borders. Cllr Collins asked how this Parish compared with other

parishes, and it was noted that the Parish was large from a geographical standpoint, but was fairly similar in terms of crimes. Cllr Day advised that since PC Shepherd had issued a ticket for parking on the pavement outside the school, he had not seen a single person parking there.

PC.534 REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS

Councillors **NOTED** that at the 17th December 2024 meeting of EFDC Council, and following a period of public consultation, it had been agreed that the polling station for Moreton and Bobbingworth would remain in Moreton, and be located at the White Hart. Councillors recalled it was originally proposed to move the polling station to Fyfield, and the Parish Council responded to the consultation opposing this idea. There were a total of 40 responses from the public to the consultation. Cllr Ray Balcombe also supported the Parish Council with their objection and ensured that EFDC was aware of the level of local feeling. The Clerk has included details in the Local Parish Magazine.

PC.535 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Following the retirement of the Councils current auditor, the Council considered the appointment of Heelis and Lodge as this Councils internal auditor for both the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years. The cost of the Audit is expected to be £220 per year with one audit per year being undertaken. **PROPOSED** Cllr Offord, and **SECONDED** Cllr Carpenter. Unanimously **AGREED**.

PC.536 BUDGET / PRECEPT 2025/2026

Councillors considered the budget, and subsequently the precept, for 2025/2026. This was completed on a 'live' basis during the meeting. Councillors noted that for the current year (2024/2025) the Parish Council element of the Council Tax for a band D property was £40.45 a year (£0.77p a week). The calculation to get to this is the amount the Parish Council requests in precept divided by the tax base (no. of houses EFDC is expecting to collect council tax from), which for this current year was as follows: £25,198 / 622.9 = £40.45. The tax base for 2025/2026 has increased to 628.1.

Councillors also considered the following matters:

- Reviewed the current and expected levels of earmarked reserves alongside the current and expected level of General Reserves.
- New cost of Employers NI Contributions
- Agreed the continued Grant Funding of the 5 churches in the Parish
- Agreed a sum for the possible cost of Highway Signage following the LHP request, specifically for Bovinger
- Agreed a provisional cost of VE Day celebrations which will be taking place
- Reviewed Clerks salary
- Agreed the continued maintenance of Bobbingworth Clock
- Considered any projects expected for the 25/26

The following Budget figures for 2025/2026 were **AGREED**:

EXPENDITURE

CLERK'S SALARY/HMRC/PAYROLL
 EMPLOYERS NI
 HOME OFFICE
 MILEAGE
 INSURANCE
 GRANTS (GPC)
 ELECTIONS
 GENERAL ADMIN
 SUBSCRIPTIONS EALC/NALC/RCCE/ICO
 AUDIT
 OPEN PARISH MTG EVENT
 VILLAGE HALL HIRE
 MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER
 LEGAL EXPENSES
 BANK CHARGES

2025/2026 BUDGET

8,319.96
 490.00
 520.00
 50.00
 480.00
 3,500.00
 150.00
 220.00
 550.00
 430.00
 150.00
 250.00
 100.00
 500.00
 72.00

SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND IT	100.00
TRAINING CLERK/COUNCILLOR	500.00
GENERAL PARISH EXPENSES	300.00
SANDBAGS/SAND/SALT	100.00
VE DAY 2025 (Events)	1,000.00
ASSET MAINTENANCE	200.00
DEFIBRILLATORS	500.00
BOBBINGWORTH CLOCK	250.00
HIGHWAYS (LHP / SIGNAGE / ETC)	6,000.00
	£ 24,731.96
INCOME	<u>2025/2026 BUDGET</u>
PRECEPT	£25,407.00
BANK INTEREST	500.00
TOTAL	£ 25,907.00

Cllr Darken **PROPOSED** a NIL increase in the precept for 2025/2026. This was **SECONDED** by the Chairman. This was unanimously **AGREED**. Therefore, the precept request for 2025/2026 will be £25,406.64, equating to a cost of £40.45 per Band D property.

PC.537 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillors noted the following:

1. **Footpath 23 Bobbingworth** – Formal notification had been received from ECC confirming that Footpath 23 in Bobbingworth had been diverted. Copies of the diversion would be placed on the relevant Notice Boards, and had also been placed on the Parish Council website and social media.

PC.538 COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

As agreed at the November meeting, the Clerk had purchased the new defibrillator and cabinet for the Little Laver phone box, and the new cabinet for Moreton, the total cost for which was £1,943.32 plus VAT. The Clerk will liaise with the Chairman with regard to installation and connection to electricity. Details have been included in the Local Parish Magazine. It was noted that the batteries in the Bobbingworth defibrillator had been replaced, but that the newly purchased defibrillator had been placed there as a short term measure. The Clerk advised that she was not convinced that the heater in the Bobbingworth cabinet was working, and the Chairman confirmed he would check. The question was raised as to if the £500 grant funding from Cllr Mclvor had been received, to which the Clerk confirmed she had already chased him regarding this.

PC.539 LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL REQUEST

The Clerk advised she had liaised with both Essex County Council (ECC) Local Highway representative and ECC Cllr Mclvor regarding the Local Highway Panel request for works to improve signage, speed, and possibly gateway signs at Bovinger. Councillors had agreed at the November meeting they would be considering possibly funding such works as part of their budget discussions, and the Clerk had contacted ECC to advise that this may be a possibility to establish if in this case there was a way to circumvent the LHP system. ECC advised the following:

'Unfortunately you would still need to go through the LHP to even consider putting any form of signage on the carriageway. Firstly, you must go through your County Member who will in turn submit a scheme request and send it into the LHP team. The validation will then be raised, and a design engineer will determine if the area of concern needs extra signage. We are governed by the Dft, and they are very cautious about sign clutter on our roads. Also, the type of signage must meet strict regulations. If the validation warrants extra signage, the Parish can by all means fund the necessary scheme. For any road to be considered for a speed reduction, we would have to carry out a speed survey to gage there is a speeding problem. Unfortunately, speed cushions would not be considered on this type of road and are only usually used on a road with a 20mph zone in place. We also find that residents and businesses are not keen on cushions. Bovinger is mostly rural roads in nature with limited residential properties and would not be classed as a village thus another reason why a reduction in speed probably would not happen. I cannot find any evidence that gateway signage was requested but if this were something you would like to have, again, you would need to go through the County Member to submit a scheme request. Please speak to your County Member, Cllr Mclvor and have him submit a scheme request.'

As such, the Clerk had drawn up an LHP application in conjunction with Cllr Mclvor, requesting gateway signs and associated planting, and a reduced speed limit. Cllr Mclvor would be submitting this to ECC.

Cllr Collins advised that the Pedlars End sign as you enter from Bovinger had been broken for years, despite this being reported to ECC on numerous occasions. It was **AGREED** to get costings from a local contractor to install new wooden posts and repair the sign. It was also noted that the Moreton Signs were missing from the posts as you enter from the Ongar direction.

PC.540 SCHOOL PARKING / TRAFFIC

Councillors noted that the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) had completed a patrol of the school and its markings week commencing 18th November 2024. The NEPP representatives advised that officers are tasked with patrolling a school either at in the morning or afternoon of each day that they work, with many of the schools in the area having parking issues and each deserving of their time which needs to be shared as fairly as possible amongst them all. With more than 100 schools in the geographical area that they cover, the frequency of visits and time spent at any one location is dependent upon their finite resources and other demands upon staff time, meaning that each school may only receive one or two visits per term. They state they do their best to increase this where possible but cannot prioritise any school over another as this would be unfair. They will do their best to arrange another visit early in January 2025. Cllr Day asked if a report of their findings had been received, to which the Clerk stated it had not, but that she would ask for a report following their next visit. As reported earlier in the meeting, there had not been any real issues since the last meeting.

PC.541 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The updated Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to EFDC in November 2024, and the Clerk had requested an update on progress, the response being that they had been very busy with proposed new changes in planning and devolution, but they will now be looking at this.

PC.542 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Day advised that there is very limited activity in the winter months due to the number of daylight hours being reduced, but that this would pick up in the spring.

PC.543 MORETON VILLAGE GREEN

Councillors noted that the formal application to register the Village Green needed to be signed by a Justice of the Peace, which had now been completed. The form would now be submitted to ECC for consideration.

PC.544 RCCE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillors noted that both the Clerk and Chairman would be attending a meeting on 30th January at 10:30am 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. Cllr Collins asked if he was able to attend, to which the Clerk advised that he would need to raise this with the village hall committee as his position as a trustee meant that is primary focus would be the village hall and not the Parish Council. A report would be provided at the next meeting.

PC.545 ENVAR COMPOSTING SITE AND MONITORING

Councillors noted that the latest set of results regarding the Bioaerosol monitoring pursuant to condition 19 of planning permission ESS/04/23/EPF had been completed, with ECC stating that it is likely that the site has been operating in compliance with the threshold limits, with the next assessment due April 2025. The report submitted as part of the monitoring states the following:

'The results revealed that the Bacteria type Bioaerosol concentrations in the air sampled Downwind of the site remained LOW with the Maximum Median only 250 cfu.m-3; while the Aspergillus Fumigatus bioaerosols concentration were consistently VERY LOW, where the MAXIMUM MEDIAN was only 64 cfu.m-3. These LOW levels of bioaerosols were likely attributable to the damp weather conditions preceding the monitoring, the damp condition of the compost and the site surfaces, the good process management and the good management of the screening activities. In conclusion; the Maximum Median levels were less than 26% of the EA Permitted Threshold levels for Total Bacteria and Aspergillus Fumigatus.'

PC.546 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Clerk reported the following:

- a) ECC, EFDC, EALC and RCCE communications are emailed to Members on a regular basis and where relevant information is included

- b) Notification of potholes by the Glebe, Madalen Laver – latest updated dated 31st December states ‘*We have completed work at this location. If we have placed temporary traffic management (barriers, cones, signs) on site to make it safe, we will now schedule a permanent repair for a future date.*’. (Defect 3815975). Cllr Padfield advised that one hole had been filled, however the potholes on the edges of the carriageway had not. The Clerk advised that if these deteriorate, she is able to put them forward to Cllr McIvor to consider as part of his members pothole scheme for repair. It was noted that a Cyclist had been injured as a result of these potholes. It was noted during the colder weather it was constantly icy as the water runs down towards the road on both directions. Cllr Darken suggested that the drainage should be addressed otherwise the potholes would always reappear. Cllr Padfield advised that as fast as they try and clear the ditches, the cars will drive on the edge of the road and push the dirt back into it, and that years ago they had tried to pipe the ditch to resolve the problem, but ECC Highways had stopped them. Cllr Offord stated that the problems never get resolved because the pothole fixes that are undertaken are temporary and of poor quality. Cllr Padfield advised there are some EFDC Housing owned Hedges by The Glebe (where there are some Council houses) which EFDC are responsible for maintaining, however this doesn’t seem to have happened over recent years. The Clerk confirmed she would contact EFDC and chase them. Cllr Collins advised that there was an Ivy Bush fallen in the road coming from Pedlars End going towards Bobbingworth – the Clerk advised she would report this to EFDC.
- c) Lining defects at the High Laver Cross Roads have been reported to EFDC (29/11 – 2951403), the current status being that it has been assigned for inspection. It is understood via social media that there has been an accident at this location since this time. Cllr Day advised the lining had now been completed.
- d) Clerk attended an EFDC Corporate Communications Team Peer Review on 4th December 2024 to provide feedback on EFDCs communications, however this was more about EFDC wanting to how good their external communications were, not the other way around.
- e) Purchased new batteries for Bobbingworth Defibrillator
- f) Councillor emails – Clerk still to action.
- g) There have been at least another two power cuts since the last meeting. The Clerk has chased UK Power Networks for a response, as previously we had been advised they had asked their lead field engineers to investigate the Clerks email regarding the power cuts which have affected the area.
- h) Clerk continues to work on Facebook and enhancing the social media presence
- i) Thursday 8th May 2025 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The Chairman asked if Community Spirit were planning on doing anything, to which Cllr Day advised he would speak to Mr Cooper.
- j) Current consultation on Strengthening the Standards and Conduct in Public Office which runs until 26th February 2025. Noted that individual Councillors were able to respond, however the Clerk would respond on behalf of the Council supporting the proposals.
- k) The Governments Devolution proposals are likely to appear on most future agendas. It is unclear at this stage what this means for Parish Councils.

PC.547 COMMEMORATIVE BENCH CAROL FOULSER

Councillors noted that the agreed wording for the plaque is ‘*In memory of Cllr Carol Foulser, a dedicated and committed Councillor who worked tirelessly in support of the community*’. The Chairman had forwarded this information on to the Committee.

PC.548 LOVE YOUR BUS GRANT FUND INITIATIVE ECC

Councillors noted that ECC had launched a ‘Love Your Bus’ Grant Fund initiative which provides Parish and Town Councils with the opportunity to secure grants of up to £50,000 for projects aimed at increasing bus patronage and enhancing local services. The fund will support innovative projects that:

- Increase passenger numbers.
- Improve service frequency and coverage.
- Attract new users through community engagement and marketing.

This will allow Parish and Town Councils to propose initiatives such as increasing service frequency, running early morning or late-night services, and extending routes to connect underserved areas to key destinations such as hospitals or schools. Councillors were asked if there were any services in or around the Parish that could perhaps benefit from this funding. The Clerk explained that it would be up to the Council to do all the leg work, including contacting the bus companies, and that there was very little time to do this.

It was noted that there was a bus that came to Moreton Village twice per week, and seems to be well used. It seemed to be the same people standing outside the White Hart who use it. It was agreed that prior to deciding whether or not to go for funding, something should be put on the Parish Councils Facebook Page to ascertain

if there was a need for an additional or extended local service. Due to the deadline, the Clerk would contact Councillors via email regarding this matter.

PC.549 PLANNING

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

EPF/2567/24 (HH) & EPF/2568/24 (LB)	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 Listed Building application for the same. NO OBJECTION
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- b) Councillors **NOTED** the following planning applications below which had been responded to by way of the Clerk's delegated powers following email consultation with Councillors:

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. NO OBJECTION
EPF/2463/24	Shielings, Cross Lees Lane, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0HX	To demolish an existing bungalow and replace it with a new bungalow. NO OBJECTION
EPF/2252/24 (LB)	Humphreys, Greenman Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0ER	Grade II listed building consent extension of patio and erection of a gazebo. NO OBJECTION
EPF/2406/24 (HH)	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). NO OBJECTION
EPF/2215/24 (HH)	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.

The Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this application on the following grounds:

The property has already benefitted from a two storey side and single storey rear extension (EPF/1459/02), along with the building of two fairly large outbuildings built in 2024 (advised by the Enforcement Department to be acceptable under Permitted Development rights). To further increase the volume of built form on the site would result in a property which is materially larger when considered against the size of the original building. In addition, the proposed changes to the front fenestration and a full change to black weatherboarding (a very prominent material in the context of this street scene) would result in the property being entirely out of keeping and out of character with the surrounding area, having a negative visual impact on the locality.

This would be contrary to the following policies:

1. Local Plan Policy DM9

- Part D(ii) - Development proposals must relate positively to their locality, having regard to the form, scale and massing around the site
- Part E - Development proposals for extensions or alterations to residential buildings will be required to respect and/or complement the form, setting, period, and detailing of the original buildings. Matching or complementary materials should be used.

2. Local Plan Policy DM4, Part C (iii) - The construction of new buildings is inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Exceptions to this are the extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building.

EPF/2291/24 (full)	Partridge House, Harlow Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DL	Above ground plunge pool with plant room and air source heat pump (ASHP). NO OBJECTION
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- c) Councillors **NOTED** the following planning applications for which EFDC **do not** accept comment:

EPF/2588/24 & EPF/2589/24 DRC	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 listed building application to infill an unauthorized door and reinstate a door) &
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		Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 'External Finishes' on planning permission EPF/0897/24 (Revised design of flat roof addition).
EPF/2495/24 DRC	Blake Hall, Stony Lane, Ongar, CM5 0DG	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 'Contamination', condition 4 'Foul Drainage', condition 5 'Building Regs upgrading', condition 7 'EVCP', condition 8 'Waste and Recycling Storage', condition 9 'Cycle Parking', condition 14 'Ecological Value Enhancement' on planning permission EPF/0114/24 (Change of use of existing building to guest accommodation and one residential dwelling).

d) Councillors **NOTED** the following planning decisions by EFDC:

EPF/2291/24	Partridge House, Harlow Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DL	Above ground plunge pool with plant room and air source heat pump (ASHP).	Granted 18/12 – PC had no objection
EPF/2443/24	Ashlyns Farm, A414 Epping Road, North Weald, CM16 6RZ	Agricultural steel portal frame storage barn	Prior Notification - Refused 23/12 – PC unable to comment as PN Agricultural
EPF/1842/24	Yew Tree Cottage, 7 Epping Road, Bobbingworth, Ongar, CM5 0DF	Proposed first floor extension to rear.	Approved 4/11 PC had no objection
EPF/1795/24	Chaseside, Harlow Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DR	Two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension and entrance canopy over front door.	Approved 6/11 PC Objection for incorrect plans
EPF/1914/24	4, Mill Lane, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0DN	Removal of existing residential annexe and detached garage. Proposed outbuilding on footprint of removed annexe to provide garaging for two cars, home office and gym.	Refused 6/11 for reasons of size, scale, failing to meet minimum garage standards, and harmful to green belt – PC had no objection
EPF/1877/24	Blossom Lodge, Maltings Farm, Maltings Hill, Moreton, CM5 0JY	Construction of outbuilding to facilitate home gym and home office	Refused 7/11 for reasons of size, scale, excessive glazing and flat roof being out of keeping, and impact on green belt – PC had no objection
EPF/2136/24	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.	Not Lawful – not incidental to main house by virtue of its size - PC unable to comment Councillors NOTED another altered application had been submitted - EPF/0016/25 – with the building being reduced to 102m2 compared to the previous application which was 123m2
EPF/1902/24	Fairways, Harlow Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DL	Covered BBQ area	Approved 8/11 – PC had no objection
EPF/1869/24	Sawyers, Harlow Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DR	Certificate of Lawful Development for existing use of mobile home as separate dwelling in excess of 10 years.	Not Lawful – insufficient proof provided – PC unable to comment
EPF/1824/24	North Wilmore Barn, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Grade II listed building application for removal of previously installed, unconsented, roof lights.	Approved 20/11 – PC had no objection
EPF/1813/24	North Wilmore Barn, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Removal of previously installed, unconsented, roof lights.	Approved 20/11 – PC had no objection

EPF/2022/24	Highfield, Moreton Road, Bobbingworth, Ongar, CM5 0LU	Retrospective application to retain roof lantern over prior approval rear extension.	Refused - Plans were not to scale – PC had no objection
EPF/1722/24	Glenwood, Pedlars End, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0LW	The development of three new dwellings in place of the existing dwelling and outhouses (Including permitted development approvals) on the site of Pedlars End, Moreton.	Refused for reason that the dwellings, due to their position, scale, bulk, width, depth, height and massing would fail to preserve the openness of the Green Belt, lack of detail about protected trees, dwellings too large, no info about PRoW included. PC objected. MBLNP was referenced in the EFDC objection.
EPF/1712/24	Church Farm, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 'Foul Water Disposal' on planning permission EPF/0972/24 (Conversion of ancillary outbuilding barn to an annexe)	Granted – PC unable to comment
EPF/0743/24	North Wilmore Barn, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 4 'Additional Drawings' on planning permission EPF/2059/19 (Application for Grade II Listed Building consent for proposed extension to the existing building with a new basement, entrance lobby and	Withdrawn

e) Councillors **NOTED** the following other planning matters:

EPF/2817/23	Embleys Farm, Binder Loams Ltd, Fyfield Road, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0HY	Erection of two additional portal frame dry storage barns	Going to EFDC Committee B 29 th January. The Parish Council did not object to this application. It has been called in by EFDC Cllr Hadley. Agreed the Council will not attend the committee meeting as they did not object.
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PC.550 CHRISTMAS OPEN MEETING / LIGHTING OF THE TREE

Councillors reviewed the success of this years event, with the general feeling that the attendance of the Choir was very nice, along with the decorations for the Christmas Tree completed by the children of Moreton School, both of which should be invited to do the same for the 2025 event. It was **AGREED** that a leaflet drop for Moreton Village should be completed for the 2025 event given there was somewhat of a reduced attendance this year when compared to previous years.

PC.551 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Councillors approved the payments below. **PROPOSED** Cllr Carpenter, **SECONDED** Cllr Stuart:

BACS	A Jones	November & December Salary	£1,109.26
BACS	HMRC	November & December PAYE	£277.40
BACS	Information Commissions office	Data Protection Registration Fee	£40.00
BACS	Vikatechost	Renewal of domain 2 years	£43.20
BACS	The British Heart Foundation (Reimb A Jones)	Defibrillator and new cabinet for Little Laver, and new cabinet for Moreton	£2,331.98 (VAT £388.66)
BACS	A Jones	Reimburse Expenses	£55.35

BACS	Amazon (AJ	Batteries for Defib	£27.46
BACS	E Crosbie	Batteries for Christmas Tree Lights	£8.99
BACS	Moreton Village Hall	2024 Hall bookings	£210.00

- a) Councillors **NOTED** the Bank Balance and bank reconciliation as at 31st December, as attached to the agenda, a copy of which was reviewed against the bank statements and signed by the Chairman.
- b) Councillors **NOTED** that the interest rate on the deposit account reduced to 2.50% gross on 18th December 2024 (down from 2.6%).

PC.552 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillors were asked to contact the Clerk if they had any specific agenda items.

PC.553 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th March – Magdalen Laver Village Hall

Tuesday 13th May 2025 – 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

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Chairman

Date