

MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Adriana Jones

Email: clerk@mbldparishcouncil.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 November 2025 at 7.30pm at MORETON VILLAGE HALL.**



Adriana Jones
Parish Clerk and RFO
5th November 2025

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 9th September 2025 Parish Council meeting as previously circulated and attached.

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. ST MARY'S CHURCH, MORETON

Councillors will recall from the September meeting it was agreed this meeting would include the issue of possible financial support from the Parish Council to St Mary's with regard to the urgent renovation works that are required (as fully reported in the September minutes). The Chairman will provide an update at the meeting. Attached to the agenda is an update and funding request document from the Save St Mary's organisation, and Councillors will be asked to **CONSIDER** if it wishes to provide any funding to support the works at St Mary's.

7. 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
- e) Police reports

8. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PRoW)

To **NOTE** any updates or issues.

9. SCHOOL PARKING / TRAFFIC

At the time of printing the agenda, there was no update.

10. MORETON VILLAGE GREEN

Following on from the EFDC Local Council Liaison Committee meeting in September, and a meeting Clerks had with the Leader of EFDC in October, EFDC were pressed to consider transferring certain assets to local councils prior to Local Government Reorganisation taking place. EFDC stated they would be happy to 'have a conversation' about this, subject to the asset being primarily for the local community and not income generating for EFDC. As such, the Clerk has now formally written to the Chief Executive of EFDC to progress transferring the ownership of Moreton Village Green to this Parish Council. A response has been received confirming it has been passed on to EFDC's legal department to look at, and EFDC will come back to this Council in due course, albeit it could take some time. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if there are any other areas of public land owned by EFDC that this Council may want to take on.

11. HERITAGE PROJECT

To receive an update on progress regarding this project from the Clerk and Cllr Stuart.

12. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

To receive an update on any community speedwatch activity.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) / DEVOLUTION

Final submissions have now been submitted to the Government regarding possible options for Local Government Reorganisation. Full details can be found at <https://www.essexlgrhub.org/proposals>. EFDC supported a three tier proposal which would see Epping Forest merge with Harlow, Maldon, Chelmsford and Brentwood districts. The Government is expected to run a public consultation before the end of the year, with a recommendation to the Minister on a final proposal expected in March 2026. Councillors are asked to note that elections for the Greater Essex Mayor will be taking place in May 2026, along with any relevant district and parish elections.

14. DIGITAL ESSEX

The Clerk has received an email from Essex County Council informing the Parish Council of an initiative they are exploring to improve mobile connectivity in rural and underserved areas across the county. This work forms part of their wider Mobile Connectivity Strategy, which is currently in development, and aligns with their digital ambitions to ensure equitable access to reliable mobile services for all residents. They are working in collaboration with Atlas Tower Group (ATG), a national infrastructure provider. ATG offers a single, shareable mast structure that can be used by multiple operators, reducing the need for multiple installations and minimising visual and environmental impact.

Following a review of mobile coverage, ATG has identified several areas, including Matching Green and Moreton, as commercially viable sites for initial deployment. ATG is keen to work with ECC and local communities to identify suitable mast locations and have successfully delivered similar projects in Dorset and Northumberland, working closely with parish councils and residents. Their approach involves transparent community engagement, visual impact assessments, and site visits with local stakeholders to ensure inclusive and informed decision-making. The email received was to inform the Parish Council of this work in case we receive any enquiries regarding mobile masts, however no action is required at this stage.

Councillors are asked if they have any questions, or if they would like the Clerk to contact ECC regarding this project.

15. 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) 'Tommy' to be placed on Moreton Village Green for Remembrance Sunday, and Remembrance day.
- c) EFDC Waste Event 12th November at Civic Offices
- d) Email received from Downing, company consulting on Solar Farm in Hastingwood. Clerk to update Councillors
- e) Assisting Cllr Padfield with issues of potholes on The Glebe.
- f) News article published by EFDC regarding planning (copy attached to agenda)
- g) Responded to Freedom of Information request
- h) EFDC Local Council Liaison Committee meeting held 18th September. A number of questions were put to the committee by the EFDALC, and responses were received, a copy of which is attached to this agenda. Minutes are not yet available.
- i) EFDALC Meeting 5th November - Update

- j) Monthly defibrillator checks continue to take place.
- k) Query raised with enforcement regarding additional outbuilding at 6 Maltings Hill, Moreton – Update – Additional building is in line with Permitted Development rights.

16. COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND 2025/2026

Funding of up to £10,000 is available to voluntary organisations, community groups, residents’ associations and Town and Parish Councils. Essex County Council’s Community Initiative Fund (CIF) aims to strengthen local communities and make Essex an even better place to live, work and visit. Since it launched, the CIF has supported projects such as upgrades to sports facilities, improvements to community buildings such as new heating systems or accessible toilets, staff costs for projects or maintenance, IT systems or support and cultural events and activities. Through the main CIF round, grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects designed to strengthen local communities. Applications to the fund should be made before the closing date of Friday 28 November.

Alongside the main CIF round, micro grants of up to £1,000 are also available. These grants could help reduce social isolation, improve wellbeing or encourage communities to connect. They could also support organisations to build and develop their capabilities and skills. Applications to the micro grants fund will remain open until all the funds for these are allocated.

The fund is administered by the Essex Association of Local Councils (EALC) on behalf of Essex County Council. Councillors are asked to **CONSIDER** if they would like to apply for any grant funding, and if so what for.

17. OPEN PARISH MEETING

Councillors are asked to consider the organisation for the Open Parish Meeting and Lighting of the Christmas Tree which will take place on 9th December, including:

- Arrangements: Glasses and equipment (Cllr Padfield?)
 Layout and Preparation (Clerk)
 Refreshments, etc (Clerk)
 Christmas Tree Lights (Chairman)
 Delivery of Leaflets (delivery / who / how many, etc)
 Clerk contacted Moreton School ref decorations created by the Children
 Clerk contacted Choir to see if they are available

- Speakers: St Mary’s Funding (speaker to be confirmed)
 LGR / Devolution (Clerk short presentation)
 Changes to Waste (Cllr Balcombe – TBC)
 Question: Would community support a Rural Affordable Housing project?

18. SIGNAGE AND SPEED ISSUES BOVINGER MILL - LHP

In light of the fact that the Local Highway Panel are not currently accepting requests for any future schemes, it was agreed at the September meeting that the Clerk would look at other ways this could be addressed. The Clerk will provide an update at the meeting.

19. RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillors to provide feedback on the September presentation by Laura Atkinson regarding Rural Affordable Housing scheme.

20. BUDGET / PRECEPT 2026/2027

Councillors are asked to advise the Clerk of any specific items they would like included for consideration in the 2026/2027 Budget and Precept, which will be considered at the January meeting.

21. PLANNING

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

EPF/2197/25	Hobbs View, Moreton Road, Ongar, CM5 0LX	Replacement dwelling and garaging within existing garden curtilage - minor house redesign and repositioning within curtilage following previously consented scheme (Ref: PL/EPF/1693/21).
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EPF/2188/25	Wind Hill Cottage, Wind Hill, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0EX	Single storey rear infill extension.
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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/2070/25 & EPF/2087/25	Wynters Cottage, Hastingwood Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0EW	Removal of outbuilding, new garden room, changes to fenestration and roof repairs, and Grade II Listed Building application for the same. NO OBJECTION
EPF/1756/25	Hobbans Cottage, Moreton Road, Ongar, CM5 0LX	Proposed Alterations and Extensions to As-Built Dwelling. NO OBJECTION <i>(note: originally missed off weekly list)</i>
EPF/1803/25	Greenways, Moreton Bridge, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0LL	Double storey side extension NO OBJECTION
EPF/1686/25	The Brewhouse, Watery Lane, Little Laver, Harlow, CM17 0RQ	Grade II Listed building consent for regularisation of glazed link, changes to outer building knows as shed and erection of timber gates and brick pillars to front of site. NO OBJECTION

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

- d) To **NOTE** the following Planning decision by EFDC:

EPF/1608/25	Weald Lodge, Weald Bridge Road, North Weald Bassett, Epping, CM16 6AU	Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 3 (Materials) and 4 (Large Scale Details) of EPF/0950/22 (Replacement amenity building).	<i>Granted 08/09/2025 DRC – PC unable to comment</i>
EPF/1463/25 & EPF/1541/25	Bushes, Murrays Barn, Wind Hill, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DS	Proposed Rear Extension and Internal Alterations for Triple Bay Garage and Open Plan Kitchen, and LB for the same	<i>Refused 12/09/2025 for reasons of harm to the significance of the affected designated heritage assets PC had no objection</i>
EPF/1421/25	Humphreys, Greenman Road, Magdalen Laver, Ongar, CM5 0ER	Grade II listed building consent for works to front facade.	<i>Appeal Withdrawn 22/09/2025</i>
EPF/1520/25 & EPF/1422/25	Watermans End House, Watery Lane, Little Laver, Harlow, CM17 0RQ	Demolition of porch extension, large shed and glass house. Relocation of oil tank and construction of small shed. Create new door opening to kitchen. Single storey rear extension to rear with swimming pool and car port, and LB application for the same	<i>Granted 23/09/2025 PC had no objection</i>
EPF/1660/25	Shielings, Cross Lees Lane, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0HX	Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions 3, 10 and 12 of EPF/0753/25 (Demolition of existing bungalow and replace with new bungalow).	<i>Granted 30/09/2025 DRC – PC unable to comment</i>
EPF/1173/25 & EPF/1256/25	Black Hall, Bridge Road, Moreton, Ongar, CM5 0LJ	Single storey rear extension.	<i>Refused 2/10/25 for reasons of being unsympathetic to listed building - PC had no objection</i>
EPF/1792/25	Spinney Croft, Workers Road, High Laver, Ongar, CM5 0DZ	Proposed replacement of the Gable End Window to match the existing.	<i>Granted 24/10/25 – Was not on the weekly list under MBL, but instead under Ongar – only discovered November. Raised with EFDC</i>

EPF/1686/25	The Brewhouse, Watery Lane, Little Laver, Harlow, CM17 0RQ	Grade II Listed building consent for regularisation of glazed link and changes to outer building knows as shed	<i>Granted 29/10/25 PC had no objection</i>
EPF/1454/25	Blake Hall, Stony Lane, Ongar, CM5 0DG	TPO/EPF/103/10 (Ref: W1) T1: Oak Tree (Tree ID 47 on survey) T2 Oak Tree (Tree ID 49 on survey) T3 Oak Tree (Tree ID 50 on survey) T4 Oak Tree (Tree ID 51 on survey) – All Fell and replace, as specified.	<i>Granted 14/10/25 PC had no objection</i>

22. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) To approve the payments listed below:

BACS	A Jones	September and October Salary (£249.21 PAYE taken off HMRC credit, remainder to be paid to HMRC)	£1,109.26 & £277.40 PAYE
BACS	HMRC	Employers National Insurance contribution September and October	£82.90
BACS	A Jones	Expenses Reimbursement Land Registry Costs and Home Office Apr-Sep (£10/week)	£315.98
BACS	Moreton PCC	Annual Grant, Cutting and maintenance Churchyard	£700.00
BACS	Bobbingworth PCC	Annual Grant, Cutting and maintenance Churchyard	£700.00
BACS	The Lavers PCC	Annual Grant, Cutting and maintenance Churchyard	£2,100.00

b) To review the bank reconciliation against the bank statements up to 31/8/25.

23. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING / UPDATE TO KEEP ON AGENDA

- RCCE / Moreton Village Hall
- Devolution and Local Government Reform

24. DATES AND LOCATIONS OF MEETING 2026

Tuesday 13th January 2026 – Moreton Village Hall
 Tuesday 17th March 2026 – Magdalen Laver Village Hall (*note this is the third Tuesday in the month*)
 Tuesday 12th May 2026 – Moreton Village Hall
 Tuesday 14th July 2026 – Magdalen Laver Village Hall
 Tuesday 8th September 2026 – Moreton Village Hall
 Tuesday 10th November 2026 – Moreton Village Hall
 Tuesday 8th December 2025 – Moreton Village Hall Open Parish Meeting

Please note Moreton hall dates are still to be confirmed by the hall.