

MORETON VALENCE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14th MAY 2015

PRESENT

Messrs Cllrs Roger Dickenson (Chairman), John Dickinson, Wayne Weaver, Mrs Lynn Bushell, Mrs Maz Smith, Mrs Anne Rigelsford (Parish Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

District Councillor John Jones.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Roger Dickenson welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He introduced and thanked the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for the hard work over the last year.

The Chairman stated that after many years of campaigning the speed limit on the A38 has finally been reduced to 50 mph. Although the new surface has caused some considerable concerns as, in places, it has already broken up. The surface in Church Lane continues to be under examination due to the large potholes. Mr Eric Pickles finally gave the go ahead for the incinerator at Javelin Park. Although, Stroud District Council are reported to make representations regarding the legality of this decision. Balfour Beatty are to put £25k into a fund to help local communities affected by the incinerator, and it is hoped that Moreton Valence will benefit from some of these funds. The main controversial project in the Parish at present is the car washing facility and hot food van that has started up in the old petrol filling station on the A38. The hot food van has been given a three month trial licence but no change of use application has been received for the car wash facility. Now that there are cars being also sold from the site, which has been its primary use for the last few years, the situation regarding planning permission is unclear. The Parish Plan has been completed during the last year culminating in the calendar delivered to each household before Christmas last year. The Chairman thanked Maz and her team for all their work. The parish noticeboard has been refurbished during the year. However, unfortunately one of the 'bus shelters has been vandalised recently. The Parish Council have agreed to part fund an extra cut of the verges this year and have received a donation of wild flower seeds from Highfield Nurseries. The precept for the financial year 2015/16 rose by £250. This was after a representation from St Stephen's Church and it was agreed to donate £500 towards its upkeep. Surrounding villages continue to come under attack from housing developers and the Council is aware of the possible impact that extra traffic generated would have on the A38. Stroud District Council are carrying out a Boundary Review of its District Wards. As part of this it has been recommended that Moreton Valence join the Hardwicke Ward. Councillors have written objecting to this suggestion as they feel that the long established relationships and links with the Severn Ward are of fundamental importance.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk circulated and explained the draft summary of the council's financial activities over the last financial year. The increase in the Clerk's salary expenditure was questioned. It was explained that this was due to the previous Clerk not wanting to claim many hours. Anne Rigelsford explained that she was paid for 4 hours work a week and in line with NALC guidelines.

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Cllr John Jones the submitted report was read out and is attached.