

MORETON VALENCE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 30TH MAY 2013

PRESENT

Messrs Cllrs Roger Dickenson (Chairman), Wayne Weaver, John Dickinson, Mrs L Bushell, Mrs M Smith, Cllr T Blackburn (County Councillor), Cllr J Jones (District Councillor), Mrs A Rigelsford (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Roger welcomed everyone attending and thanked Mr Colin Allwood for his 10 years of service as the Parish Meeting's Chairman.

During the last 12 months Councillors have worked on liaising with other agencies with regard to improving road safety in the parish and particularly along the A38. Changing from Parish Meeting to Parish Council has opened doors for the community. The Parish Council has held a forum to obtain villagers' thoughts. Scarecrows were made and displayed as part of Road Safety Week.

Councillors and volunteers have carried out speed monitoring checks and found that the average speed along the A38 was 53 mph but speeds of 110 and 132 mph were recorded. Consultation with Gloucestershire Highways had taken place and it has been agreed that a feasibility survey into obtaining a Road Traffic Order to reduce the speed limit from 60 to 50 mph will be carried out.

Gloucestershire Highways Department have agreed to pay for all consultations and report the results back to the Parish Council by the end of the financial year. The Parish Council has the support of County and District Councillors, Neil Carmichael MP and the Severnside Group of Parishes for their efforts in this area. Funding is being sought from Gloucestershire County Council and the Police Commissioner who both have sums of money for road safety issues.

Large lorries using Church and Castle Lanes have also been a cause for concern but the Council has been advised that a Road Traffic Order in this case would serve no purpose as access to business would be allowed. Gloucestershire Highways have notified the Parish council that the verges would now only be cut once a year. However, the Parish may feel that it would be beneficial to pay for more cuts although, this may have a detrimental effect on wildlife.

Cllr... reported that Maz Smith had been working on the Parish Plan but had found it hard going with lack of support from the parish. Barbara Pond will attend the Parish Council meeting on 20th June to discuss taking the Parish Plan forward.

The Parish Council gave £100 to GlosVain to help with the fight against the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park.

Cllr Roger also reported that the bus shelters were in need of repair and asked for a local carpenter to help. There is a budget for repairs.

There have been two planning issues over the last year that has been cause for concern. The first being a barn on the A38 which seems to be used for business without planning consent. The second, a Waste Transfer Station on the Old Airfield. It is proposed to deal with 400,000 tons of waste.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Tony Blackburn reported that he welcomed the opportunity to meet everyone, thanked those who voted for him and stated that he would work to represent the views of the community. He reported that after the election there had been no one party in overall control. The Conservatives have agreed to form a minority governing group. An extra £3m will be made available for pot hole

repairs and each County Councillor will have £20,000 to spend on road safety issues. The A38 and Church Road in Moreton Valence are strong contenders. He fully supports the efforts to reduce the speed limit on the A38 and has requested a meeting with Martin Surl (Police and Crime Commissioner) and information from Jason Keats (Gloucestershire County Council).

Also reported was the fact that there had only been one County Council meeting since the elections and following the rejection of the incinerator at Javelin Park, it was agreed to form an all party committee to look into the future of waste management in the County. However, this is dependent on whether or not Urbaser Balfour Beatty (UBB) form an official appeal against the County Council decision.

Q What is the time limit for an appeal from UBB?

A Three months, which is almost up. The County Council will oppose any appeal.

Q What would an appeal cost?

A There is no figure available, but it has already cost in the region of £3.2m with the planning process so far. UBB would have to pay for their own costs for an appeal.

Q Could UBB be awarded costs?

A Probably not. The Council had good reason to turn the proposal down.

Q Moreton Valence Parish Council now meets bi-monthly. Would it be possible for you to come to our meetings?

A Yes

The Clerk agreed to email the schedule of meetings, agendas and minutes.

Q In your manifesto it stated that obtaining high speed broadband in rural communities was a priority When will this come to fruition?

A Work on this is continuing; it is very much work in progress. Lots of organisations are working on this.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In addition to the attached report Cllr Jones reported that the Severn Ward is covered by two District Councillors and that he is responsible for Moreton Valence, Whitminster and Saul. He tries to get to the Parish Council meetings but on the occasions that he can not attend he sends a written report to be read out.

He also reported that the new Committee system would ensure that decisions were made by more people and not just the few who sat on the cabinet.

Mr Jones stated that the lack of an adopted Local Plan could see developers build by appeal. The Amended Plan includes building more homes at Hunts Grove, Sharpness, Cam and the Stroud Valleys. Building west of Stonehouse has been put on the back burner for the time being and will only be used if the other sites can not deliver the housing needs for the district.

Q How far off is the Local Plan from being adopted?

A The Draft Local Plan is due to be adopted on 18th July. It will then go out to consultation and inspection. It is hoped that the Plan will be in place by the end of the year or early 2014 at the latest. It will then last until 2031.

Q Why is there not a Local Plan in place?

A The old Plan is still in place and policies are relevant. Whilst putting together the Plan for 2013/31 there were lots of changes in legislation and from the government.

Q Are there strategies in place for the next six months?

A Current Local Plan policies will be carried forward.

Q Moreton Valence has no actual settlement boundary. Does that make us more or less vulnerable to development.

A Each application would be viewed on its own merits.

ROAD SAFETY REPORT

Councillor Lyn Bushell gave the meeting a brief history and update regarding the road safety project to date. She reported that alongside meetings with representatives from Gloucestershire Highways Department, a bid to obtain some money under the scheme had been submitted and that speed checks by local volunteers had been carried out. She stated that in addition to the speeding cars and motor cycles, the speed of heavy goods vehicles was extremely worrying. The maximum speed that they should be travelling appears to be 40 mph although this is not widely known by the authorities.

Comments were made, by members of the public, stating that because of the frustration caused by holding traffic up behind slow moving lorries that some drivers may feel the pressure to go faster than 40 mph.

Mr Smith from the Old Airfield Site stated that if he found any of his drivers were found to have been speeding disciplinary action would be taken.

There being no other business the meeting closed and refreshments supplied by Councillors were enjoyed by all.