

MORETON VALENCE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 10th MAY 2018

PRESENT

Cllrs Lyn Bushell [Chairperson], Messrs Roger Dickenson, Wayne Weaver, Mrs Maz Smith, Dave Mossman [District Councillor], Mr M Vile [Gigaclear], Mrs Anne Szabo [Parish Clerk] and 4 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Parish Councillor John Dickinson, Stephen Davies [County Councillor], Gill Oxley [District Councillor], Andrew Beamish [Neighbourhood Warden]

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Lyn Bushell reported that the Council has met every two months and has had no resignations over the year. She thanked Cllr Maz Smith for being the Neighbourhood Watch contact over the year. The website is now live and the Council continues to deal with enquiries and complaints from the public, poor broadband, road safety and anti-social behaviour matters, and has supported St Stephen's Church. The Council now arranges the cutting of all verges and is looking at the reinstatement of the footpath along the A38. The Council has worked closely with the support of District and County Councillors, the Neighbourhood Warden, Severn Voice, and is on the Community Liaison Group for Javelin Park. There is now an appraisal scheme in place for the Clerk. The Parish Plan is now under review and a Public Rights of Way Audit is being undertaken.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk circulated and explained the draft summary of the Council's financial activities over the past financial year. She reported that the bank balance now stands at £9293.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Stephen Davies was elected as your new County Councillor in May 2017 replacing Tony Blackburn after many years of service.

Since elected, he has been appointed to the Scrutiny Committees for Children and Families as well as Economic Growth. Gloucestershire County Council got a poor rating for its Children's Services and there has consequently been a number of management changes and some improvement has been noted at consequent Ofsted reviews but there is still much work to be done to improve this. County Council has set a budget of just over £420m which is a 3.99% increase in the Council Tax including the 2% Adult Social Care levy. This is below the 6% maximum increase permissible without a referendum. This includes a 2% increase for staff and increases in the Children's Services Budget and the Adult Social Care budget. £150m has been allocated to road re-surfacing. More locally, each County Councillor has a £30,000 "Growing the Community" to spend on local projects. Any suggestions are appreciated.

More locally, Cllr Davies has instigated a study of the A38 from Cross Keys Roundabout (due to be improved) to Berkeley where the bridge has been replaced. This is to look at the impact of the planned improvements of the Cross Keys Roundabout, the increase in traffic from the West of Stonehouse development and any impact should Ecotricity get planning permission for a Football Stadium on Junction13.

Cllr Davies was also involved in discussions with Smiths when they proposed an increase in the size of the incinerator that they have already got planning permission for. They have now withdrawn this application and to my knowledge have not applied to the Environment Agency for a license for their current application. He is increasingly involved in the Incinerator Liaison Group and will take over the lead of the Monitoring Committee.

Finally, if you have any issues that you need help with please contact Cllr Davies.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Dave Mossman reported that the Local Plan is under review, as is the District Council's finances. As a result, parking charges throughout the District are being reviewed, as is the Neighbourhood Warden scheme.

The Community Funding Group for the incinerator will meet for the first time on 15th May. The first funding grants will be paid out in June 2019 and total £25,000 per year.

The District Council has gained lottery funding of £8,500 for the initial survey into the continuation of the Stroudwater Canal from Stonehouse to Saul. It has also set aside £1.6m towards the Brimscombe Port development.

Changes to the Cross Keys roundabout and a 2nd slip road off junction 12 of the M5, Southbound, have been given the go ahead by Highways England.

Enforcement action has been called for in relation to car wash on A38. It appears that the owners are in breach of planning conditions.

PRESENTATION

A presentation from Mr Martin Vile [Gigaclear] regarding the proposed solution to the lack of broadband speed, was given to those present. It was reported that each household will have a connection box close to the highway. It will then be up to each household to sign up to the service, should they wish. An installation from the box to the building could then be arranged or this can be arranged by the householder. There will be further public consultation prior to start of installations later this summer.

The Chairman thanked Mr Vile for his attendance.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no other questions or comments from the public.

There being no other questions or business the meeting closed.