

**MORETON, BOBBINGWORTH AND THE LAVERS PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL PARISH MINUTES**

**Meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting

**Date:** 17 May 2022

**Time:** 7.15 PM

**Venue:** Moreton Village Hall

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**PRESENT:** Cllr Collins (Chairman), Cllr Busch, Cllr Crosbie, Cllr Darken,  
Cllr Foulser, Cllr Hall, Cllr Martin, Cllr R Padfield, Cllr A Stuart

**Also in Attendance (1):** Gurdip Paddan – Clerk

Members of the Public: (4)

**AP.01 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Cllrs Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**AP.02 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021-22**

The Chairman provided details of his Annual Report for 2021/2022, as below and copies of which were made available:

It has been an eventful and challenging two years since I became Chairman in May 2020, the country had only recently entered the first lockdown, live meetings were not allowed, and we had to proceed with virtual meetings by way of Zoom.

In this way we were able to maintain our by-monthly meetings and deal with any issues which arose, but it was different from a live meeting, we missed the inter reaction which comes from all being in the same room together.

In May last year we had the local elections when eight of our fourteen Councillors stood down and eight new Councillors were elected along with the other six who were re-elected. In the past we have sometimes struggled to achieve our full complement of Councillors, so it was encouraging that there were enough people locally who were prepared to stand.

Then in July last year our Clerk Julia Milovanovic abruptly announced she was resigning and departed in a matter of days which meant we not only had to find a new clerk, but also ensure the business of the Parish Council continued. This was a challenging time for the Council as a majority of Councillors had only recently been elected for the first time. As has previously been minuted the Council was very fortunate that Councillors Busch and Foulser offered to undertake the administrative and financial procedures required to enable the Parish Council to continue to function and I am very grateful for the many hours of unpaid work they contributed. I would also like to thank Adriana Jones, a previous Clerk to the Council who agreed to act as a locum clerk so we could continue to meet as a Council.

Our search for a new clerk was eventually successful and we were delighted when Gurdip Paddan agreed to join us in October last year.

Last May we were able to resume live meetings and that meant we were able to hold our Annual Open meeting in December when about 45 parishioners joined us. Laura Atkinson made a presentation on rural housing and advised the meeting of the results of the housing survey which had been delivered to all parishioners. Prior to the meeting we were once again able to have the lighting of the Christmas Tree which

was attended by approximately 25 people. Thanks to Mrs Sandra Smith who denoted the tree and agreed to turn on the lights.

The Council has acquired defibrillators which have been installed in the telephone boxes in Moreton and Bobbingworth and a first aid and training session is to be arranged in the coming weeks for all Parish residents who wish to attend.

The Parish Council continues to work closely with Community Spirit and much appreciates the contribution made by members of Community Spirit.

The Parish Council continues to work closely with EFDC CountyCare on the Bobbingworth Nature Reserve. Due to Covid, activities on the site have been limited but, we are hoping to resume the “Play in the Park” event later this year.

Following the departure of Adrian Doble, Anita Darken was co-opted onto the Council and has become a valuable member of the Council. Last month we saw the departure of Robert Radbourne who has been a Councillor for 10 years and I would like to thank him for the contribution he has made.

Thanks to the work of Councillor Hall and our Clerk Gurdip Paddan our website has been updated. As well as containing copies of the Agendas and Minutes it also gives details of events which are taking place in the Parish and general news of interest to parishioners.

The work undertaken by the Parish Council has not changed significantly in recent years. We continue to pursue both the District and County Councils regarding potholes, fly tipping and flooding concerns but remain frustrated at the response we receive and the difficulties we experience in trying to get these matters resolved. I am grateful to Vice Chairman, Andy Stuart for the work he has done in proposing new initiatives to try and sort out these problems.

One aspect of our work which has changed is planning. The applications we are now seeing are more numerous and complex and as a result are more time consuming. We endeavour to work with EFDC Planning Department on planning matters despite not always agreeing with the approach it takes.

I would like to thank all Councillors including our District Councillor Ian Hadley for the contribution they have made, and I am particularly pleased by the willingness of some of our new Councillors to volunteer and become involved in the work of the Parish Council. I think this augers well for the future of this Council. Finally, I would like to thank Gurdip for the support she has given me since joining us in October last year. As well as having to become familiar with all the necessary procedures of the Council she also acquired a significant backlog of administrative work which she has now updated. This has involved a lot more work than she had expected when joining us and I am grateful for the extra hours she has put in.

### **AP.03 PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2021-22**

A copy of the unapproved Accounts for 2021/2022 were made available to the public. It was **NOTED** that these accounts were due to be considered for approval at the Annual Council meeting which would be held immediately following this meeting.

Those present **NOTED** that the annual external audit was an agenda item on the Annual Council meeting that would be held immediately following this meeting. It was confirmed that the notice period for the exercise of public rights was expected to be 1 July through to the 12 August 2022, and that notices and Audit information will be displayed on the notice boards and website in accordance with the relevant regulations.

A question was raised on Council reserves and it was clarified that the Council has not agreed a figure for reserves but has maintained a reasonable sum in line with good practise – this being one year’s precept.

AP.04 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions were received from the public:

Parish Christmas Tree – the current Christmas tree has not flourished and it was suggested that it be replaced. It was AGREED that this item be considered at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Chairman .....

Dated .....