

**MINUTES OF THE MORETONHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CLUB ON THE 2 FEBRUARY 2016**

Members present :

Chairman Cllr Willis, Cllrs Jones, Jeffery (part), Dodd, Payne, Hodges, Wimberley, Willis, Austin, Chudley, Simpson, Musialski, and Arnold.

In Attendance: Cllr Gribble (part)

Six members of the public were present including Devon County Council (DCC) officers who were present to answer any question relating to item (8) Bowring Library Building Consultation update.

The Chairman opened the meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.15pm.

Item 14/2016 Apologies

None.

Item 15/2016 Dispensation requests

Cllr Willis had been granted a dispensation to speak only to item (8) Bowring Library Building Consultation update. The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Dodd, would take a casting vote if required.

Item 16/2016 Minutes of the last meeting (05/01/16)

Cllr Jeffery proposed accepting the minutes as a true record, seconded by Cllr Chudley and carried.

Item 17/2016 Matters arising from the approved minutes

1. Item 04/2016 No.3. Christmas lights - the Clerk met with the MBA. Procedures for this year are being reviewed to improve communication. Feedback is being sought on whether to continue to put the small Christmas trees up in the town or change the decorations.
2. Item 05/2016 Steward Wood planning application appeal venue. Cllr Jeffery raised the view expressed at the last meeting which questioned the suitability of Parke for the venue with Stephen Belli. The DNPA process for choosing a venue was followed which includes checking local suitable venues first. The Planning Inspectorate has approved for Parke to be the venue for the appeal.

Item 18/2016 Matters under the Chairman's discretion

1. Queens 90th birthday – the Chairman asked Councillors to consider whether it was appropriate to organise a town celebration during the weekend of 12th – 15th May
2. Clerk's appraisal – the Chairman requested feedback on the Clerk's performance as part of the annual appraisal process. A review of workload and procedures will be included which is likely to include working groups taking their own meeting minutes.

Item 19/2016 Hospital Hub update – Cllr Wimberley

A draft letter outlining strong concerns about the lack of progress with the hospital hub to Mel Stride MP had been circulated. There are now further obstacles relating to building ownership with the possibility of the building being owned by NHS PropCo. The letter challenges this and supports the proposition for local hospitals being run locally. With the addition of minor amendments all Cllrs were fully supportive of sending the draft letter to Mel Stride MP. The Friends of Moretonhampstead Hospital have withdrawn its support for the hub and have agreed to support NEDcare £50k start-up funds.

Item 20/2016 Housing Group Update – Cllr Jones

An update paper on the Devon Home Choice pilot proposals was circulated which recommended a housing eligibility criteria and next steps (Attachment No.1). Cllr Hodges proposed supporting the paper, seconded by Cllr Payne and carried.

Standing orders were suspended for the next item only.

Item 21/2016 Bowring Library Building Consultation Update – Cllr Bas Payne

The Chairman invited members of the public and DCC Officers to take part in the discussion. Cllr Payne outlined the consultation process and summarised the findings, a full report had been previously circulated. (Attachment No.2). There were strong views on the library, youth club and Green Hill.

The two main questions were:

- a. If funding and support for keeping the building can be found, do you think it would be better to keep the library services in the present building – or do you think it would be better to move it to Green Hill? **8:1 supported keeping the library in the Bowring building if possible.**
- b. If it is not possible for the library service to stay in the present building, would you support the proposed move to Green Hill? **5:4 supported moving to Green Hill.**

Approx. 50 people came forward to volunteer or offer a financial contribution (approx. £60k). This would cover the cost of bringing the building up to reasonable condition internally and externally (estimated at £45-55k). Fundamentally the building is in good condition, much of the required work is due to water ingress. Ongoing annual update costs are estimated at £8-10k. It was not clear if DCC would contribute. Upstairs rooms could be let as offices or flats (subject to planning permission).

Cllr Payne highlighted the benefits and disadvantages of the library staying in the Bowring building and moving to Green Hill. Both would offer extended opening hours and increased use. For the library to remain in the Bowring Building a charitable trust would need to be set up to take it forward. Two offers to be trustees have been received.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council and the community gave praise and thanks to Cllr Payne and the working group for its work.

DCC officers reported that from April library services will be provided by Libraries Unlimited, a public service mutual organisation. DCC's preferred option is for the service to relocate to Green Hill but they recognise the community might not agree. Concerns on the impact on the youth club were noted as well as the benefits of a possible relocation to Green Hill. A strong core of volunteers will be needed to extend opening hours wherever it is located. The Bowring building no longer has any tenants and ongoing running costs are a concern. The building will still be retained by DCC and a Lease given to Libraries Unlimited to continue to run the library service. It is possible to asset transfer the building to the town. Libraries Unlimited would pay a fee (to be agreed) for the library service to be available in the town depending on the number of opening hours. The purpose of library changes throughout the county is to make savings. It was commented that it has been very difficult to gather statistics and financial information from DCC.

Standing orders were reinstated.

Cllr Simpson attended a recent MDT meeting at which the following resolution was passed:
If the Parish Council decides following the results of the community survey to pursue the option of forming a new trust to manage the Bowring Library building as a library, the MDT would like to offer our support to that process in any way that would be helpful. Should you wish us to we are still open to looking into how a library could work at Green Hill and to explore how the concerns that have been raised could be addressed.

The following was proposed by Cllr Chudley, seconded by Cllr Austin and carried:

In view of the clear indication from the consultation that Moretonians want the library to stay in the Bowring Library if possible, the working group are asked

- to negotiate with DCC as quickly as possible to find out whether and on what terms DCC would transfer the building to a charitable trust set up for that purpose,

- to apply, on behalf of the PC, for outline PP to change the use of the upper floors of the Bowring Building to use as flats,
- and to make recommendations about possible trustees.

Item 22/2016 Finance and Policy – Cllr Jones

The Chairman reported:

1. the Clerk's pension contributions will be backdated to April 2015, as set out in the budget
2. the office IT equipment will be replaced for a more suitable equipment to reflect work needs and will be priced within the allocated budget
3. Grants for the Sentry seating project are being applied for after which the tendering process will follow.

Item 23/2016 Internal Financial Regulator's Report – Cllr Bas Payne

Cllr Payne stated the accounts have been checked and there was nothing to report.

Item 24/2016 Open Spaces – Cllr Paul Dodd

Cllr Dodd's checklist had been circulated, the following points were noted:

- Finger post toilet signs have been ordered
- Matting for the play area entrance has been ordered
- A memorial seat in memory of Wilf and Jean Wright has been placed in the churchyard
- Letters from a number of members of the public has been received concerning dog mess. Sam Pike has set up a Facebook page raising awareness. The Parish Council will respond supporting the campaign and any efforts to help with this issue. Teignbridge's dog warden will be doing extra patrols. Information will also be put in NIM how to report offenders.

Item 23/2016 County Councillor's report

County Cllr Gribble made the following comments:

- Full support the Council's proposal to further investigate setting up a trust to take the Bowring library building forward. Invest in Devon monies may be available to assist with this.
- DCC budgets are being scrutinised
- Final proposals for this year from government are expected mid-February
- Boundary commission proposals are being submitted to government taking Moreton out of the Bovey area and into Chudleigh and Teign Valley which would come into force 2017.

Item 24/2016 Payment of Accounts

Cllr Chudley proposed approving the accounts, seconded by Cllr Hodges and carried.

MANDATORY PAYMENTS JAN 2016 (FEB MEETING)	
OFFICE RENT (Green Hill - by direct debit)	£308.82
OFFICE RATES	£0.00
CLERKS SALARY (Lammin)	£983.01
OTHER PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION	
COMMUNITY CLUB (venue hire for 2.2.16)	£12.00
WEAREDEVILLE (website and branding work)	£1,440.00
MOOR PRINT (website flyers for NIM)	£95.00
BEN PELL (interments x 2)	£600.00
T A SUTCLIFFE (sentry hedge cut)	£160.00
TALK TALK (telephone and internet)	£22.61
J LAMMIN (Jan expenses - NIM flyer cost and refreshments)	£20.03
TOTAL	3,641.47

Item 25/2016 Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated by email and available in the Parish Council office. There has been a number of responses to the request for Superfast Broadband issues which will be followed up with the portfolio holder at DCC.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

Chairman..... 1 March 2016.

Moretonhampstead Parish Council meeting 2nd February 2016 Devon Home Choice Proposed Pilot Scheme

Summary

Dec 2015 - Julie Lammin met with Graham Davey, Teignbridge District Council, to discuss the possibility of Moretonhampstead getting involved in a “pilot” scheme on closer working relationships regarding the allocation of rural affordable housing in the parish. It was thought that for a number of reasons the current processes are not working as smartly as they could be. The pilot will provide an opportunity to influence the local allocation criteria.

Jan 2016 – The Parish Council agreed to the proposal in principle and for the Housing Group to progress the idea.

Housing Group meeting 29th Jan 2016

The Housing Group discussed two main points:

1. Ways in which the Parish Council can work with Teign Housing to help promote vacancies such as:

To have an up to date list of social housing in the parish
To offer internet facilities to any residents without internet access
Receive details of all DHC vacancies
Advertise any local vacancies via Facebook, Website and newsletters
TDC to provide “to let” boards for PC to put in gardens of vacant dwellings
Promote “good news” stories of local residents being housed
TDC to understand current applicants preferred method of contact, text, mobile etc.
TDC to consider “auto bid” for applicants

2. Housing Allocation Criteria for local lettings

The following proposed criteria was agreed to be presented to the Parish Council:

Those people currently living in the parish and have done for at least 5 years and/or have strong family connections by virtue of upbringing or current local employment. This includes people who have moved away in the past three years. However, if there are no suitable applicants then applicants from adjoining parishes may be considered. Priority will be given to those who work in the Moretonhampstead parish, then those who have lived in the adjoining parish for at least 5 years and/or have strong family connections by virtue of upbringing.

Note:- Only one person in a household will need to meet the criteria.

Next Steps

Feb 2016 - Parish Council to consider the Housing Group’s local lettings criteria proposal.

Feb 2016 - To agree and finalise pilot scheme details with TDC (Housing Group to meet with Graham Davey).

Mar 2016 – Present final pilot proposal to Parish Council

Apr 2016 – 10 minute slot at the Annual Parish Council meeting