



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 7 May 2024
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Community Club

Present

Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright (Chair)
Cllr John Farrand-Rogers (District Councillor)
Cllr Richard Short (Chair of Planning Committee)
Cllr Jan Evans (Chair of Finance and Policy Committee)
Cllr Gordy Keep (Chair of Open Spaces Committee)
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Vivienne Hodges
Cllr Gemma Hampton
Cllr Chris Walden
Cllr Rob Austin

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)
Representatives from the following groups and organisations:
Moretonhampstead Development Trust, NED Care, Moreton Action on Plastics, Fairtrade, Moretonhampstead Sports and Community Centre, one member of the public

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished the groups and organisations success in the coming year.

2. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Short, seconded by Cllr Evans and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2023 as a correct record.

3. SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL'S YEAR

The Council had a presentation summarising the Council's activities which included:

Members of the community joined the Council for the second leg of Beating the Bounds. The council screened the King's Coronation and provided lots of cake! The council have been out in the community hosting litter picks, talks at the school and engaging with the Twinning Association.

The Clerk prepared the Accounts and the Council approved them at the June meeting. Internal checks are carried out monthly. The Council are grateful to Sian Colridge for volunteering to carry out the Council's internal Audits. Sian retired from the role last year.

The Council have maintained the Churchyard to a high standard throughout the year. St Andrew's Churchyard achieved a Certificate of Merit in the 'Devon's Best Churchyard Competition'. The council worked with the Probation Service to restore the Churchyard paths.

Every year the Council gives grants to Organisations based in the parish that provide services which enhance the economic, social or cultural well-being of the community of Moretonhampstead. Last year successful applicants included:

- Community Swimming Pool – £500 to purchase specialised paint
- Moretonhampstead Tennis Club - £100 to purchase coaching balls
- Parish Hall - £400 to fit smoke alarms
- MED Theatre – £500 to continue the provision of free of charge drama groups for the community

The Councils Climate Change and Ecological Working Group have created a monthly Green Tip of the Month to encourage the community to think about their carbon emissions and the environment.

The Council hosted another successful Christmas event, the square was full of stalls selling their wares.

The Council has purchased 20's Plenty signs to remind drivers to slow down.

2023/24 Objectives:

- Churchyard Restoration – The Council has agreed to continue the restoration project
- Lengthsman – The Council agreed to contract a lengthsman
- Improve traffic flow in the square– The Council agreed to undertake a community consultation following completion of the feasibility study.

4. UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JOHN FARRAND-ROGERS

Cllr Farrand-Rogers noted that in the past there had been conflict at Teignbridge District Council (TDC) resulting in strained relationships between officers and councillors. However, relationships have been rebuilt over the last twelve months which should have a positive impact on the services TDC provides. He noted the One Teignbridge project aims to improve the relationship between TDC and town and parish councils and hopes to put local organisations in touch with funding sources.

5. UPDATES FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Local Community Clubs/Groups/Organisations provided the following updates:

NED Care

NED Care reported they have had problems over the last few years; in the last few months they have had a shortage of staff. However, they are now fully staffed for the current demand and can even take on new clients.

Upcoming events: Coffee morning on 22nd June, AGM on 25th June and an Auction on 18th July.

Moretonhampstead Development Trust

Current Wellmoor projects:

Friendly Fridays – paused for Summer months but group will be meeting at the Union. Plan to resume at the Community Club in Autumn/Winter.

Community allotment – weekly working groups with volunteers and people referred to us by health centre. Working with a group in Chagford to set up a similar initiative at their allotments.

Community Shed – still hunting for premises. Some collaboration with the primary school on their grounds.

Devon Daytrippers – trips out and about across Devon. Well received and mostly fully booked. A local community minibus would make this more sustainable to run.

Bumps and Beyond and Art Raft – longstanding groups supported by Wellmoor.

Strength and Balance – running sessions across Moretonhampstead and surrounding areas. Very popular and oversubscribed, an NHS priority due to high risk of hospitalisation after a fall

Active Care Home – subscription based online platform bringing quality music and dance content into care home, trialled at Coppelia House, and now being rolled out across Devon.

Mens Mental Health – priority raised by Health Centre. Awareness raising campaign called ‘Check-Mate’, now looking at setting up groups locally (e.g. walking groups)

Unpaid Carers – acting as ‘Carers Champion’ for the North Dartmoor area, raising awareness about support available and encouraging people to register with their GPs.

Recent stakeholder advisory group brought up the following health and wellbeing priorities in the community:

Community minibus needed by different groups, including primary school and youth club.

Young people’s wellbeing needs to be address (follow up meeting planned with Moretonhampstead Association for Youth to take a ‘youth-led’ approach by listening to young people’s concerns and ideas.

Support for parents, including parent groups and training workshops.

Support needed for sports centre and pool – meeting planned with representatives from both.

Setting up an ‘Affordable Food Club’ in partnership with Knead to Connect for people who are at risk of cost-of-living crisis – an alternative to the food bank model, members self-refer and join the weekly club which charges £5 per bag using redirected surplus food.

Supporting groups in town to advertise volunteer roles and recruit new volunteers, possibly through volunteer hub on a website or volunteer fair.

Wellmoor welcomes all feedback from the Parish Council on particular needs or priorities for the town as well as any opportunity to collaborate.

The Green Hill Arts Open Exhibition is back.

We are delighted to be sponsored by Dartmoor Magazine for our upcoming Open Exhibition, offering every participating artist the opportunity to take part in a professionally curated show at Green Hill.

We will be accepting submissions on our website from the 1st of March 2024. Submissions will close at midnight on the 12th of May, and then successful applicants will be contacted on the 28th of May.

Moretonhampstead Swimming Pool Trust

We are grateful to the Parish Council for their financial support, MSP having been successful in securing a share of the small grant funding available. These contributions are used to replace and renew equipment that is beyond its useful life such as gazebos and parasols for shelter (rain and shine), pool toys, paint, picnic benches etc. All these things help to enhance the facilities we offer and make visits to the pool more enjoyable.

We are pleased to announce that our application to the government led national Swimming Pool Support Fund (Phase 2) has been successful. This supports capital projects to help with sustainable energy efficiency, aiming to reduce the overall running costs of swimming pools going forward. There are still many hoops to jump through before we receive any money but on a positive note are currently in discussions to upgrade and extend the solar panel heating system and we will be seeking the Parish Council's backing for the required planning application to DNP. We will also be able to replace the thermal pool covers, taking advantage of better technology to improve heat retention.

One of our longer-term aspirations has been to re-line the Swimming Pool and preserve its longevity for future generations. Needless to say, the cost is somewhat overwhelming. We generally survive fairly hand-to-mouth but now need to fundraise to the tune of about £50,000 for this project. Funding applications are extremely time consuming to put together but over the winter months we have been working very hard on this and have applied to the Valencia Community Fund. We will know the outcome in June. In the meantime, we are keeping everything crossed. The current lining has been in situ for over 40 years and every year we repair and maintain it as best we can on a budget but a cost effective or sustainable strategy. To future proof our Swimming Pool, more drastic action is required. Without it, it's unlikely that the Swimming Pool will be able to open next year. A new pool lining is an urgent priority. We are grateful for the letters of support, signatures on the petition and messages and drawings from the primary school children, all expressing their love for their community pool. We sincerely hope that these will touch the hearts of the decision makers.

This season we will continue to provide incentives and subsidies to support those in our community who are less able to afford swimming lessons and swimming-based activities. Our application to the Co-op Community Fund has been successful this year, so once again money will be ring fenced for this purpose. The advantages of regular exercise for health and wellbeing is well documented and the Trustees place high importance on affordability not being a barrier to teaching children to swim and then enjoying the associated benefits of being able to do so.

Finally, although we have a strong and enthusiastic lifeguard cohort, we would welcome more volunteers to help cover the reception desk and shop. If anyone would like to get involved, please get in touch.

MED THEATRE

We successfully delivered the programme of work which involved the running of free weekly term time after-school drama groups for young people aged 5-19 from our studio in Moretonhampstead. On average 60 local young people benefitted from this experience. Most of those were involved in the extra output which was a young people's production DartFest performed in Moretonhampstead Parish Hall in November 2023 to two sell out audiences – the collection of plays were looking at what has changed since hunter-gatherer times to now and how our current climate, landscape and society right here on Dartmoor has been affected by the changes.

In March 2024, after much writing and rehearsing we took a cast of 26 Dartmoor people (13 children and 13 adults) on tour to village halls in and around Dartmoor (Manaton, Moretonhampstead, Buckfastleigh and Winkleigh) to share our intergenerational production The Experiment. One statistic from our evaluation that we feel really reinforces why we do our work across the ages was: 99% of 126 audience members strongly agree or agree that "it is very positive that our community plays bring young people over 8 years old and adults together on a regular basis to work collaboratively on an intergenerational activity over an extended period."

Here are some quotes from audience members who watched the intergenerational community play:

"There was a deep and poignant flavour to this theatre despite the humour and light touch that the scientists and other characters brought. Because it was set on Dartmoor, it made the play feel more relevant and impactful. Thank you! Great experience and what brilliant children."

“It’s so valuable as a community resource. Especially for encouraging children in both personal development and understanding and exploring issues. One of very few truly intergenerational local opportunities.”

“I think your work bringing young people together and giving them theatre skills and confidence helps with life skills.”

We want to thank the Parish Council for believing in the work we do and offering us this support.

6. QUESTIONS

A member of the public congratulated the parish council on their work on 20mph and traffic safety. He asked the council to consider lobbying Dartmoor National Park for a blanket 40mph zone that covers the whole of Dartmoor National Park. The Chairman thanked the member of the public and referred the issue to the Highways working group.

The meeting finished at 18.56pm.

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