



# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

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**Date:** Saturday, 5 April 2025  
**Time:** 9.45am  
**Venue:** Community Club

## Present

Cllr Mike Warner (Vice-Chairman)  
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 Vivienne Hodges  
Cllr David Bridger

## Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)  
Representatives from the following groups and organisations:  
Moretonhampstead Development Trust, Moretonhampstead Swimming Pool Trust, MED Theatre,  
Moretonhampstead Twinning Association, members of the public

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Vice-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 Evans, seconded by Cllr Hodges and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 as a correct record.

## 3. SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL'S YEAR

The Council had a presentation summarising the Council's key achievements and future plans which included:

### Traffic & Highways

- Commissioned a professional Traffic Study, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- Partnered with SANDS Consultants to assess ways to reduce through-traffic, improve pedestrian safety, and support local business needs.

### Shop Front Grant Scheme

1. Signed.....

4 April 2026

- Awarded £10,000 from UKSPF to support the enhancement of local shopfronts.
- Six businesses upgraded their appearance, contributing to a more vibrant town centre.

### **Open Spaces & Safety**

- New seating installed at the Henge (thanks to volunteers).
- Play area improvements, including new safety matting.
- Memorial testing undertaken to ensure public safety at St Andrew's Cemetery.

### **Community Engagement**

- Successful Christmas Market & Parade 2024, with strong turnout and community spirit.
- Emergency Plan Coffee Morning encouraged local resilience planning.
- Preparations underway for VE Day 2025 with a community tea party and history walk.
- Increased focus on dog fouling awareness, with additional signs installed.
- Awarded seven grants totalling £2,200 to community groups.

### **Financial Overview**

#### **Precept for 2025–26**

- Set at £55,940, a slight increase from £55,270 in 2024–25.

#### **Key Budget Decisions:**

- Increased funding for staffing, office upgrades (new computer), and cemetery maintenance.
- Lengthsman budget reduced from £10,000 to £2,500, with a shift toward volunteer-led weed control initiatives.
- Budget remains focused on open space maintenance, community events, and professional services.
- Reserves continue to support grants, elections, and emergency projects.

### **Volunteers & Acknowledgments**

The Council extends its thanks to the many volunteers and sponsors who contribute time and effort across various areas, from event marshalling to open space care. Their input remains essential to community wellbeing.

#### **Upcoming Projects:**

- Act on the traffic study's recommendations.
- Implement new open space contracts (from March 2025).
- Expand community events and encourage greater resident involvement.
- Promote Parish Council grants to support local groups and initiatives.

#### **4. UPDATES FROM LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS**

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

##### ***Moretonhampstead Swimming Pool Trust***

Looking back, 2024 was another tricky year for the pool given the economic climate and poor summer weather. So, the pool will be opening for the 2025 season on a shoestring! On a brighter note, the 2024 lifeguards and shop workers were a strong team, and most are returning for 2025. In 2024, the pool continued to offer subsidised swims through the Co-op Community Fund, which will continue into 2025, alongside a collaboration with Wellmoor, focusing on the wellbeing benefits of physical exercise. We were also funded by the Parish Council for a new banner to advertise the pool. During 2024 the pool successfully applied for the national Swimming Pool Support Fund, and were awarded £40,000 for solar panels with battery storage and new thermal pool covers. This will future proof the pool and make it as self-sufficient as possible. The next 'big ticket' fundraising item is a new fibre glass pool lining which needs £50,000. All donations and funding contributions received since the start of the 23/24 financial year have been 'ring fenced' for this and the Trustees wish to acknowledge with gratitude (in no particular order): The Carnival Committee; The Sports Centre (fireworks draw); Mid Devon Cycling Club; Teignbridge District Councillors Fund; Vain du Pain; Devon Freemasons; Music Day (draw); North Bovey Fair; Devon County; Councillors Locality Budget; Moor Football (Fiesta beneficiary); Moreton Bowls Club; Moreton Parish Council; Private/anonymous donors. Trustees are also applying for small grants, promoting our Just Giving page (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/moretonhampsteadswimmingpool>) and exploring match funding/crowdfunding options, but if anyone would like to donate, big or small amounts, please do get in touch with the team at: [moretonhampsteadpool@gmail.com](mailto:moretonhampsteadpool@gmail.com).

##### ***MED THEATRE***

Thanks to Moreton Parish Council for supporting MED Theatre through our recent change in our circumstances. With crucial help from supporters such as the council, we have been able to continue to offer our grassroots young people's opportunities, no longer in our studio as we were before, but from the Peter Gunning room in the parish hall, and we are looking forward to be moving into The Bell in the coming future.

We have worked with 28 young people regularly on a Tuesday after school. These young people have been directly benefitting from your grant. We have offered bursary places for young people where cost is a barrier, ensuring that everyone can work creatively as equals side-by-side. On top of this number we have been able to outreach to more young people in the surrounding communities as a result of our organisation being able to continue.

We held a young people's festival of theatrical talent called DartFest in December 2024, where a collection of original theatre, music and dance was performed by our young people to local audiences with full technical support from our professional team, a great experience for the young performers.

We've created 3 new freelance roles for local based creative people including a young apprentice role for teenagers who are interested in getting a first paid job on their CV. We have also given some crucial volunteer experience to some other teens who are working towards their achievements of Duke of Edinburgh award.

Thank you for your continued support, The community of Moretonhampstead definitely feels like our home and we plan for that to continue for years to come, and hope to offer more creative opportunities for young and old in the future.

##### ***Moretonhampstead Twinning Association***

##### **Celebrating 50 Years of Friendship**

2025 marks a significant milestone as the Moretonhampstead Twinning Association celebrates its 50th anniversary. The group has continued to build strong links with our twin town, Betton, in Brittany, France, and remains an important part of Moreton's community life.

### **Recent Activities**

- The Association is grateful for the ongoing support of the Parish Council.
- Over the past 12 months, the focus has been on engaging younger families and making twinning more accessible to the next generation.
- Partnered with South Dartmoor Community College (SDCC) on:
  - A penpal project between students in Moreton and Betton.
  - A scone-making session and guided tour for visiting students.
  - A return visit to SDCC by the Betton twinningers.

### **Looking Ahead**

- A visit to Betton has been arranged for 23rd August 2025, timed so that participants return in time for Moreton Carnival.
- Due to Betton's growing size and multiple twin towns, arranging visits is becoming more complex—but enthusiasm remains strong.
- The Association is offering highly discounted places for children accompanied by an adult to encourage wider participation.

### **Fundraising & Community Events**

- A fundraising breakfast will be held at the Parish Hall on 11th April to help support the upcoming exchange trip.

The Twinning Association continues to be a valuable way to experience cultural exchange, build lifelong friendships, and celebrate community spirit—here's to the next 50 years!

The meeting finished at 12.00pm.