261201 – Item 16 – Emergency Planning

Correspondence received 01/11/2026 from a member of the public:

Having spoken to a number of folk in the town about the information put forward by the government and other sources of information. Concern amongst them is growing that nothing has been presented by the town council, to the community, on how we can prepare our town for the forthcoming events that will affect us when and if there is a disruption in the in-fracture of the country.

Has there been or is there any INTENTION of a debate in the town council, to set up an advisory committee to support this community. It's best that we are prepared in our own community and not be reliant on this government.

We are fortunate that we have many folk around here with the knowledge of self-sufficiency.

So meetings should be arranged so that this knowledge can be passed onto the community.

We're unlikely to expect landing craft on the beaches, but far more likely to be struck with cyber-attacks disrupting the electricity and gas grid, access to the internet, covert operations destroying establishments etc.

We have already had these attacks in Britain which have been covered up by the government.

Listen to Andrew Neil report on this subject.

Other countries are way ahead of informing the public and preparing the country for readiness in case of an emergency.

Let me know what's happening in Moreton, because if nothing is to be done, then we are going to prepare our own community group so that this town is PRERPARED!

Clerk's Note:

The Council has a Community Emergency Plan in place. This plan was activated during the Covid-19 pandemic and proved effective in coordinating local support. Working with community organisations and volunteers, the Council helped facilitate a volunteer network which coordinated prescription collections, shopping deliveries and welfare support for residents who were unable to leave their homes.

The current plan now requires review and updating. Work has already commenced on this and will be based on the template and guidance produced by the Devon

Community Resilience Forum (DCRF). I have attended both online webinars and in-person events organised by DCRF and has been researching current best practice in community emergency planning.

Guidance from DCRF emphasises that emergency plans are most effective when developed with the involvement of local residents, organisations and volunteers who can contribute local knowledge and practical skills. The guidance recommends holding a public meeting to explain the benefits of emergency planning, identify local risks and recruit volunteers to assist with developing and implementing the plan. DCRF offer grants of up to £250 to support this work.

I suggest that the Council establish a working group to review and update the existing plan, drawing on local knowledge and community expertise. The working group could also organise a community engagement event during Spring 2027 to raise awareness of emergency preparedness and recruit volunteers. Once reviewed and updated, the plan would be presented to Full Council for consideration and approval.

Recommendation

That the Council:

1. Notes the correspondence and replies with the draft below.
2. Establishes a working group to assist with reviewing the emergency plan and recruiting volunteers.
3. Supports the organisation of a public engagement event in Spring 2027 to discuss community resilience and recruit volunteers.

Draft Response

Dear [Name],

Thank you for your email and for sharing your thoughts on community preparedness and resilience.

The Parish Council does have a Community Emergency Plan in place and has previously activated it when required. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the plan worked well and enabled the Council to coordinate local support, including volunteer-led prescription collections, shopping deliveries and welfare checks for residents who were unable to leave their homes.

The Council recognises that the current plan now requires review and updating. The Clerk has already begun researching this work and has attended webinars and events hosted by the Devon Community Resilience Forum, which provides guidance and support to local councils developing emergency plans.

Current best practice recommends involving local residents, community groups and volunteers in the preparation of emergency plans so that valuable local knowledge and skills can be incorporated. One of the key challenges is recruiting volunteers willing to undertake various roles during an emergency.

Your email has therefore been brought to the Council's attention and the Clerk has recommended that councillors consider establishing a working group to review the existing plan and organise a community event to recruit volunteers and gather local input. This work will take place during the spring.

Moretonhampstead is fortunate to have many residents with a wide range of practical experience and local knowledge, and any future review of the emergency plan would benefit from community involvement.

Thank you again for raising this important matter. Updates will be provided through Council meetings and publications as the work progresses.