

Morton Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Morton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 15 June 2016** at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Main Road, Morton, DE55 6GS

PRESENT

Cllr R Austin, Cllr J Browne, Cllr A Coates (Chair), Cllr J Funnell, Cllr C Lawton, Cllr S Pleming, Cllr B Roe.

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr A Cooper – N E Derbyshire District Councillor
 Cllr K Gillott – Derbyshire County Council
 Tina Frost Morris – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
 Members of the public

01/06/16 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A Dean, Cllr R Martin.

02/06/16 - COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None

03/06/16 - DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

None

04/06/16 - RECORDING AND FILMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council was noted.

05/06/16 - PUBLIC SPEAKING

Matters raised by members of the public and by councillors: Drain cleaning at Sitwell Villas did not appear to have been carried out for some years. North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) would be contacted to request that drain clearing and road sweeping services be resumed.

06/06/16 - COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Gillott outlined the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) cuts that had been agreed including the closure of half of the Counties Children's Centres and a reduction in short break grants for children with a disability. Further discussions regarding school transport, voluntary sector grants and subsidised bus services would be taking place in the coming months.

07/06/16 - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Cooper updated the meeting on the planning position for Oakview Gardens and stated that no planning application had yet been received.

08/06/16 - POLICE UPDATE

The written report was noted which showed one crime during May 2016 which was of an offender pushing their father up against a wall.

09/06/16 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2016

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 May 2016 be approved as a true record.

10/06/16 - TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY AGENDA ITEM SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

An item to discuss the Clerk's hours would be dealt with following the exclusion of the public and press.

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public would be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1, in order to discuss the item at the end of the meeting.

11/06/16 - MATTERS TO REPORT

- a) Zebra crossing signage – A concern had been raised regarding the signage for the crossing.
- b) Access by mowers to the field at the rear of Morton Manor –NEDDC would be contacted again and Councillors offered to meet the District Council representative on site if necessary.
- c) Appointment of new Councillor – Alison Dean was welcomed as the new co-opted Councillor.
- d) Donation received from Mrs P Weeks for planting around pit wheels – A letter of thanks had been sent to Mrs Weeks for her kind donation.
- e) Planters – The new planters had not yet been delivered but would be in situ in the next week.
- f) Resignation of Councillor – Cllr Russell Martin had tendered his resignation as a Councillor and he was thanked for his service to the Council. A letter of thanks would sent.

12/06/16 MATTERS FOR DECISION

- a) Village hall lease – this item was deferred until a decision was required.
- b) Seat for the top of the pit tip – The approval from Derbyshire County Council was still awaited and no further action would be taken until this had been granted.
- c) War Memorial cleaning – The extent of the cleaning and tidying would be reviewed prior to a course of action being agreed at the next meeting.
- d) Increase hours of Clerk due to increased number of meetings

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public would be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1, in order to discuss the item at the end of the meeting.

- e) Proposal for maintenance of "What's on" section of Website - Cllr Pleming agreed to come back to the next meeting with a proposal.
- f) Website improvements – A quotation for £100 had been received in order to modify the website to allow each village organisation their own web page that they could update. Cllr Pleming would take this into account during her review at item 12/06/16 e).
- g) Local Plan – The Council could draw up a local plan for Morton village which would include the level of planning that the community found acceptable. The development of a local plan would involve a good deal of work but a grant to purchase professional advice was available.

RESOLVED – Cllr Coates agreed to make contact with another Town/Parish Council to ask if they would talk through the process with Morton Parish Council.

- h) Christmas Trees – Solar powered Christmas decorations would be investigated.

RESOLVED – To obtain quotations from alternative suppliers to either rent or purchase solar powered Christmas decorations.

- i) Planting – The hanging basket brackets had been removed by the previous supplier and this had delayed the erection of the new baskets. The planters had been planted up and a donation has been received for plants and tidying of the pit wheels.

RESOLVED – To contact the new hanging basket supplier to ask them to supply the hanging baskets brackets as part of the agreed price.

RESOLVED – To approve the payment of up to £360.00 plus VAT for hanging basket brackets should the supplier refuse to provide the hanging basket brackets as part of the contract price.

RESOLVED – To approve the payment of £60.00 plus VAT to Woolley Moor Nurseries for plants for the planters.

RESOLVED – To approve the payment of up to £25.00 to Mrs Mason for the cost of plants provided for the planter on Stretton Road.

RESOLVED – To approve the payment of up to £40.00 for a planter and plants to be located at the top of the steps between the pit wheels. Cllr Roe agreed to make the appropriate arrangements.

- j) Grass cutting – There had been a continuing problem with the New Street football pitch being marked out and then all the markings mowed off a week later by a different contractor. Steve Smith from Morton Athletic Football Club offered to mark out the football pitch instead, with the Council funding the cost of consumables.

RESOLVED – NEDDC would be contacted to establish if the Council could withdraw from the current marking out arrangement.

- k) Tidying and planting on the triangle – A quotation had been obtained from Brian Waterfall.

RESOLVED – To approve the payment of £35.00 for an initial tidy and then £10.00 per month thereafter for tidying and trimming on the triangle by Brian Waterfall.

- l) Footbridge corrosion – The girders under the footbridge at the bottom of the lane leading from Morton Manor over to Stonebroom were severely corroded.

RESOLVED – To contact the Countryside Service to ask their advice on what action should be taken regarding the corrosion.

- m) Waste bins - NEDDC had agreed to inspect the waste bins in the village but could make a charge for any replacements. Morton Grange had kindly offered to purchase a new bin for Sitwell Villas which would include an ashtray facility. Smoking in the bus shelter at Sitwell

Villas continued to be a problem although it was illegal to smoke inside the bus shelter itself. Residents were urged to report anyone found smoking in the shelter.

- n) Village tidy up day – A tidy up day would be arranged for late summer.

RESOLVED – To contact NEDDC regarding whether they would provide a free skip.

RESOLVED – To obtain quotations for the cost of hiring of a skip.

- o) Street light on car park at New Street – DCC had stated that they would install a street light on the car park if the Parish Council paid for the light and installation, plus a commuted sum for the running cost of the light.

RESOLVED – That the cost of the street lighting would be prohibitive and therefore did not wish to pursue the new lighting on New Street car park.

- p) Speed reduction campaign – DCC were not willing to make Morton a 20 mph speed reduction area due to it having a B road running through it. A poster campaign could still be pursued although the posters could not be attached to the lampposts without a lengthy approval process.

RESOLVED – That Cllr Brown would liaise with the school and speed reduction group regarding a poster competition to produce a poster for the speed reduction campaign.

RESOLVED – That the posters would be attached to the bus shelters, noticeboards, school railings and in the pubs.

- q) Stall at the Gala on 26th June – A stall at the Gala was felt to be a good way of communicating with the community.

RESOLVED – Cllr's Brown, Coates, Lawton and Fleming agreed to co-ordinate and man a stall at the Gala.

13/06/16 - FINANCE

- a) Payments (including those approved earlier in the meeting)

Cheque Number	Supplier	Description	Net Amount	Gross Amount
001484	T Frost Morris	Clerk's salary (01 May–31 May)	£423.00	£423.00
001484	T Frost Morris	Clerk's expenses 01 May–31 May)	£25.99	£25.99
001485	HMRC	PAYE tax	£84.60	£84.60
001486	Andrew Coates	Reimbursement for additional domain on website	£9.99	£11.99
001487	JS Marriott & Co	Internal Audit Services	£300.00	£300.00
001488	Brian Waterfall	Mowing, weeding, tidying play area & pit wheels	£185.00	£185.00

RESOLVED - to approve the above items for payment and these were signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllrs Coates and Lawton.

- b) The budget monitoring for the period ended 31 May 2016 were noted and approved.
c) The internal auditors report 2015/16 was reviewed and the following actions were noted:

- A schedule of the Council's internal control system should be drawn up so that the full Council and also any incoming Clerk can be familiarised with its workings.
- The Risk Assessment should be reviewed annually so as to ensure its continued suitability to the Council's needs.
- The Clerk is an officer of the Council and as such can only be treated as an employee and must be included in the Parish PAYE scheme.

14/06/16 PLANNING

- a) Parish Councillors, residents from Oakview Gardens and an officer from NEDDC met shortly after the Parish Council meeting in May to discuss the residents' concerns over the proposed planning application on land south of Oakview Gardens.

15/06/16 DALC CIRCULARS

None

16/06/16 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) NEDDC invitation to District, Town & Parish Council Conference. Cllr's Brown, Dean, Funnell and Roe would be in attendance.
- b) Derby & Derbyshire Mineral Local Plan – No comment would be made on the plan.
- c) NEDDC request for donation to Western Park Hospital Cancer Charity – The Council declined to donate at this time.

17/06/16 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Funnell reported on the activities for the village hall. Cllr Lawton reported on activities at the church and Morton Events Committee.

18/06/16 ANY ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 20 JULY 2016

- a) Councillor casual vacancy
- b) Fireworks entry fee
- c) War memorial cleaning/tidying
- d) Village tidy up day
- e) Proposal for maintenance of "What's on" section of Website
- f) Seat for the top of the pit tip
- g) Solar Christmas Trees
- h) Access by mowers to field at the rear of Morton Manor

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20 July 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Main Road, Morton, DE55 6GS

CONFIDENTIAL

19/06/16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS ONCE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

Clerk's Hours – Following the increase in the number of Parish Council meetings the number of hours worked by the Clerk needed to be increased to accommodate the extra workload.

RESOLVED – to pay the Clerk for the hours worked each month and then review the number of contracted hours in December 2016 when the numbers of hours required had been established.