

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD 21st. APRIL 1981 IN MORRIS HOUSE, 7.00pm

PRESENT : Dr. D. Hunt (Chairman) Cllr. Mrs. Hudston (V/Chairman)

Cllrs. Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Bacon, Mrs. Shepperson, S. Gough, S. Towndrow, A. Harris, R. Swan

ALSO PRESENT : Sgt. Coleman, P. C. Flint, 7 Members of the Public, Cllr. Bert Parr.

AS/1. MINUTES of the last Annual Assembly Meeting were approved and signed.

AS/2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES - Nil.

AS/3. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Dr. Hunt welcomed the visitors present and went on to give a comprehensive report of the Parish Council activities over the past year. With the introduction of the Police liason, he felt sure this had resulted in reduced vandalism and merited every praise. He asked the Officers present to convey the thanks to their Senior Officers. The Toxic Tipping and the Dioxin issue had been the source of great activity and he traced this in detail of meetings with County and Coalite and of enquiries from responsible people up to Ministerial level. Despite the lack of success to date, the fight would go on. He was pleased that the Evershill Lane flooding had been resolved and currently, an effort was being made to resolve the parking problem on Main Road. The Footpaths Committee remained active and had been present at the enquiry relative to the Diversions of Footpaths in the Toxic Tip area. This had been something of a fiasco and the County Council had conceded maladministration. Currently, Footpath 7 was a vexatious problem and enquiry had been submitted to the Minister. With the introduction of a private maintenance firm, problems were encountered on Street Lighting but this was continually monitored and reported. Mrs. Hudston was currently enquiring into the issue of the Parochial Church Measure that had taken an incumbent Vicar away and an appeal was standing pending these enquiries. The Village Hall had received repairs and been interior decorated and the outside painting was awaiting weather conditions. He congratulated the Management Committee for their efforts and on making a small profit. The Parish Council team reached the semi-final in the County Quiz which was most praiseworthy. A new Playing Field had become operative on Pilsley Road area, some landscaping effected on the Recalamation area and the Council had been represented on the Sports Council of N.E. Derbyshire. Bus Services had been most controversial and meetings had been held with County and Bus Company Officials. Members of the Council were serving as School Managers and Planning matters were efficiently scrutinised and objections made when these became necessary. He concluded by thanking everyone for their co-operation and efforts to resolve any issue that arose relative to the Village interests, particularly a 1p Rate reduction. In moving thanks to Dr. Hunt for his report, Cllr. Harris stated that the issue of Footpath 7 was a sore point and he hoped it would soon be resolved along with others, and other matters currently controversial.

AS/4. POLICE MATTERS

The Officers were requested to look out for dumping of rubbish on Higham Lane. This was mainly garden refuse and the Clerk intimated a lot of this could be avoided if the District Council had not refused to collect this type of refuse. The Officers reported that Footpath 7 was still monitored but to date, no person had been caught. They thanked the Chairman for his good wishes and suggested letters be sent to other Officers regarding the parking on Main Road.

AS/5. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Chambers queried the validity of a 1p. Rate reduction and thought this would have been better utilised for Street Lighting Improvements. He went on to speak about the Dioxin and Toxic Waste issues and addressed heated questions to Cllr. Parr as to why he had not signed the petition to the Ombudsman. The Chairman interceded and stated any matter was open for discussion but not on a personal basis attitude. Cllr. Parr replied to Mr. Chambers he was of the opinion that the case presented contained too many irregularities. Mr. Chambers went on to suggest a Magistrates Order against the County Council regarding Footpath 7 but the Clerk advised on the legal aspect against this. Mr. Chambers next queried the cost that was involved relative to the Parochial Church Measure. Mrs. Hudston replied with the current position and stated that no finance had been involved so far. Regarding Street Lighting, the Chairman replied this was not forgotten and a note was in the files in readiness for future discussion.

A lengthy discussion ensued in respect of the installation of a 'Space Invader' machine for the use of the newly formed Youth Club in the Village Hall. The Chairman had been involved in this dispute as giving 100% support to the venture and explained in detail how this had started through a phone call to him by Cllr. Swain. It was evident that both Cllr. Swain and himself had been somewhat misled and Cllr. Swain corroborated and also explained the issue and dialogue with Dr. Hunt. It had never been intimated that the Management Committee had the sole right to make decisions and the Parish Council usurped these rights. Cllr. Towndrow explained at length that there was a Meeting of the Committee pending to determine this and other matters. There was no inference of 'fish for one and flesh for the other' and any amenity introduced should and would be for the benefit of everyone using the Hall. Storage space was becoming a problem and if this continued the Hall would soon become more of a storage place rather than a Village Hall. The Committee realised organisations had to have equipment in order to operate and the Committee continued to explore the problem of storage space for such equipment. One Lady dismissed this as 'rubbish' at which the Clerk explained explicitly the legal position in relation to the letting of the Hall to the Management Committee by the Parish Council. Whilst the Parish Council remained sole owners, Insurance was shared proportionately and there was no current cover for other peoples equipment storage. In law, the Committee had the sole right of conditions of hire and he reminded the Lady that it was not rubbish that his name was on the Licence and would fail in his duties if he did not ensure that the Village Hall was not run correctly. Mr. Chambers suggested that an avenue of storage space could be explored under the floor and was informed this had been looked into and would be most expensive to convert. In closing the discussion, the Chairman stated that since a Meeting was pending by the Committee, further argument and discussion was useless as they had to make policy on the whole matter and the Parish Council could not intervene.

The issue of a Planning Application for housing development that would take in the Cricket Ground was next raised and the Clerk read out the form received and the plan was circulated. The Chairman assured the Meeting that the Parish Council was fully aware of all the implications in this application and had already given study to this. A decision which he anticipated would be negative would be taken at the following meeting. A resident envisaged a loss of a Village amenity, viz., cricket, if this was allowed and Mrs. Hudston pointed out the involvement of Public Footpaths.

AS/6. CLOSURE

In closing the Meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance and interest in Parish affairs.

Signed...*P. M. Hudston*.....
Chairman

Date...*18/5/82*.....

MORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING HELD IN MORTON SCHOOL, 21st. APRIL 1981 at 7.p.m

PRESENT : Dr. Hunt(Chairman) Cllr. Mrs. Hudston(V/Chairman)
Cllrs. Mrs. Bacon, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Shepperson, S. Gough, S. Towndrow, A. Harris, R. Swain.
ALSO PRESENT : Cllr. Bert Parr, 5 members of the Public.

A/1. MINUTES of the last ANNUAL STATUTORY Meeting were approved and signed.

A/2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES -- Nil.

A/3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1981/82

It was Resolved on the motion by Cllr. Harriss, seconded by Mrs. Roper, that the Officers be re-elected 'en bloc' for 1981/82. The voting as unanimous.

A/4. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was read from the District Council that required notification of which Footpaths the Parish Council desired to be nominated for Byelaws Prohibiting Riding of Horses on Definitive Map Footpaths.

Following discussion, it was Resolved to nominate all Footpaths on which there were no stiles since it was felt that such stiles were a restriction in themselves.

A/5. PLANNING MATTERS

381/315. Front Porch at 45 Stretton Road for M. Scurah. No objections.

381/347. Residential Development(16 dwellings on site of 17 Main Road for Mrs. M. King. OBJECT on the grounds that this is back filling development, public footpaths are involved and infringed and easy and non-dangerous access and exit cannot be envisaged from such development. Voting was 8 for and S. Gough abstained.

381/348. Residential Development on land rear 17 Main Road for Mrs M. King(5 Dwellings) OBJECT on same grounds as 381/347.

381/405. Extension to form Kitchen, Utility Room, Bedroom and Garden Store, 39 Stretton Road for S. Cotterell. No Objections.

381/412. Proposed replacement vehicle store, cowshed and general storage, Sycamore Farm for D. Totty.

381/434. Garge at rear of 152 Main Road for K.A. Radford. No Objections.

381/436. Residential Development(/ Bungalows at 1 Main Road for M. Cowley. OBJECT on the grounds that this is an element of back filling development and access and exit would be positioned near a dangerous bend in the Highway.

381/440. Residential Development(12 Dwellings) on land rear of 'Sitwell Arms' for Courage Brewery Ltd. OBJECT on the grounds that Public Footpaths could be disrupted, a Village amenity of Cricket could be lost and access and exit from such a Development would be most dangerous. Voting was 7 for and Mrs. Hudston and S. Gough abstained.

A/5. FINANCE - O. Heap & Son... Fire Equipment Service... £11.51. Approved.

The Clerk presented a full Statement of Accounts for the Year ending 31st. of March 1981 and stated he had also received Notice of Audit and would carry out the necessary Statutory requirements. Thanks to the Clerk for an excellent report were expressed by Mr. Swain and endorsed by the Council. Report accepted.

A/6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Relative to the Parochial Church Measure, Mrs. Hudston stated that her report to the Annual Assembly Meeting had been brief and it was important that more time be dedicated to this issue as soon as possible. In order to facilitate Mrs. Hudston's request, it was RESOLVED that the next Meeting be advanced to 12th. May 1981.

b. The Clerk was requested to report a subsided man-hole outside 85 Stretton Road.

c. Resolved that membership of the Association of Local Councils be withdrawn.

d. It was AGREED that the Clerk send a copy of the letter received relating to complaints of Higham Lane, to the County Surveyor.

SIGNED.....

Chairman.

Date.....

MORTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN MORTON SCHOOL, TUESDAY 12TH. MAY, 1981, AT 7.00. P. M.

PRESENT : Dr. D. Hunt (Chairman) Mrs. V. Hudston (V/Chairman)

Cllrs. Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Shepperson, Mrs. Bacon, A. Harris, S. Gough, R. Swain, S. Towndrow.

ALSO PRESENT : / members of the Public, 1 Reporter.

31/1. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 17th. March 1981 were approved and signed.

31/2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

- (a) TOXIC WASTE (80/66b refers) - Reports on the Meetings held with Mr. Needham and at District Council level were discussed and the Chairman stated that we had now gone as far as possible as we could. Since Cllr. Bookbinder had obtained the control he had sought at County level, we had now to await to see if the promises made would be fulfilled. He suggested that this Agenda item should now be superseded by other items and anything relative to this issue be dealt with by the Committee unless of extreme importance and urgency. In agreeing with the Chairman, Cllr. Swain stated he was sure Cllr. Bookbinder would keep his promises made.
- (b) FOOTPATHS (80/66b refers) - Letters were read that in the main indicated short of finance to effect all the repairs requested. Relative to Footpath No. 7. it was stated little progress had been made and a further closure order was necessary. A letter from the Dept. of Environment informed of County difficulties and that the position was being monitored. In discussion it was pointed out the dangers of the bridge and whilst appreciating no one should approach this, concern was expressed that schoolchildren were prone to trespass on this area, particularly at holidays. It was Resolved to ask the Police to keep a careful monitoring of the Footpath. Relative to the development that involved the Cricket Field, in reply to Mrs. Hudston, the Clerk stated he had no further information, but suggested that Mr. Blair be invited to meet members on site to discuss this whole issue. This was AGREED.
- (c) VILLAGE HALL DECORATING (80/66c refers) - The Clerk reported that the Decorator was still awaiting a colour scheme for the outside painting. It was Resolved that the Management submit a scheme to the Clerk within a week after which, the decorator proceed to repaint in the same colours if not submitted.
- (d) PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEASURE (80/66g refers) - Mrs. Hudston gave a most comprehensive and detailed report of all her investigations and negotiations relative to this issue. This incorporated finances involved both to the Church and amounts the village would be expected to contribute. Rectory land was also involved and also land associated with the Rectory room. These latter matters were now vested in the Church Finance Dept. and the Parochial Council should enter into negotiations over these matters. Some of the information she had collated was a bit confusing since it did not appear to tally especially in regard to costs of the appeal of which she had varied opinion. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Hudston most warmly for all her efforts and opened a very lengthy discussion on this issue as whether or not to continue with the appeal. In his opinion, the unknown factor was whether or not the village could raise the finance towards the Vicars stipend and this would only be ascertained by a referendum. Cllr. Swain also thanked Mrs. Hudston for her efforts and queried taking legal advice. Cllr. Mrs. Bacon suggested that Mr. Spencer of the District Council might be able to help legally and asked the views of the Clerk regarding this. The Clerk stated that he agreed with Mrs. Hudston, we had varying advices regarding costs, but his own information was that if continued, there would be finance involved and since this was a Parish Council matter only, wherever advice was sought, charge would be made for same. A great difficulty would also arise in finding the legal experts on these sort of cases. It was finally Resolved that Mrs. Hudston inform the Church Commissioners that the Parish Council now withdrew the Appeal and also inform the Parochial Church Council similarly. Two members abstained from voting. In accepting the Councils mandate, Cllr. Mrs. Hudston commented that she felt the Village would be poorer without its own Vicar and other members agreed this sentiment.
- (e) CHURCH LANE GRASS VERGES (80/66e refers) - Cllr. Mrs. Hudston asked if seeding as had been promised could be effected. Clerk would investigate.
- (f) ROAD SIGNS (80/69 refers) - The Clerk had been informed that these would be looked at and a report submitted at a later date.

16) CLOSURE & STOPPING OF FOOTPATH 24. (80/71 refers) - A letter and Plan was received from the District Council of a proposed new route of diversion and asked for comments before being submitted to County level. RESOLVED the plan be accepted. 2 votes against.

81/3. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from County and Police re Parking on Main Road. Following a report by the Clerk it was RESOLVED that the County Surveyor be asked to attend a site meeting to which the Police could be invited in an endeavour to resolve this issue. At the same time, Higham Lane could be discussed.
2. Reply re Higham Lane complaint. See above.
3. Information re Grant Aid for 1982/83. Noted and filed.
4. Grant Aid appeal by Chesterfield Marriage Guidance Council. RESOLVED no grant.
5. Road Safety Minutes. Noted and filed.
6. N.E. Derbyshire Health Council report. Circulated.
7. Information re Local Government Expenditure Control. Noted and Filed.
8. Nominations forms for School Managers. Deferred to next Meeting.
9. Minutes and notice of next Meeting of Various Parishes Environmental Health Committee.

81/4. PLANNING

81/538. Change of use-Shop to Dwelling at 29 Main Road for S.J. Chambers. No objection. Notice that 381/434 and 381/315 had been granted.

81/5. FINANCE

The Clerk reported satisfactory conclusion of the Audit. There were no accounts for payment. It was AGREED the Clerk be awarded a 13% expenses increase from 1/4/81

81/6. ITEMS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

- (a) The Chairman commented on the issue raised relative to Street Lighting Improvements. Members were of the opinion that Morton was probably better lit than most villages.
- (b) A further lengthy discussion ensued on the issue of a 'Space Invader' being used in the Village Hall. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that the Clerk and himself were signatories to the Trust Lease and to protect themselves he had asked the Clerk to make exhaustive examination of the position as it applied. No one had at any time wished to debar any activity whatsoever in the interest of the Village Hall, nor did the Parish Council wish to interfere in any way with Management Committee decisions, but he had to protect himself and the Clerk. The Clerk endorsed the Chairman's comments and wished to correct some comments he was assumed to have made. The clause in the Trust Lease was quite clear and legally it was incumbent upon the Management Committee to apply to the Parish Council for permission to introduce anything of a permanent or semi-permanent fixture into the Hall. He went on to explain in detail Insurance requirements and the alteration of the Inventory Clause in the Lease. He concluded by stating that if anyone thought that either he or the Chairman wished to interfere, they should forget it since his job at all times was to guide the Council and ensure they complied with the Law. Cllr. Swain complimented the Chairman and Clerk for their explanation which clarified the issue. In discussion it was stated that there had been some disagreement regards distribution of proceeds from the machine, the Management claiming the whole for distribution in the interests of all who used the Village Hall rather than for a singular body. It was finally RESOLVED that the Space Invader Machine be not allowed in the Village Hall as a permanent fixture since this would establish a principle whereby other organisations would similarly apply for equipment and apparatus to remain in the Hall. It was further RESOLVED that there would be no objection to the machine being taken in and out on the night of the activity.

81/7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. The Clerk was requested to report a hole in the side of a man-hole outside No. 83 Stretton Road.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date..... 16.6.81

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Morton School, 16th. June, 1981, at 7.30 o'clock p. m.

PRESENT : Dr. D. Hunt (Chairman) Mrs. V. Hudston (V/Chairman)

Mrs. Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Shepperson, Mrs. Bacon, R. Swain, S. Gough, S. Towndrow.

ALSO PRESENT : Sgt. Clark, P. C. Priestley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE : Cllr. A. Harris.

81/18. MINUTES of the Meeting held on 12th. May 1981 were approved and signed after the alteration suggested by Mrs. Hudston.

81/19. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

- a. FOOTPATHS (81/2b refers) - A further notice of closure of Footpath No. 7. was read and also a reply from the Dept. of the Environment regarding same. Following discussion, the Chairman stated we now had to wait to see if the County pulled their finger out and get the job finished as suggested by the D. O. E.
- b. VILLAGE HALL DECORATING (81/2c refers) - A letter had been received from the Management Committee and the Clerk reported he had already informed the Contractor to re-paint in the existing colours.
- c. CHURCH LANE GRASS VERGES (81/2 refers) - Following the reading of a letter from Mr. Caister, Mrs. Hudston stated that the top soil supplied had been in effect a load of rubbish and she had spent considerable time picking out stones and boulders which now awaited removal. After representation to Mr. Caister's Dept. she had been offered a suggestion to use them for scenic effect. The Clerk supported Mrs. Hudston since he had viewed the site and following discussion he agreed to take up the issue and endeavour to obtain some grass seed. Mrs. Hudston commented that the Village Pond would be more desirable.
- d. DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 24 (81/2f refers) - A letter from the District Council informed that the Contractor or County Council would have to meet the cost. A further letter from Stretton Parish Council set out their views on the proposed diversion.
- e. PARKING-MAIN ROAD (81/3(1) refers) - A letter from Mr. Underwood informed that a site meeting would serve no useful purpose, and, he had asked the District Council if they could help on this issue. AGREED to invite the District Council views on a site meeting with the Police representatives.
- f. SPACE INVADER - VILLAGE HALL (81/6b refers) - Cllr. Towndrow and Mrs. Bacon reported on a wrong and harmful report that had been published in the Press and the action taken to refute this. In discussion, the Chairman stated the Minutes of the Council were quite clear and refuted anything otherwise either stated or printed. The Parish Council had not, or did not, want to interfere with the Management Committee rulings, and his opinion was that the decision as stated in the Minutes was democratic and anything stated otherwise was wrong and trouble stirring.
- g. PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEASURE (81/2d refers) - Mrs. Hudston read out the letter sent to the Church Commissioners that notified them of the withdrawal of the appeal. She also read out the reply received that inferred some hope of further consideration of the matter since there would be a delay in ratifying the Measure. The Chairman and members paid compliment to Mrs. Hudston on the quality of the letter she had sent and again paid tribute to the effort she had made on behalf of the Parish Council and indeed, the whole village.

81/20. POLICE MATTERS

It was reported that Gypsies had moved into residence down Red Lane and it was feared that others may soon follow. The Sergeant explained the position with regard to these people and asked that the Clerk report the matter to County level. The Police would keep an eye on the situation as it developed. Dumping of refuse was again reported on Higham Lane and the position as it stood on Footpath 7 was explained for the benefit of the Sergeant who stated this would be monitored. (Following leaving the meeting, the two Officers later returned and informed that they had been down Red Lane and had only observed one empty caravan. A smallholder had informed them that he had seen cars and vehicles reconnoitre the area, probably with a view to moving on)

81/21. PLANNING

Notice that 381/405 and 481/538 had been granted.

The Clerk reported on complaint he had received regarding the coaches on Stretton Rd. It was AGREED the Parish Council had been tolerant too long and the Clerk was requested to discuss this issue with the Planning Dept. Also query breach of building regulations at Sycamore Farm.

81/22. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Notice of Sports Council a. G. M. Noted.
2. Notice of Derbyshire Rural Community Council A. G. M. Noted.
3. Letter re Passenger Transport Plan 3. Clerk sent for a copy.
4. Letter regarding Locally determined Schemes applications. Noted.
5. Appointment of School Managers request. AGREED that Dr. Hunt, Mrs. Bacon, Mr. Gough and Mrs. Shepperson be nominated as the Parish Council representatives.
6. Notice of the VPEHC Annual General Meeting. Noted.

81/23. HIGHWAYS

- a. It was reported that overhanging hedges were a nuisance on the pavement bounding the Reclamation site. Also trees on Station Road required lopping. County to be informed.
- b. It was AGREED to notify the N.C.B. that hedges on Higham Lane required attention.
- c. Comment was made regarding the poor quality of the grass cutting operations around the bungalows and other places. District Council to be notified of this complaint.
- d. Comment was made regarding the re-surfacing of comparatively new roads within the village especially when strict economies are continually being offered when other projects are muted. AGREED to complain to the County Council.
- e. It was AGREED that the Clerk contact the Community Industry Manager with a view to the overhaul and re-painting of the Bus Shelter at the old colliery entrance.
- f. Mrs. Hudston gave a resume of the meeting with Mr. Blair re the Cricket Ground footpath and stated she had ~~filled in~~ ^{filled in} relative forms sent to her by Mr. Blair.
- g. It was reported that barbed wire had been erected across the footpath that served the Red Lane area and following discussion it was AGREED that Mr. Blair be asked to contact Mrs. Hudston on this issue.

81/24. FINANCE

The following account was AGREED for payment :
Dept. of Environment .. Audit Fee.. £32.20.

81/25. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. The Chairman gave a resume of the Quiz(First Round) staged at Wessington which had been won by the Morton team. He thanked contestants and visitors for their support and interest and looked forward to the next round.
- b. Discussion centred around some memento for school children to mark the wedding of Prince Charles and it was finally AGREED that the Chairman enquire at Banking level the possibility of obtaining newly minted Crown coins.
- c. Mrs. Bacon reported on a Meeting of the County Policy & Resources Committee at which the issue of Dioxin dumping and Toxic Waste had been discussed and proposed action to be taken. In thanking Mrs. Bacon, the Chairman stated it was pleasing to hear that promises made were seemingly being kept.
- d. Questions were raised as to why the Chesterfield Advertiser was not circulated in Morton and the Clerk agreed to make investigation.
- e. Questioned regarding the Rocking Horse removal from the Playing Field, the Clerk stated he had no knowledge whatsoever regarding this. He would institute enquiries.

Signed.....
Chairman.

Date..... 23 7 81