

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting held in the Village Hall on the 19th January 2000.

**100/00 Members Present.** Mrs G.H. Bacon, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr G. Freeman and 1 member of the public.

**101/00 Apologies.** Mrs V. Smith, Mrs M. Treweek and Mr A. Jollands.

**102/00 Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th December 1999 were approved and confirmed as a true record subject to minute no. 93/00 being amended to read "Mrs Bacon had attended the meeting at County Hall". Mrs Rowarth had not attended the meeting as stated in the original minutes.

**103/00 Police Report.** P.C Glynn reported that there had been no crimes reported in Morton during the past month which is excellent news.

Mr Darby mentioned that there is a suspected abandoned vehicle, namely a small yellow car, near to the junction of Red Lane/Main Road, Morton. P.C. Glynn is aware of this vehicle and will pursue the matter on our behalf. P.C. Glynn was thanked for attending the meeting, which was in his own time, and left at this point.

**104/00 Items from members of the public.** The fact that the white zig zag lines outside Morton Primary School have not been re-painted yet was raised again and the Clerk will follow this up although he has already sent a letter to the County Council on the 17th December 1999 regarding this and several other issues.

There has been a problem with the lack of refuse collections in Morton over the Christmas and New Year period and in the first instance this will be referred to our District Councillor in order that this can be taken up with the District Council on behalf of local residents.

The traffic calming scheme was raised and it was explained that this has not been forgotten but nothing will happen during the next 12 months as the Parish Council will have to set aside a substantial amount of money, (bearing in mind the size of the precept), before any firm negotiations with the County Council can take place.

**105/00 Planning.** There were no objections to the following planning application :-

**99/00382/OL** - Proposed outline application for residential development on land at Corner Pin Motors, Station Road, Morton DE55 6HN for Mr H. Randle.

This application had only been re-submitted as the original only said "Corner Pin" instead of "Corner Pin Motors" as is correctly stated above.

**106/00 Opencast Site - Rainge and Mickley Farm, Morton.** The Mickley Farm planning application will not now be considered by the County Council until the February planning committee meeting at the earliest and the Parish Council will of course be given due notice of when this is to take place.

**107/00 Finance.** The following payments were approved :-

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NEDDC - school milk (November 1999)	000502	33 . 66
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000503	302 . 49
Key Services - work to improve pit wheels	000504	440 . 63
DCC - millennium coins	000505	187 . 72

**108/00 Parish Council Land.** Mr Darby reported that there doesn't appear to be any problem with drainage on the football field at the moment.

A section of the fencing which borders on our land to that of the riding school is in a poor condition but before this matter is considered in any detail attempts will be made to ascertain whose responsibility it is to maintain this stretch of boundary.

**109/00 Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the members present. The Clerk read out a letter from the District Council regarding the small trench which Mr Whitmore has dug across Red Lane which provides the access to the Parish Council football field; although this may not be an environmental health issue the District Council are under the misapprehension that the Parish Council owns the land on Red Lane when in fact this is an unadopted road; the Clerk will write back to the District Council in order to clarify the position for them and to ask that this matter is passed on to the relevant person either at the District or the County Council.

The draft lease and Epitome of Title in respect of the children's play area at New Street have been received from the County Council and it was decided that these should be perused by the Clerk and Mr Freeman over the next month and a decision concerning what our response should be will be taken then.

Thank you letters have been received from both the Headteacher of Morton Primary School and Monica Clarke regarding the Parish Council's 50% contribution towards the cost of the commemorative millennium coins. Monica Clarke also thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Church for the provision of the Christmas trees again this year as although these are primarily for the use of the school they are transferred to the Church as soon as the school Christmas holiday period begins. It is refreshing to receive such positive comments.

**110/00 Matters concerning the District Council.** Mr Vardy mentioned that the four large bags of leaves, which were collected in the Autumn when the war memorial was tidied up, are still at The Sitwell Arms; the Clerk will now contact the District Council to arrange for these to be collected as part of the garden refuse collection service offered by them.

**111/00 Matters concerning the County Council.** A number of complaints have been received about the road repairs which are being carried out on the B6014; these relate to the poor quality of some of the work, the length of time which it is taking and the dangerous state the road is sometimes left in particularly when it is dark. There is also the more general problem of surface water drainage from the highway in many locations in Morton. It was therefore unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write a strong letter of complaint to Councillor Walter Burrows, who is the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee, together with a request that an officer from the County Council should attend one of our future meetings in order that all of these issues can be properly addressed.

There is a raised services (possibly gas) cover in the pavement just to the left of the Village Hall as you face it and this will be referred to the Area Engineer of the County Council for action together with a reminder that the white zig zag lines outside the school have still not been re-painted following the recent road repairs which have been carried out in this location.

The meeting was declared closed at 8:50pm and it was unanimously agreed that in future a projected finish time will be set at the beginning of each meeting of the Parish Council and upon reaching that time any business which has not been attended to will have to be deferred until the following meeting. This is particularly important in view of the fact that several people have had to depart recent meetings prior to important items of business being discussed.

**Chairman**

16th February 2000



# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting held in the Village Hall on the 16th February 2000.

**112/00 Members Present.** Mrs V. Smith, Mrs G.H. Bacon, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mrs E. Rowarth and 1 members of the public.

**113/00 Apologies.** Mrs M. Treweek, Mr A. Jollands and Mr G. Freeman .

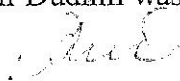
**114/00 Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January 2000 were approved and confirmed as a true record.

**115/00 Police Report.** P.C Glynn reported that there had been two crimes in Morton during January which comprised one theft of a piece of plant machinery and the theft of a newspaper from outside the local shop. Apparently the police are still trying to identify the owner of the yellow Ford Fiesta which has now been abandoned for some considerable time. There being no further items raised P.C. Glynn was thanked for attending the meeting and left at this point.

**116/00 Items from members of the public.** No new items were raised but as a result of the concerns of a number of local residents about the standard of road repairs recently carried out on the B6014, and the general problems of highway drainage in Morton, the Clerk had invited an officer of the County Council to attend the meeting in order that these matters could be discussed in more detail; as a result Mr K. Dudhill, Area Engineer from the County Council, attended the meeting in order to listen to the concerns being raised and to answer these or look further into the problems.

Mr Dudhill began by explaining that the work had been carried out by the County Council's in-house contractors who are called "All Roads". Mr Dudhill explained that the patching works which had been carried out were in preparation for the whole stretch of the B6014 through Morton being tar sprayed and pebbled later this year. Apparently the cost of such work is approximately £1 per square metre compared to £6 to £7 for full resurfacing work to be carried out. Mrs Bacon made the point that areas waiting for repair had been left for more than one night on occasions and not all of these were toward the edge of the road; Mrs Smith stressed to Mr Dudhill that local people in Morton are not happy with the standard of work which was carried out by All Roads. Mr Dudhill stated that they had a contract for a further 18 months approximately and that the full effects of any Best Value review may not be known for some time. The status of Back Lane was raised together with the drainage problems on Stretton Road and Mr Dudhill agreed to look into both of these matters. One of the main problems for the County Council is a lack of resources and although the allocation for the year 2000/2001 is better than in previous years they will still only be working within a 'standstill' budget

Mr Dudhill was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at this point.



**117/00 Planning.** The following planning application has now been refused :-

**CM4/1196/53** - the proposal to extract opencast coal and clay at Mickley Farm, Morton for Onyx Land Technologies Limited of Ketley Business Park, Waterloo Road, Ketley Telford, Shropshire TF1 4JA.

There are obviously still concerns about the possibilities of Onyx Technologies Limited lodging an appeal in respect of this planning refusal and everyone in Morton must remain vigilant to this possibility if the decision of the County Council is to be successfully defended.

**118/00 Opencast Site - Rainge.** Nothing further to report at the moment.

**119/00 Finance.** The following payments were approved :-

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NEDDC - supply of school milk	000506	18 . 70
Gary Brownhill - repairs to Village Hall	000507	434 . 75
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	000508	35 . 44
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000509	299 . 53

**120/00 Parish Council Land.** Nothing further to report at the moment but Mr Darby requested that the maintenance of the War Memorial be put on the agenda for the next meeting and this was agreed.

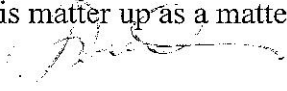
**121/00 Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the members present. The Clerk read out thank you letters from both the Vicar and the Headteacher of Morton Primary School in respect of our joint venture with the school regarding the 'Millennium Medal' which has proved to be generally very popular.

The District Council have recently commissioned a safety inspection for all the play areas which they maintain either for themselves or on behalf of Parish Councils and we are generally in a reasonable position; if and when any works do become necessary we will be notified by the District Council as a matter of urgency.

**122/00 Matters concerning the District Council.** Mrs Rowarth reported that the street sign on Evershill Lane is broken again and this will be reported to the District Council.

**123/00 Matters concerning the County Council.** The Clerk was asked to write to Councillor Walter Burrows, following a conversation he had with Mrs Smith and Mrs Bacon on the 31st January, and request that some top soil and seeding work be carried out on the toxic tip site North of the B6014 at Stretton as although this is just outside our Parish it creates an eyesore as people approach Morton from the A61.

Mr Darby is concerned that no work has yet been done to remove the Ash tree and Elderberry bush on the parapet at the South side of the bridge in Morton; the Clerk will now follow this matter up as a matter of urgency.



**Chairman**

15th March 2000

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting held in the Village Hall on the 15th March 2000.

128/00 **Members Present.** Mrs V. Smith, Mrs G.H. Bacon, Mr B. Darby, Mrs M. Treweek, Mr K. Vardy, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr A. Jollands, Mr G. Freeman and 1 member of the public.

129/00 **Apologies.** None.

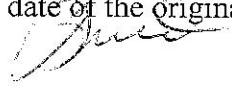
130/00 **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th February 1999 were approved and confirmed as a true record.

131/00 **Police Report.** P.C Glynn attended the meeting and reported that there had been one crime in Morton during February namely the theft of a Transit van. A question was raised about the possibility of getting people on Community Service Orders to do some work in Morton; P.C. Glynn kindly offered to follow this request up on our behalf. It was reported that some vodka bottles had been found on the Bacchus Way play area and broken glass has been found on the cricket pitch at the rear of the Sitwell Arms; this would indicate that there is a growing problem of under-age/inappropriate drinking taking place in the village. Finally, there are increasing problems with under age motorcyclists riding around at the end of New Street, Main Road and also on the school yard. The good news is that the small yellow car which appeared to have been abandoned has now been moved.

132/00 **Items from members of the public.** The hedge on Main Road, Morton, just before the entrance to the old colliery yard on the left hand side heading towards Tibshelf, has been cut back again in an unsatisfactory manner with Hawthorn clippings being left on the pavement; it is also felt that this hedge need not be cut back in such a ruthless fashion. The Clerk will write to the County Council in order that they can take the matter up with the landowners.

133/00 **Planning.** None, other than the fact that Ann Ready has applied for the Justices Licence for The Live and Let Live to be transferred to her from John Eyre. There were no objections to this application.

134/00 **Opencast Site - Rainge and Mickley Farm, Morton.** In respect of the Mickley Farm application apparently the applicants have 6 months in which to appeal against the decision and if they do not there must be a minimum period of 24 months from the date of the original decision before a fresh application can be made.





**135/00 Finance.** The following payments were approved :-

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NEDDC - Election Costs (1999)	000510	12 . 98
DALC - annual subscription	000511	143 . 28
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000512	300 . 25
Morton Playscheme - grant	000513	500 . 00

Cheque number 000495 for £162.15 dated the 17th November 1999 made payable to Key Services has not yet been cashed and this was picked up by the Clerk when he was reconciling the last bank statement. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Key Services to see if they are prepared to wait for the cheque to go out of date before a replacement is issued; if this is not possible the Clerk will have to contact the National Westminster Bank in order to arrange to put a formal stop on the cheque for which there will of course be a small charge levied.

**136/00 Parish Council Land - War Memorial railings.** It was decided that councillors will look at the condition of the railings during the next month and this matter will then be discussed again at the next meeting.

Mr Darby asked about the possibility of a sign depicting the 'centre of England tree' being provided together with the provision of a plaque for the pit wheels. Everyone was asked to think about the wording for these signs and to report back to the next meeting with suggestions.

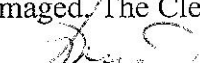
**137/00 Village Hall lease.** The lease to the Village Hall Management Committee expired on the 1st January 2000 and this matter, including looking at the previous lease in some detail, needs to be carefully considered before any decisions are taken. The Clerk will arrange to make some copies of the old lease and distribute them to councillors.

**138/00 Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the members present. The Clerk read out a letter from the District Council regarding surplus funds in the mineworker's' pensions schemes; it was decided that a letter should be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a copy to Dennis Skinner MP, confirming the view that this Council feels that more funds should go to existing retired mineworker's now.

The date of the next District/Parish Liaison meeting has been changed from the 1st March 2000 to the 3rd May 2000.

Mr Burrows' letter regarding the Toxic Waste site was not clear to everyone and it was therefore handed to Mrs Treweek who will seek further clarification on this matter.



- 139/00 **Matters concerning the District Council.** Mr Jollands mentioned the lack of dog fouling signs in parts of the village and he was asked to report back at the next meeting with street names and lamp post numbers in order that it is clear where we would like them to go. The Parish Council will of course be charged for the cost of this work.
- 140/00 **Matters concerning the County Council.** Stagecoach bus number 97A is riding over parts of the triangle near to the Village Hall causing the grass to be churned up and possibly the tree roots being damaged. The Clerk will raise this matter with the County Council as a matter of urgency. 

**Chairman**

19th April 2000