

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on the 17th October 2001.

51/02 Members Present. Mrs G.H. Dyer, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mrs M. Treweek and Mr G. Freeman.

52/02 Apologies. Mrs V. Smith, Mr S.J. Yates and Mr A. Jollands.

53/02 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September 2001 were approved and confirmed as a true record subject to Main Road replacing High Street under minute number 48/02.

54/02 Police Report. P.C. Andrea Smith-Beard attended for this item only and it was reported that there are still problems in the village with off the road bikers. The main focus for discussion was the problem of travellers on the old opencast site although the land they are on is not actually within our Parish. The land is owned by the County Council and there has been a long delay in the serving of notice to remove them from the site. This is partly due to the failure of Social Services to visit the site so far as is their statutory duty. This will be followed up but in the meantime a letter of complaint concerning the current procedures will be sent to the Government with copies going to Mr D. Skinner MP and the County Council. It was felt that if the site was kept tidy and litter free there would be much less reason for local people wanting to have them moved along. P.C. Smith-Beard was thanked for her attendance and left the meeting.

55/02 Items from members of the public. Mr J. Harrop, Headteacher of Morton Primary School, has stated that he has no objections in principle to some of the schools' land being developed to provide a hard surface play area for older children out of school hours; he would however, have to put this to a School Governors meeting in November and he will report back to Mrs Dyer after this meeting has taken place.

There are still some outstanding tree pruning and hedge cutting works to be carried out or enforced by the County Council and these will be monitored. The Clerk will write to the new occupiers of Church Farm as this hedge also now needs cutting again before the winter.

56/02 Planning. The following planning application has been Granted :-

01/00632/FL - Proposed construction of a garage to the side (Conservation Area)
(Amended Title) at 16 Main Road, Morton DE55 6GS for K. Price.

57/02 Finance. The following payment has been made :-

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000587	318 . 21

58/02 Village Hall Lease. Mrs Dyer has perused the proposed lease and it was agreed that we should now proceed with its implementation subject to clarification being sought as to who the Calow Community Association are and also the names of the Trustees who the Village Hall Management Committee would like to have shown in the document; as soon as these details are clarified the Clerk will contact the solicitors, Glossops of Chesterfield, and instruct them to proceed forthwith.

59/02 Parish Council Land. Mrs Dyer reported that a meeting had taken place with Bill Lear from the County Council regarding the possibility of 3 more new bus shelters being provided in the Village on Stretton Road (near to number 28 Sitwell Villas and another near to number 46 Stretton Road) and Main Road near to the school; the net cost to the Parish Council of these 3 shelters would be approximately £7,000 and after a constructive discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should now write to the 2 people living close to the first two shelters to invite them to comment on the proposals before writing to Bill Lear to request the part funding of the shelters. The one near to 28 Sitwell Villas will have a back and top with a seat, the one near to 46 Stretton Road will be enclosed with a seat and the one on Main Road will have a front and top but no seat; all three will be two bay shelters and will match the shelter recently erected near to the Corner Pin public house.

Further compliments have been received regarding the hanging baskets which we displayed during the summer.

There is to be a site meeting with the County Council at 2:30pm on Thursday 25th October 2001 to look at the possibility of restricting the access to the playing field off New Street, Morton.

Mr Darby will retain the correspondence regarding war memorials as this may prove useful in the future if further work is to be done to maintain or improve the memorial.

60/02 Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The County Council have written to confirm that the Derby and Derbyshire Minerals Local Plan: First Alteration: Coal Policies - Revised Deposit Stage will be made available for public comment for a 6 week period up to the 2nd November 2001. It is important to note that at this stage representations can only be made to the proposed changes, not to the original contents of the Initial Deposit Edition of the proposed Alteration. It was agreed that this should be noted but no further action is needed.

Mr S. Kirk has written to confirm that Shirland Miner's Welfare football team has disbanded due to a lack of finance and they will not be using the pitch this season; they have thanked us for the use of the pitch over the last 2 seasons.

The District Council have replied to our complaint about spilled refuse and although they have no record of any complaints in this respect, it has been brought to the attention of the supervisor and he will monitor the area when future collections are made.

The Chief Constable has sent a summary of the discussions which took place at the Derbyshire Constabulary Parish Council Liaison Meeting held on the 17th September 2001; due to the success of the evening it is intended to make this an annual event.

Tibshelf School Prize presentation committee have written to thank the Parish Council for the recent donation of £20 which we made to this years event.

The County Council have sent details of the terms to be applied if we wish to cultivate the Highway Land adjacent to the Centre of England Oak opposite no. 65 Stretton Road, Morton on the B6014. The Parish Council approved the terms as presented and the copy was signed by the Chair of the Council and the Clerk witnessed by the other councillors present; the Clerk will now return this copy document to the County Council whilst retaining the original for our records.

Mrs M. Treweek, who is the Chair of NEDDC this year, has sent an invitation to attend her Civic Service at Holy Cross Church, Morton at 2:30pm on Sunday 4th November 2001 and afterwards for a reception at Clay Cross Social Centre; all parish councillors are invited to attend this event.

Chesterfield Law Centre have also invited us to their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 31st October 2001 at 7pm at the Winding Wheel, Holywell Street, Chesterfield and it was agreed that this be noted but no-one will attend on the Parish Council's behalf.

The District Council have written to confirm that following a site inspection a street nameplate has been ordered for Stretton Road and this will be erected by them in due course.

We have received a certificate thanking the Parish Council for our contribution towards the North East Derbyshire District Council Chair's Appeal for 2001/02.

There is to be a launch of the new Multi-Material Kerbside Collection Service at the Olde House Trading Post, Newbold, Chesterfield on Wednesday 31st October 2001 at 10:00am; after some discussion it was agreed that this be noted but no-one is available to attend this event on the Parish Council's behalf.

The District Auditor has confirmed that the provisional date for depositing the 2000/01 accounts with him is Monday 26th November 2001 at 10:00am at the NEDDC Offices on Saltergate; this is however subject to further confirmation as is the date the accounts can be collected when we are required to attend and receive feedback on how the audit has gone. If the confirmed accounts are not received back by the 31st December a copy of the provisional accounts will need displaying in the Parish in line with the current regulations. The Clerk will keep the Council informed as and when more information is made available by the District Auditor.

The County Council have sent a copy of the revised proposed layout for the School Safety Zone on Main Road, Morton (Dwg.No: C2114/1A) and they want to know if this meets with our requirements. After some discussion it was agreed that the revised scheme should now be approved and the Clerk will inform the County Council of this.

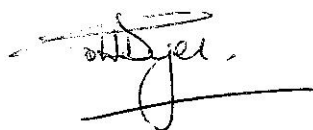
61/02 Matters concerning the District Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the District Council again regarding the problems with refuse collection in Morton. In particular, the fact that the wheelie bins are not being returned to within the curtilage of people's properties needs resolving quickly as the pavements are being blocked to pedestrians throughout the Village.

62/02 Matters concerning the County Council. There was a lot of dissatisfaction raised concerning the speed of response and general approach of the police and the County Council with regard to the moving of gipsies/travellers from land in Morton. The Clerk was asked to write to the Government Minister responsible with a copy to Dennis Skinner MP and the County Council stating this Council's feelings regarding the current legislation on this subject.

Mrs Dyer reported that a meeting had taken place with the County Council regarding the school safety zone proposals and this has now been agreed but with the proviso that the road will not be made narrower as indicated on the original plan.

The County Council have arranged to meet Parish Councillors on site at the children's play area off New Street, Morton on Thursday 25th October at 2:30pm to see if it would be possible to erect a style and fencing to allow people through on foot but which would stop any vehicles.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm



Chairman

21st November 2001

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on the 21st November 2001.

63/02 Members Present. Mrs G.H. Dyer, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mrs M. Treweek, Mr S.J. Yates and 2 members of the public.

64/02 Apologies. Mrs V. Smith, Mr G. Freeman and Mr A. Jollands.

65/02 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th October 2001 were approved and confirmed as a true record.

66/02 Police Report. Sergeant Neil Crofts had rung the Clerk to say that unfortunately an officer would not be able to attend this meeting but that any new matters to report could be referred directly to Sergeant Crofts the following day. A discussion took place about the travellers who are still on the old RJB Mining site although they are likely to move soon as there is a funeral of an older member of their community on Friday 23rd November 2001; in any case they will be due to appear in court on Monday 26th November 2001 to face an eviction order. The crime statistics for the past month show that there were 2 crimes in Morton and it is pleasing to note that there were no further items raised in this respect.

67/02 Items from members of the public. The hedge on the boundary of Church Farm has now been cut back and this looks really well. Mr John Furnell (member of the public) asked about a Tree Protection Order on his land at Church Farm and he was advised that this was most likely the large chestnut tree which overhangs the war memorial. At this point Mr Furnell left the meeting as he had a further appointment to attend but he did indicate an intention to attend some more meetings in the future

The hedge near the bus stop adjacent to the Corner Pin public house has still not been cut back and the Clerk will report this matter again to the County Council.

68/02 Planning. Objections were made in respect of the following planning application :-

01/01134/FL - Proposed retention of double garage at garage site, Evershill Close, Morton, Derbyshire for Peter Kerkhoff. The garages are only used for storage and not for parking vehicles and it was felt that a restriction should be placed upon the future use of the garages for vehicle parking only.

The following planning application has been Granted :-

01/00415/FL - Proposed construction of a single storey extension to the side and rear at 23 Stretton Road, Morton DE55 6GW for Mr D. Keeton.

69/02 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Morton Village Hall hire of rooms	000588	176 . 00
Key Services - churchyard grass cutting	000589	324 . 30
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000590	318 . 11
Mrs M. Treweek - poppy wreath	000591	14 . 25
Morton Primary School - donation	000592	20 . 00
Royal British Legion - donation	000593	10 . 75
N.E. Derbyshire CAB - donation	000594	20 . 00

70/02 Village Hall Lease. This is still being considered by the Village Hall Management Committee and will be reviewed again next month.

71/02 Parish Council Land. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr George Whitmore to ask if he would be prepared to clear the path from the old Miner's Welfare building to the bridge on the Parish Council's behalf as he had done this before; payment would of course be made for this work.

There appears to be a piece missing of the new bus shelter near to the Corner Pin and the Clerk will follow this up with the County Council.

72/02 Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The District Council have written to confirm that they are not able to increase the Highway Verge Maintenance service standard beyond that already afforded; they had written to the County Council with regard to possible further funding as the County Council only pay for 5 cuts per year, but they replied saying that their concern is with highway safety and not aesthetics and as such the non removal of grass cuttings is not detrimental to the operation from their perspective.

North East Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau have sent a supply of their latest newsletter which is designed specifically for Parish Councils and this includes information about referrals received from people in Morton; the CAB hope to produce these newsletters 2 or 3 times per year depending upon the feedback they get. The North East Derbyshire CAB are hoping to extend their services further at a cost in the region of £10,000 and any contribution we are able to make towards the cost of this work would be greatly appreciated; after some discussion it was agreed that a grant of £20 should be made to this important area of work.

An application has been received for the transfer of the licence in respect of the Corner Pin, Station Road, Morton DE55 6HN from Shaun Philip Davies (applicant) and Wayne Grant (manager); the outgoing licensee is Ian Ernest Worsley and the hearing is at the Court House, Brimington Road, Chesterfield on Tuesday 4th December 2001 at 10:00am.

The NALC and The Countryside Agency have sent an update document regarding the National Training Strategy for Parish and Town Councils; this is in connection with the objective of all Councils eventually becoming "Quality Parish Councils" and this is dependent upon all parish and town councils having a competent clerk with the necessary skills together with equally competent, well informed and active councillors. In other words, parish and town councils need to build on existing skills and knowledge to ensure that they and their staff have the expertise to meet the developing demands placed upon them. The support for developing these skills will come from the National Training Strategy which will ensure that every town and parish council has full access to the training they need.

The Derbyshire Police Authority have sent a copy of their Annual Report for the year 2001/02 which is available for anyone to read.

NEDDC have sent a copy of proposals regarding their Corporate Vision and Objectives and would like to receive any comments regarding this by the 30th November 2001.

The District Council have written to confirm that an inspection of the litter problem was carried out in Morton on the 25th October 2001 and they found that what litter there was appeared not to be from the domestic waste stream but was largely crisp packets and sweet wrappers. They have arranged for the main road through the village to be litter picked in the near future and they are also considering the installation of a new litter bin; Sam Wall will discuss the siting of the new bin with us and he would welcome our views on how we can work together in order to improve the appearance of the village.

The District Council have sent a discussion paper regarding their Neighbourhood Partnership proposals which addresses the wish to develop a new Local Strategic Partnership for Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire and the creation of a Community Strategy for the area; included in the discussion paper are a series of questions designed to provide answers to the key issues around this new initiative. These proposals are very much a starting point and any alternative ideas and suggestions this is the opportunity to put them forward for consideration. Responses in writing need to be with Paul Crowson at the District Council by no later than Friday the 14th December 2001 and once all the feedback has been gathered together a further meeting of the District/Parish Liaison Group will be arranged.

Miss J.D. Carlin has replied to the Clerk's letter regarding the proposed bus shelter near to her property at 28 Sitwell Villas, Morton and she strongly objects to this on the grounds that it will obstruct her view when she leaves her drive (she is currently paying for a dropped kerb in order that she can park her car off the road). She would like to see the shelter positioned to the right of her property where there are no properties or to the left just before Sitwell Villas which backs on to open fields; she also makes the point that any vandal damage will create a mess in front of her property if that is where the shelter is eventually sited. After some discussion it was agreed that the County Council will be asked to move the bus stop away from these properties beyond number 30 but still close enough for people to easily access.

The District Council have sent a copy of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2001 and the main changes affecting this Parish Council are that from the 1st April 2001 councils with a precept up to £50,000 may opt to use the receipts and payments system of accounts rather than income and expenditure accounts; secondly, we must publish the annual audit letter received from the auditor as soon as reasonably possible after it is received. It was unanimously agreed that with effect from the 1st April 2001 this Council will revert to the preparation of receipts and payments accounts at the end of the financial year which of course is the 31st March 2001.

The County Council have sent a copy of the Derbyshire Local Transport Plan First Annual Progress Report which relates to the DLTP for the period 2001 - 2006 which we received last year; this is available for anyone to read.

The minutes of the District/Parish Liaison Group meeting held on the 5th September 2001 have been received and are available for anyone to read; the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 6th March 2002 presumably starting at 7:30pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Saltergate although this has still to be confirmed.

Information has been received from the Standards Board for England regarding the new rules of conduct for members; an information leaflet was given to each councillor and the Clerk has received a guidance note for future reference. North East Derbyshire District Council will set up their own local standards committee which will also cover this Parish Council in respect of standards in public office.

The County Council would like to know if we would be prepared to participate in the Greenwatch Award Scheme each year by nominating for awards the unsung heroes of environmental care ie those people who, day in, day out, year in, year out, care for their land and/or buildings in an exemplary way. It was agreed that this be noted but no further action will be taken at the moment.

The DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) has issued its Consultation Paper on Quality Parish and Town Councils and this was made available for anyone to read. After consultation guidance is hoped to be produced in the Spring of 2002 and the scheme will then be initiated shortly afterwards.

Dennis Skinner MP has sent a very comprehensive letter of reply which he has received from Sally Keeble, Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, in response to our complaint about the length of time it takes to move travellers from unauthorised encampments and also the mess which they cause; this was distributed for everyone to read. We have also received a copy of Heriot-Watt University's summary of findings on "Monitoring the Good Practice Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping" together with the DTLR Press Notice.

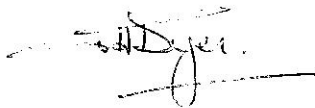
A Community Safety Officer (Gemma Lock) has recently been appointed by the District Council and they are now seeking opinions on the development of a strategy for the next 3 years; in this respect a consultation meeting is to be held at the Clay Cross Social Centre on Tuesday 27th November 2001 from 7pm to 9pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

The County Council have sent a copy of the information pack which was given out at the Flood Defence Fair which was held on the 18th September 2001 and we have the option of preparing a Community Response Plan and storing sandbags locally; it was agreed that this is a good idea and further consideration will be given to the development of a Community Response Plan.

73/02 Matters concerning the District Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the District Council requesting that a Tree Preservation Order be made in respect of the Ordnance Survey Centre of England Tree which is situated on the opposite side of the road to number 65 Stretton Road..

74/02 Matters concerning the County Council. None other than the issues raised earlier in the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.40pm

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Dyer", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Chairman

19th December 2001

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19th December 2001.

75/02 Members Present. Mrs G.H. Dyer, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mrs V. Smith, Mr S.J. Yates and 2 members of the public.

76/02 Apologies. Mrs M. Treweek.

77/02 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 2001 were approved and confirmed as a true record.

78/02 Police Report. P.C. Myers attended for this item only and reported that there had been two crimes recorded in Morton during the past month. The only new item raised was a problem with vehicles parking too close to the B6014/Evershill Lane junction which P.C. Myers noted for future attention.

P.C. Myers was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

79/02 Items from members of the public. Some minor pruning of the trees near the bus stop at the Corner Pin has been carried out but there is now a problem with ivy growing through the pavement which requires some attention; the Clerk will report this problem to the County Council

80/02 Planning. The following planning applications have now been Granted :-

01/00978/FL - Proposed lowering of kerb to create a new vehicle access at 40 Stretton Road, Morton, Derbyshire DE55 6GW for Mrs I. Swain.

01/01134/FL - Proposed retention of double garage at Garage Site, Evershill Close, Morton, Derbyshire for Peter Kirkhoff.

81/02 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

a). Cheques.

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	000595	34 . 31
Mr G. Whitmore - clear pathway	000596	25 . 00
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000597	319 . 99
Morton Primary School - Christmas trees	000598	14 . 00

b). **Precept.** The Clerk presented a draft Precept based upon last years' figures and after a short discussion it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed by the 6 councillors present, that the Precept should be increased to £17,000 for the year 2002/2003. The Clerk will finalise the draft figures accordingly and distribute these at the next meeting.

82/02 **Village Hall Lease.** There has been no further news from the Village Hall Management Committee with regard to this matter and this will therefore be deferred for another month.

83/02 **Parish Council Land.** Mr Whitmore had stated that the path he has cleared for the Parish Council recently is in a poor condition at the moment; however, Mrs Dyer stated that it is in no worse condition than most other paths at this time of the year and no further action will be taken in this respect for the time being.

84/02 **Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. Relate have written to ask if the Parish Council would be prepared to make a grant of £150 to their organisation which would enable them to provide 5 counselling appointments for a couple who are experiencing difficulties in their relationship; after some discussion it was agreed that this be noted but no grant will be made.

NEDDC have written to notify us that a section of chain link fencing along the edge of the stream on Bacchus Way, Morton has been pulled down and the remainder of the fence is reaching the end of its serviceable life; the estimated cost of the replacement of the fence is £730 and the District Council believe that this is our responsibility. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council asking why they feel that this fence belongs to the Parish Council as this Council does not hold any evidence to suggest that it does.

DYNAH (Do you need a hand) have written to ask if we would be prepared to make a grant towards their non-profit making charity which provides practical help in the house and garden for the over 60's. After some discussion it was agreed that this be noted but no grant will be made to this organisation as there are some concerns about the amount they charge to carry out their work.

The District Council have responded to the Clerk's request for a TPO in respect of the Centre of England Tree and they have confirmed that a similar request was made by Mr S. Gough, Tree Warden, in 1999. At that time a report was considered by the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Committee which outlined that the tree has a large cavity to the base and that the majority of the crown, including the major boughs, is dead; as such it was agreed not to make a Preservation Order and this still remains the case. The Clerk was asked to write back to the District Council in order to arrange a site meeting to look at the tree again as no-one was happy with this decision as it stands.

The District Council have written to confirm that significant changes are being forced upon the District Council with regard to the way that they service litter and dog waste bins and in order that the new arrangements can be put into place they will be unable to service any new litter or dog waste bins from Parish Councils for the next two months or so. The District Council will inform us when they are in a position to accommodate any additional litter or dog waste bins should we require any more.

The Manager of the North East Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau, Phil Morris, has written to thank the Parish Council for the donation of £20 which we recently made to them.

The Model Code of Conduct prepared by the Standards Board must be adopted by Parish Councils within 6 months of the 27th November 2001 and the Standards Board notified in writing of this; it was agreed that this matter should be put on the agenda for the January meeting in order that proper consideration can be given to this subject.

A letter has been received from Elspeth Mallowan who has recently been appointed to the post of North East Derbyshire Rural Transport Partnership Officer; Elspeth would like the opportunity to attend one of our meetings to talk about Rural Transport but, more specifically, she would like to draw to our attention the Parish Transport Grant and the sort of project it could lead to. It was agreed that Elspeth should be invited to attend our meeting on the 16th January if possible.

The Headteacher of Morton Primary School, Mr John Harropp has written to thank the Parish Council for agreeing to pay the cost of supplying 2 Christmas trees for the school again this year.

85/02 Matters concerning the District Council. There is still a problem with the District Council refuse collection service not returning the wheelie bins to within the curtilage of the property which subsequently causes an obstruction on the pavement; the Clerk will write to the District Council again with regard to this matter in order to try and obtain an official response to these ongoing difficulties.

86/02 Matters concerning the County Council. Mr Darby raised his concern at the current poor quality of the number 98 bus service through Morton and also the standard of buses used by Trent on this bus route which is well below that of some other neighbouring areas. It was agreed that Mr Darby will draft a letter voicing his concerns in this respect which the Clerk will send to the County Council Public Transport Unit on Parish Council headed paper.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.50pm

Chairman

16th January 2002

PRECEPT 2002 / 2003

Guidance notes for Councillors to assist with the setting of the Precept for Morton Parish Council for the financial year 2002/03.

Estimated Balances at 31-3-2002 and anticipated income :-

	£ p
Current Account	500.00
Deposit Account	18,500.00
Estimated bank interest	350.00
Football Teams	150.00
Precept for 2002/03 say	<u>17,000.00</u>
	36,500.00

Anticipated Expenditure during 2001/02 :-

1). General Administration.

Clerk's Salary (NALC recommended rate w.e.f. 1-7-01)	3,360.00
Office and Telephone Allowance	540.00
Postage, Stationery and Telephone	170.00
Insurance	750.00
Audit Fee	<u>200.00</u>
	5,020.00

2). Village Hall.

Maintenance Contingency	2,000.00
Hire of hall for meetings	<u>150.00</u>
	2,150.00

3). Grants to Voluntary Bodies.

General	2,000.00
Playscheme	1,000.00
Holy Cross Church Graveyard Maintenance	<u>900.00</u>
	3,900.00

4). Special and Contingency Funds.

Maintenance of land	1,500.00
Hanging Baskets	1,500.00
Policy Initiatives (say bus shelters)	<u>12,000.00</u>
	15,000.00

<u>ESTIMATED BALANCE AT 31-3-2003</u>	10,430.00
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P.GOODWIN - CLERK TO THE COUNCIL