

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on the 16th January 2002.

87/02 Members Present. Mrs G.H. Dyer, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mr G. Freeman, Mr S.J. Yates and 2 members of the public.

88/02 Apologies. Mrs V. Smith, Mrs M. Treweek and Mr A. Jollands.

89/02 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th December 2001 were approved and confirmed as a true record.

90/02 Police Report. P.C. Myers attended for this item only and reported that there had been no recorded crime in Morton during the past month and this is excellent news. A problem with vehicles causing an obstruction by parking on the pavements on New Street was raised and P.C. Myers will look into this during the next month. There are still problems with off the road bikers in the village and anyone who knows who these people are, or can get a registration number, should give this information to the police in order that some positive steps can be made to try and remove this longstanding problem.

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

91/02 Items from members of the public. None this month.

92/02 North Eastern Derbyshire Rural Transport Officer. Elspeth Mallowan and John Lowe attended for this item only and Elspeth outlined a range of options available for local transport initiatives and particularly the Parish Transport Grant which can provide funds of up to £10,000 for a variety of schemes. After a lengthy and interesting discussion it was agreed that a separate meeting should be held on Thursday 14th February 2002 at 7:00pm in the Rectory Rooms in order to discuss the possible options further. Elspeth and John were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at this point.

93/02 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning application :-

01/01267/FL - Application for approval of reserved matters for erection of 11 bungalows and two pairs of semi-detached houses at Corner Pin Motors, Station Road, Morton DE55 6HN for Hamlet New Homes Ltd.

Mr Freeman declared an interest in this item and took no part in this discussion and did not vote on the matter.

94/02 Model Code of Conduct. The Clerk confirmed that the Model Code of Conduct, from the new Standards Board for England, which has been adopted by North East Derbyshire District Council needs to be adopted by the Parish Council or members will be deemed to be no longer in the office of parish councillor. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Model Code of Conduct should be formally adopted by this Council with immediate effect. Councillors will need to individually sign a new declaration of acceptance of office form following the change in legislation and the Clerk will arrange for some forms to be available at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

On a separate note it was proposed and unanimously agreed that with immediate effect all Morton Parish Council meetings will be no-smoking meetings. Also, the Chair asked the councillors present to say whether or not they wished her to continue in this position as there had been some criticism from one councillor following the December meeting; everyone present agreed that they were more than happy for Mrs Dyer to continue in the position of Chair of the Council.

95/02 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

a). Cheques.

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000599	338 . 39

b). Clerk's Wages. The Clerk's wages for 2001 (£3,100) and 2002 (£3,360) as detailed in the Precept statements were confirmed unanimously by the councillors present.

96/02 Village Hall Lease. Mrs R. Taylor has written to say that the Village Hall Management Committee are still not happy with some of the points in the lease and Mrs Dyer offered to arrange a special meeting with the Village Hall Management Committee in order that this matter can eventually be finalised.

97/02 Parish Council Land. Mr Vardy reported that the fence next to the war memorial has come down and the tree in the same location is in a poor condition; it was agreed that everyone should have a look at this problem in order that a full discussion can take place at the next meeting with a view to agreeing some solutions to this problem.

98/02 Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The DTLR have written to confirm the details of the key measures resulting from the local government white paper "Strong Local Leadership - Quality Public Services" which supports the information which we have already received.

The County Council Environmental Services Department have sent a copy of their Annual Environmental Report for the year 2000/2001 for our information.

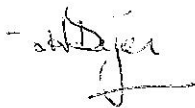
In response to the Clerk's further letter requesting consideration of a Tree Protection Order on the Centre of England Tree the District Council have responded by saying that "I would invite your members to view the tree taking note of the rot in the base, the cavity in the field side of the tree, the significant level of dead wood in the crown and the dying back of bark. Should you consider that a meeting would be beneficial, I would be grateful if you would contact me to arrange a suitable time." After some discussion it was agreed that a meeting with Mr Pontin of the District Council and the Tree Warden will be arranged in the early Spring.

The District Council have sent a copy of a letter dated the 21st February 1983 to the then Clerk, Mr J.I. Morton, stating that the title deeds for the open space at Pilsley Road, Morton were enclosed as the land had been conveyed to the Parish Council for the nominal sum of £1. The Clerk will search all of the records to see if the deeds can be found and in view of this it was agreed that Mr Freeman will look at the problem during the next month and report back to the next meeting. The District Council have quoted a price of £730 to replace the section of chain link fencing along the edge of the stream on this land and to realign three concrete posts.

99/02 Matters concerning the District Council. Mr Darby stated that a local councillor from outside our Parish has once again raised a complaint about the encroachment of a fence further onto a public footpath at Sycamore Farm, Morton (Footpath No. 7). Apparently this objection was raised many years ago after the occupier was apparently paid a sum of money to move the fence further back but unfortunately this has never happened. The Clerk will now write to the District Council again regarding this matter and at the same time ask for 9 copies of the map of the definitive footpaths in the Parish of Morton.

100/02 Matters concerning the County Council. Mrs Treweek had sent a message via Mr Yates to confirm that she has reported both the problem of ivy growing through the pavement and the missing bus stop sign to the County Council for their action.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.45pm



Chairman

20th February 2002

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on the 20th February 2002.

101/02 Members Present. Mrs G.H. Dyer, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mrs V. Smith, Mrs M. Treweek, Mr G. Freeman, Mr S.J. Yates and 5 members of the public.

102/02 Apologies. Mr A. Jollands.

103/02 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2002 were approved and confirmed as a true record.

104/02 Police Report. P.C. Myers attended for this item only and was pleased to report that there had only been one recorded crime during the past month which was the theft of two decorative garden chimney pots. It was raised that there are still problems with off the road bikers around the Parish; also, there have been several occasions where youngsters have been seen in the Village with air rifles and clearly these sort of incidents need reporting to the police at the time they are happening. There being no further items raised P.C. Myers was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

105/02 Items from members of the public. A thank you card was presented to the Parish Council from the parents who ran the summer playscheme at the Village Hall in 2001; they are intending to run the scheme again this summer and it was unanimously agreed that the same grant of £500 should be made towards the running costs. There was also a request to assist the school towards a commemorative item for each child in respect of the Queens' Golden Jubilee and after a brief discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for a coin to mark the occasion for each child at a price of £1.15 per coin. With approximately 110 children at the school this will cost approximately £126.50.

106/02 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning application :-

01/01267/FL - Application for approval of reserved matters for erection of 11 bungalows and two pairs of semi-detached houses (Major Development) (amended plans) at Corner Pin Motors, Station Road, Morton DE55 6HN for Hamlet New Homes Ltd.

107/02 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

a). Cheques.

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	000600	35 . 11
NEDDC - supply of school milk	000601	121 . 50
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000602	336 . 92 ⁴

The District Auditor has now issued his certificate and Opinion in respect of the audit of the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001 which were prepared by the Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer. The points raised were brought to the attention of the councillors present and will be acted upon by the Parish Council and the Clerk as appropriate; the chair of the Council signed the auditor's prepared statement and the Clerk will return this to the District Auditor.

108/02 Village Hall Lease. A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 27th February 2002 with representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee in order to discuss this and other issues of mutual interest; one particular matter of concern is the possible requirement to upgrade the central heating system which may cost in the region of £2,000 to resolve although other quotes will be needed and it is not yet clear whether this work is necessary.

109/02 War Memorial. There is a overhanging tree from the adjacent garden which is causing some problems but it is hoped that the new owner of Church Farm will resolve this in the Spring as he took a very positive approach towards the cutting back of his perimeter hedge soon after moving in last year. We should then be in a better position to assess what work may be required in order to keep the memorial up to a good standard.

110/02 Parish Council Land. Mr S. Gough had written to say that the bus shelter on the opposite side of the road to his property is in poor repair again and it was unanimously agreed that a quote should be obtained from a local person in order that this small job can be carried out as soon as possible.

111/02 Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The DTLR have written to confirm the details of the key measures resulting from the local government white paper "Strong Local Leadership - Quality Public Services" which supports the information which we have already received.

The County Council Environmental Services Department have sent a copy of their Annual Environmental Report for the year 2000/2001 for our information.

The Standards Board for England have written to confirm that they have received our confirmation of the adoption of the Model Code of Conduct; the Board also confirmed that councillors have 2 months from the 16th January 2002 to sign a written undertaking to abide by it and forms were made available at the meeting for signature. Also, the District Council have sent a supply of a Registration of Interest form which each councillor must sign and 6 councillors present completed a form at the meeting.

NEDDC have replied to the complaint regarding wheelie bins not being returned to within the curtilage of properties and they state that they can find no evidence of problems with bins obstructing footways; the supervisor will continue to monitor the service in Morton and if there are problems people should be encouraged to report this directly to the District Council in order that appropriate action can be taken and records kept.

The date of the next meeting of the District/Parish Liaison Group is Wednesday 1st May 2002 at 7:30pm in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Saltergate and any agenda items need to be submitted by Wednesday 3rd April 2002 at the latest.

Derbyshire County Council have sent out a questionnaire in respect of their Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme and this will be completed and returned as soon as possible.

The NEDDC Footpaths Officer, Mr Lance Turvey, has replied to the Clerk's letter regarding public footpath 7 and apparently a site meeting was held on the 3rd January 2002 which included Councillors Cotterill, Taylor and Southey together with Gill Millward from the County Council and Lance Turvey; Gill Millward was shown the fence in question on this footpath and the history of the problem was explained to her. The County Council's legal department have been sent copies of all correspondence on this matter and they are now in consultation with the landowners solicitors. Lance Turvey has explained to Mr Southey that as far as the District Council are concerned this matter will now be resolved between the County Council and the landowners solicitors.

NEDDC have sent a copy of their Draft Economic Development Programme for the year 2002/03 and any comments or suggestions regarding this need to be sent to the District Council by Friday the 22nd February 2002; this was noted but no comments were made.

Mr A. Jollands has now formally resigned from his position as a parish councillor and it was agreed that an advertisement for the casual vacancy will be displayed as soon as possible.

112/02 Matters concerning the District Council. There is some concern regarding what is proposed for the reclamation of the old Morton Colliery area as part of the NEDDC Draft Economic Development Programme for 2002/03. Mrs Treweek is going to pursue this matter with the UK Coal representative and in the first instance the Clerk will take this matter up with the District Council as the local planning authority.

113/02 Matters concerning the County Council. None.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.10pm


CHAIRMAN

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held on the 20th March 2002.

114/02 Members Present. Mrs G.H. Dyer, Mrs E. Rowarth, Mr B. Darby, Mr K. Vardy, Mr S.J. Yates and 1 member of the public.

115/02 Apologies. Mrs M. Treweek.

116/02 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th February 2002 were approved and confirmed as a true record.

117/02 Police Report. P.C. Myers had rung the Clerk to give his apologies for not attending the meeting and to report that there was only one crime in Morton during the past month. He has managed to speak to one young person about the dangers of using air rifles and the law concerning this which is most helpful. The problem with off the road bikers continues and unfortunately the football field is getting churned up because of this activity. Mr Yates enquired about a recent road traffic accident when a car was written off by a bus driving through Morton but there was no news about this at the moment.

118/02 Items from members of the public. The ongoing drainage problem which causes silt to be washed onto the pavement on Station Road, Morton was raised again and the Clerk will report this to the County Council again.

A bus has damaged one of the branches of a tree in the village and this matter has been brought to the attention of Mr S. Gough who is the tree warden for the village and this problem will be resolved in the near future.

The poor standard of work in connection with the surface repairs following works being carried out by sub-contractors on behalf of Severn Trent Water was raised as an issue for future consideration when any other such works are being planned.

119/02 Planning. The following planning application has now been Granted :-

01/01267/RM - Application for approval of reserved matters for erection of 11 bungalows and two pairs of semi-detached houses (Major Development) (amended plans) at Corner Pin Motors, Station Road, Morton, Derbyshire DE55 6HN for Hamlet New Homes Ltd.

120/02 War Memorial. The area around the memorial is looking much better and thanks are due to the new owner of Church Farm for his efforts in this respect.

121/02 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

a). Cheques.

<u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DALC - Annual Membership	000603	150 . 68
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	000604	337 . 13

122/02 Village Hall Lease. The Village Hall Management Committee have met with representatives from the Parish Council and there are 4 sections in the lease which are not easy to understand for either party; the Clerk was asked to bring this matter to the attention of the Solicitor in order that the wording can be amended into a more easily readable format.

123/02 Parish Council Land. Nothing really to report at the moment other than the fact that the land is being churned up by the off the road bikers as we have discussed before.

124/02 Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The DTLR have written to confirm the details of the key measures resulting from the local government white paper "Strong Local Leadership - Quality Public Services" which supports the information which we have already received.

The County Council Environmental Services Department have sent a copy of their Annual Environmental Report for the year 2000/2001 for our information.

The District Council have written to confirm that they have no immediate plans for the reclamation of the old Morton Colliery Site and there are no proposals for any opencast mining in this area.

The Chief Constable has written to invite a representative from the Parish Council to attend the Derbyshire Constabulary's Parish Council Liaison Meeting which is due to be held on Tuesday 20th August 2002 at the Police Headquarters; further information will follow and it was agreed that everyone should make a note this date in their diaries for the time being. Further information will be sent out in due course regarding this event.

The Divisional Commander of 'C' Division has sent information relating to the work being carried out by a number of agencies in respect of 'Communities Against Drugs' which is available for everyone to read.

Derbyshire County Council have sent details of a Temporary Road Closure from the 21st March 2002 to 22nd March 2002 in respect of Pewitt Lane, Morton in order to facilitate carriageway resurfacing which was noted.

A grant of up to £210 from the District Council is available to each Parish Council towards the cost of Golden Jubilee Celebrations and it was agreed that this amount should be claimed towards the cost of the commemorative items which we are providing for all of the children at Morton Primary School.

A thank you letter has been received from the Morton Parochial Church Council in respect of our contribution towards the cost of the churchyard grass cutting during 2001; a cheque for the sum of £340 was also received which represents the amount of grass cutting that the PCC have agreed to pay for during the whole of last year.

125/02 Matters concerning the District Council. None, other than the issues raised earlier in the meeting.

126/02 Matters concerning the County Council. None, other than the issues raised earlier in the meeting.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15pm


Chairman

17th April 2002