

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Old School Room on the 16th February 2005.

**120/05 Members Present.** Mrs M. Daykin, Mr B. Darby, Mr A. Goodwin, Mrs L. Henshaw, Mrs J. Easden, Mrs E. Goodwin (co-opted at this meeting) and Mr N. Barker - District Councillor (present to observe in view of the forthcoming South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting).

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 3 members of the public.

**121/05 Apologies.** Councillors Mrs M. Treweek, Mr G. Antcliff and PC Jamie Pendrill.

**122/05 Councillors Absent.** None.

**3/05 Items from members of the public.** The hedge between Dr Hunt's property down to the pit wheels has still not been cut back.

A question was raised regarding progress in respect of the 'A' frame barriers and Councillor Daykin reported that she had recently met with Chris Monk from the County Council and they are going to arrange for their contractors to put appropriate metal gates in place instead of the 'A' frames. The County Council will pay for this work to be carried out in at least two of the locations where their land is directly affected.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Daykin will follow up as a matter of urgency on the delay in cutting back the hedge and to note the progress with regard to the barriers.

**124/05 Police.** PC Jamie Pendrill had given his apologies to the Clerk due to a late change in his shift pattern and the Clerk therefore distributed the recorded crime figures for anyone to read.

**RESOLVED** to note the crime figures for January as presented.

**125/05 District Council.** None, as the District Councillor was not in attendance at the meeting. However, there are still problems with fly-tipping in the Village and particularly on the British Rail land at Pilsley Road.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will raise this matter again with the District Council and it will also be discussed at the next South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

**126/05 County Council.** The pavements on Main Road are currently being re-surfaced but there is still a major problem with the state of the paths on Church Lane, the path from Sitwell Villas leading to the Village and Evershill Close.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will try and arrange a further site meeting with the County Council regarding the dangerous state of these footpaths.



**127/05 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

**128/05 Non-Exempt Minutes - 19th January 2005.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

**129/05 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

**130/05 Clerk of the Council's Report.**

Streetlighting - the new streetlight opposite the post office is now in place and the Clerk was asked to submit a bid for additional streetlighting on Evershill Close and Sitwell Villas from the County Council's 2005/06 budget.

Main Road, Morton pavements - this work is now underway and will soon be completed.

New litter bin near the Corner Pin Public House and replacement dog waste bin - Councillor Antcliff will be asked to follow up these outstanding issues and they will also be raised at the South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting in terms of bringing to attention the difficulty in getting small pieces of work like this carried out efficiently and effectively.

Church footpath - Key Services have recommended that the footpath should be sprayed 3 times a year in order to keep the weeds in check and they have quoted a price of £15 per spray to carry out the work. This figure has been agreed by the church and they will meet the full cost of £45 per annum.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's report and to endorse the requests for action as recorded.

**131/05 Matters for Decision.**

Parish Councillor vacancies - the District Council have written to confirm that an election has not been requested from the recent advertisement we put out following the resignation of Councillor Rowarth. There is still one remaining vacancy from the previous advertisement and Elizabeth Goodwin was duly proposed to be a co-opted member of the Council and this was unanimously agreed; the declaration of acceptance of office was signed and witnessed at the meeting. There currently remains one vacancy for a seat on the Parish Council after this latest co-option.

Application for Quality Parish Status - the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk have met to discuss this matter in detail and recommend to the Council that an application for Quality Parish Status should be submitted following this years' annual report in late May 2005.



Newsletter - Councillor Henshaw has drafted a household survey form for the Parish for inclusion as part of the next newsletter; subject to a couple of minor amendments it was agreed that this was an excellent idea and should be fully supported. All other items need to be submitted to Councillor A. Goodwin as soon as possible in order that the newsletter can be ready for distribution at the end of this month or early in March at the latest.

Parish Council Website - the whole Council fully support this concept and District Councillor N. Barker kindly offered to raise this matter with the District Council as it would obviously be beneficial if all Parish Council websites in North East Derbyshire could be linked via the District Council's site in order to try and maximise the number of people who will use it.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - District Councillor Barker attended the meeting in order to find out about any items that it would be beneficial to discuss at the next meeting that is to be held at 6:30pm on the 9th March 2005 in the Sports Hall, Pilsley Infant School.

Multi-Activities Area - the Funding Officer at NEDDC has provided the Chair of the Council with a Coalfields Regeneration Trust pre-application advice form and this was given to the Clerk for completion prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

Evershill Close - Councillor Daykin and Councillor Treweek have met again with representatives of the County Council regarding the ongoing parking problems on Evershill Close but apparently the land in question belongs to the District Council and the removal of the 2 bollards will need to be raised with them.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will prepare an application for Quality Parish Council Status by the end of May, complete the Coalfields Regeneration Trust pre-application advice form and raise the problems around parking/access on Evershill Close, Morton with District Councillor G. Antcliffe.

**132/05 Finance.** The following payments have been made: -

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mrs M. Daykin - reimbursement of costs	000757	35 . 77
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	000758	231 . 13
Staff Wages for January, February and March	-	675 . 00
Page Kirk - payroll fees to 31-12-04	000759	17 . 63
NEDDC - school milk (Sept. to Dec. 2004)	000760	83 . 38
Audit Commission - Audit Fee 2003/04	000761	141 . 00
Mr P. Goodwin - clerk's expenses	000762	52 . 93

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 16th February 2005 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account    £27,747.27  
Current Account                            £    957.96

**RESOLVED** to authorise the payments listed above and to note the current level of balances.



**133/05 Planning.** There were no planning applications to consider at this meeting.

**134/05 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in Circulars 09/2005 General and 10/2005 Training.

**135/05 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has sent a copy of two documents entitled "Vibrant Local Communities" and "Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods matter"; whilst these are not consultation documents any comments would be most welcome before a fuller strategy document is produced later in 2005.

A copy of a letter from a Stonebroom resident sent to Shirland and Higham Parish Council has been received. This expresses concern that the recently installed 'A frame' has stopped access between Morton and Stonebroom along Pit Lane to anyone using a double child's buggy. A further letter has been received from the person affected by the 'A frame' recently stating that there is no barrier at the Morton side of Pit Lane although this will be rectified soon following Councillor Daykin's recent meeting with the County Council.

The same resident has also written to draw our attention to the fact that the pointing at the side of the Village Hall has still not been properly completed and also the guttering is apparently in need of repair.

The District Council have written to confirm that the Parish Council contribution towards Grounds Maintenance in the financial year 2005/06 will be £533.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has written to confirm that they have formally introduced the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004; this is an important Bill that includes specific recognition of the important role of parish and town councils. The Bill increases parish council powers, so that the most local level of the democratic structures can play a part in making things better. In particular, the Bill contains new powers for parish councils to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, dog control, graffiti and fly posting. It also streamlines the legislation regarding dogs, so that local authorities and parish councils can manage this locally, rather than having to go through central government. These are of course additional powers and not duties therefore each council can decide for itself whether or not they wish to use any of these powers.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as listed above and the two documents open to comments were initially given to Councillor Daykin to read before passing on to other members.

**RESOLVED** that in terms of the restricted access caused by the 'A frames' it was decided that the majority of local residents want the access to the old colliery site by motorbikes restricting and a consequence of this is that unfortunately double buggies will not be able to gain access without being lifted over. If the gap was made any wider it would not stop access by motorbikes. The Clerk will write to the complainant stating the reasons for the Council's decision on this matter.



**RESOLVED** that the repairs needed to the Village Hall will be carried out once a builder has determined exactly what work needs to be done. The Clerk will write to the neighbour to the Village Hall explaining what is happening.

**136/05 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - There was an error on the scale plan of the Village Hall attached to the lease and so this has still not been signed by all the relevant parties. Councillor Daykin will ask for the signatories to sign the document and the Clerk will then arrange for the plan to be amended before it is finally issued to the Management Committee.

**Church** - Nothing further to report at the moment.

**School** - Nothing further to report at the moment.

**Cricket Club** - Nothing further to report at the moment.

**Older People's Welfare Committee** - Nothing further to report at the moment.

**Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group** - there has not been a meeting of the Consultative Group since the last Parish Council meeting.

**Housing Strategy (Partners' Consultation Day)** - Councillor Henshaw presented a written report in respect of the meeting that she had attended at The Arkwright Centre on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2005. NEDDC was seeking the views of its many partners and a copy of the draft plan has been requested in order that we may comment upon it; a copy of the final document has also been requested so that this can be kept with the Parish Council's records.

**RESOLVED** to note the verbal and written reports that were received.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm

**Chairman**

16th March 2005

