

Morton Parish Council

At meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 14th March 2007.

Informal Session.

Items from members of the public. The floodwater on the B6014 Stretton Road has now been pumped away by the County Council and whilst this is good news it is not clear if any long-term solution to the problem has been found; also, there is still quite a lot of mud in the vicinity that needs cleaning up.

It was reported that there is quite a lot of litter around the bus shelter on Stretton Road and it was agreed that Peter Harkins would be asked to clear this up when he next visits the village to carry out planting and maintenance work.

The visual appearance around the piece of land occupied by Maun Motors is not very good and it was agreed that in the first instance this problem would be raised with them informally by either Councillor Kozlowski or Councillor Edson.

Police. PC 2572 Stanyard introduced himself to the meeting and reported that there had been no recorded crimes in Morton during the past month although there had been 5 calls regarding nuisance problems. In respect of the off the road bikers there have now been several Section 59 notices issued and following this warning any further offences will result in the confiscation of the vehicle. A report was made that trees are being unnecessarily chopped down in the old colliery site area.

There is no beat officer for Morton at the moment but as soon as one has been appointed we will be informed; in the interim period PC Stanyard suggested that we could request his attendance at our meetings even though he does not normally cover this area.

District Council. There was no report as Councillor Cotterill was not in attendance at the meeting.

County Council. There was no report as Councillor Cotterill was not in attendance at the meeting. A question was raised regarding when any further work is expected to be carried out to improve the pavements in the village; Councillor Daykin stated that there is an ongoing maintenance programme but this matter will be brought to the attention of Councillor Cotterill.

107/07 Members Present. Mrs M. Daykin, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski and Mr A. Southey.

Also in attendance were PC Stanyard, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 8 members of the public.

108/07 Apologies. Mrs M. Treweek, Mrs L. Henshaw, Mr B. Darby and Mr D. Cotterill - County Councillor.

109/07 **Councillors Absent.** Mrs J. Easden.

110/07 **Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

111/07 **Non-Exempt Minutes - 21st February 2007.**

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February 2007.

112/07 **Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

113/07 **Clerk of the Council's Report.** Fly tipping - this matter is now being pursued with the private landowners by Ms S. Verovkins at the District Council and she will be following this up in the near future if an acceptable response has not been received.

Evershill Close - the outcome of the NEDDC Scrutiny review has not yet been confirmed but no work will be carried out until all the affected local people have been consulted about the proposals.

A number of local people present wanted to know what was happening with regard to the parking issues on Evershill Close; the problem is now quite severe and this is exacerbated by the fact that of the 13 or so nearby garages on District Council land only about four of them are used regularly for the parking of vehicles. Also, this area is not lit and some local residents feel that it is not safe to park their vehicles in this location. It was agreed that a representative(s) of the District Council should be invited to a meeting with the Parish Council and local residents in order that these issues can be looked at in more detail; hopefully then some sort of timescale could be considered for the problems to be addressed.

Multi-Activities Area - work on this project is still in progress with the assistance of Susan Brighthouse from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council; the next project meeting is being held on 19th April 2007 at 6:00pm in the Rectory Rooms.

Parish Plan - this should be completed and ready for distribution within the next few weeks.

Bridge repairs - this work has still not been carried out and the Clerk will follow this up with the County Council as a matter of urgency.

Parish Council Website - the Clerk has sent copies of the minutes and Parish Council contact details to Mr A. Goodwin and he is currently working on setting the site up again. However, he has still not received any further information from anyone else.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report and to approve the action stated against the appropriate items.

114/07 Matters for Decision.

a). **Toxic waste site.** The request for information from the County Council is now within their Freedom of Information request system and a reply will be received within 40 days from the 6th March 2007. The Clerk has now obtained 6 A3 colour copies of maps of Morton (4 inches to a mile scale) and these have been passed to Councillor Henshaw.

RESOLVED that as the lead person for this project, Councillor Henshaw, is currently on holiday this matter will be left for further discussion at the April meeting when it is also possible that we may have received some information from the County Council.

115/07 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gary Wilkes - bus shelter cleaning	000917	50 . 00
DCC - superannuation	000918	133 . 27
Powrie-Smith - Architect drawings for ramp	000919	742 . 47
Mr P. Goodwin - clerk's expenses	000920	41 . 04
Page Kirk - payroll fees to 31-12-06	000921	18 . 80

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 14th March 2007 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £23,559.22
Current Account £ 731.43

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

116/07 Planning. None.

117/07 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in Circulars **05/2007** - General, **06/2007** - Parish Plan Surgeries, **07/2007** - Local Council Review Subscriber form, **08/2008** - Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund and **09/2007** - Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity in the run up to an election.

118/07 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The County Council has sent two copies of the draft deed of Surrender and Lease in respect of the land off New Street incorporating the current children's play area for approval by this Council.

A thank you letter has been received from the Friends of Morton Primary School in respect of the grant of £180 that we recently made to them in order to enable the purchase of 2 video cameras for use by the pupils whilst they are in school.

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as listed above and both copies of the draft deed of Surrender and Lease were signed by the Clerk and witnessed by Councillor McCullough and Councillor Edson; both copies will now be returned to the County Council in order that this matter can be finalised as soon as possible. The Parish Council contribution towards the cost of this legal work is £350 and this has already been agreed.

The Clerk has written to the County Council regarding the possibility of a good standard hard surfaced trail being introduced between Morton and Stonebroom; this would be particularly helpful in respect of people attending the Doctor's Surgery and also for encouraging exercise and less use of motor vehicles for relatively short journeys. The response from Chris Monk at the County Council was as follows:-

"I can not pursue this option as I only deal with existing Countryside Service sites and Angela Stanfield (PROW) does not have a budget or remit other than to make sure that the existing public rights of way are usable and in good condition for their status and existing level of use. Also any upgrading of rights of way could only take place with the agreement of the owner of the land, so one of the key initial actions you would need to take would be to identify the owners of the land that your proposed route follows. (Not sure from your e-mail whether you were considering Pit Lane or the path at the end of Church Lane) I have spoken to the Greenways Officer in our Access Improvements Team but unfortunately Morton does not figure in the Greenways Strategy that they are working on, developing new routes and trails.

Other organisations that may be able to help with community improvements could either be Sustrans or Groundwork. There has been a recent change at Groundwork and I am not sure whether Morton falls within the area of Groundwork Creswell or the new Derby and Derbyshire Groundwork (an expansion of the former Erewash Valley Groundwork). Sorry I cannot be of more help."

RESOLVED that whilst this response is disappointing to say the least it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until we are able to raise this matter with Councillor Cotterill in his capacity as County Councillor for the area.

119/07 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - Councillor Daykin stated that progress towards the transfer of the small strip of land required to enable the creation of a proper access for disabled people from Chris Milner to the Parish Council is now underway.

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.

Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group - The next meeting is not until the 16th April 2007.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - The Clerk reported that the Partnership Meeting at North Wingfield had focussed solely on local health related issues some of which he explained to the members present. Full details of the meeting will be distributed by the District Council in due course.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm

Chairman 18th April 2007

M A Day