

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 17th October 2007.

## **Informal Session.**

**Police.** PCSO Gary Green had sent his apologies but a written report on the past months crime figures was submitted and this was distributed to all the members present.

**District Council.** Councillor Cooper was in attendance at the meeting and reported that the District Council has appointed a new contractor to empty the blue boxes (recycling scheme) and it is hoped that the quality of this service will be noticeably improved. The issue of refuse bins not being returned to a correct position on the curtilage of properties has been reported and now needs to be monitored by local people and reported if it is not operating correctly.

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

**55/08 Members Present.** Mrs L. Henshaw, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski, Mr A. Southey, Mrs G. Dyer, Mr C. Parkin and Mrs B. Roe.

Also in attendance were Mr A. Cooper - District Councillor, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**56/08 Apologies.** Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs A. Holmes - District Councillor and PCSO Gary Green.

**57/08 Councillors Absent.** Mr D. Cotterill - County Councillor.

**58/08 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

**59/08 Items from members of the public.** The hedge below Morton Primary School on Main Road leading to Station Road is in need of cutting back and this work will now be carried out as soon as possible.

**60/08 Non-Exempt Minutes - 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

**61/08 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

**62/08 Clerk of the Council's Report.** Fly tipping - there is nothing further to report in this respect although the general view was that the situation is much better than it has been previously; it was agreed that this item should be left on the agenda as it is likely to be an ongoing issue.

Evershill Close - it was reported at the last meeting that the Deputy Chief Executive of NEDDC had written to say that there is no short-term prospect of addressing any of the parking problems on Evershill Close; this is because neither the District Council or Rykneld Homes are currently able to commit financial or staffing resources to the extensive task of prioritising parking problems on estates across the District or to the costing of options that may resolve these. As requested the Clerk has sent a response to the District Council and this has now been replied to stating that a further scrutiny review would not be required in this respect in the future. However, an answer has not yet been received regarding our proposal to carry out some minor improvement work ourselves following agreement from the District Council and, if necessary, the County Council. District Councillor Andrew Cooper kindly offered to follow this matter up on the Parish Council's behalf. this up in due course.

Multi-Activities Area - work on this project is still in progress with the assistance of Susan Brighthouse from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council and a further update will be given at the next meeting by Councillor Hawkins. The letter to all residents on New Street advising them of our plans, and asking for any comments, is now ready for distribution over the next week or so.

Parish Plan - this has now been completed and distributed throughout the Village; an update will be needed in approximately 5 months time in order that people can see where any progress is being made.

Parish Council Website - there has been no further progress in this respect at the moment.

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

**63/08 Matters for Decision.**

a). **Request for financial assistance - Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice.** This voluntary organisation has written to ask for a grant towards their running costs as less than 5% of these will be met by the Government. The running costs will be in the region of £1.8m per annum.

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £25 be made to this worthwhile local organisation.

b). **Toxic waste site.** The water and soil test sample results from the Environment Agency have not yet been received and no decisions will be taken until these results are made available.

**RESOLVED** that this issue will be kept on the agenda until the relevant information has been received.

**64/08 Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
NEDDC - emergency repairs to play equipment	000961	55 . 58
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	000962	133 . 27
Page Kirk - payroll fees (April to September 07)	000963	37 . 60
Mrs E.R. Goodwin - design & print 540 newsletters	000964	422 . 00
Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice - grant	000965	25 . 00

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 17th October 2007 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £34,961.56  
Current Account £ 1,436.09

The External Auditors report from the Audit Commission has been received and the Clerk was pleased to inform the members present that no points of concern have been raised in respect of the audit of the 2006/07 financial year.

**RESOLVED** to authorise the payments listed above, to note the current level of balances and also the External Auditor's report from the Audit Commission.

**65/08 Planning.** There were no objections to the following planning application :-

**CD47/0907/114** - Proposed erection of 1 no. GRP canopy to the front of school to provide shelter for parents and children at Morton Primary School, Main Road, Morton for Derbyshire County Council.

**66/08 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in General Circulars **25, 26 and 30/2007**, Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee & Annual General Meeting Matters **27/2007**, Consultation Starts on changes to Post Office Network **28/2007** and Licensing Act 2003: Removing DPS Requirement for Village Halls and similar Community Buildings **29/2007**.

**67/08 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. A copy of a letter from Morton Primary School to Derbyshire County Council supporting the request for better visibility around the school crossing zone has been received.

A letter of thanks has been received from Victim Support Derbyshire in respect of the grant of £25 that we recently made to them. DEFRA has sent a copy of a booklet entitled "Ways to tackle climate change" for our perusal.

NEDDC has sent a copy of its Draft Affordable Housing Strategy and the associated Sustainability Appraisal Report as part of its public consultation process; any comments need to be submitted on the representation form supplied by Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at the latest.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as listed above and that the representation forms will be made available locally but that the Parish Council will submit no specific comments.

NEDDC has sent a copy of its Draft Statement of Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators. Any comments about this document need to be submitted to the District Council by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at the latest.

**RESOLVED** that this document is noted but following discussion between the Chair and the Clerk it had been decided that no comments needed to be submitted at this stage.

**68/08 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - The Clerk is still following up with the solicitors the latest position regarding the transfer of the small strip of land from Mr C. Milner to the Parish Council in order that a proper Access for disabled people can be put in place. This will be put on the agenda for the November meeting and representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee will be invited to attend; this will ensure that all the relevant people are aware of the up to date position and some more detailed financial planning can begin to take place.

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

**School** - The Friends of Morton Primary School are trying to provide a functional PA system for the school that can be used at such events as the school's sports day. A written request detailing what is required and the funding needed will be submitted for consideration by the Parish Council at the November meeting.

**Cricket Club** - Nothing further to report at the moment as this sport is now out of season.

**Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group** - Unfortunately no one from the Parish Council was available to attend the recent meeting.

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - These meetings have not been successful in providing any positive outcomes for local communities and Councillor Cooper confirmed that their future composition and role is now under review in order to try and ensure that they will provide some benefits for local communities in the future.

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

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm

**Chairman**

21st November 2007

