

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 21st November 2007.

Informal Session.

Police. PCSO Gary Green presented his verbal report and it was pleasing to hear that there had only been one crime during the past month although this was a theft from a dwelling on Main Road that is obviously very distressing for the occupants. Councillor Hawkins expressed the thanks of both the Parish Council and local residents to Gary in respect of all the hard work and proactive approach that he has taken to resolve a number of issues in the Village; whilst these would not necessarily have been recorded as crimes it has resulted in a much better quality of life for local people particularly in respect of the reduction in anti-social behaviour. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Constable to let him know about the views of the Parish Council in this respect. PCSO Gary Green remained in the meeting and contributed to the discussions where relevant in respect of items raised by members of the public.

District Council. Councillor Cooper and Councillor Holmes had nothing new to report but there was some feedback in respect of two of the main agenda items and these were dealt with at the appropriate part of the meeting.

County Council. Councillor Cotterill reported that Sue Verovkins at the District Council has followed up on the fly tipping issues with Councillor Southey and the situation is now in an acceptable state.

It has not been possible to identify the timescale for the erection of a speed warning sign on the post that was erected some time ago on the B6014 approaching Morton from the A61. Councillor Cotterill agreed to follow this up with the County Council and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

A long discussion then ensued regarding the County Council's proposals to create a multi-user track on Footpath number 3 through from Morton to Stonebroom incorporating access for pedestrians, including disabled people, and also horse riders. It was eventually agreed that the Clerk should write to Councillor Brian Lucas at the County Council and Dan Hickey at North East Derbyshire District Council expressing the concerns of some members of this Council regarding the proposals; Councillor Cooper and Councillor Holmes have already done this in respect of potential health and safety risks associated with the scheme. A site meeting will also be requested between the County Council, District Council, the police and both Parish Councils in order that all of the potential issues can be looked at in more detail. Apart for health and safety issues the other main concern is with regard to the possibility of an increase again in the number of off the road bikers once the 'A' frames have been removed.

69/08 **Members Present.** Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs L. Henshaw, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski, Mr A. Southey, Mrs G. Dyer, and Mrs B. Roe.

Also in attendance were Mr D. Cotterill - County Councillor, Mr A. Cooper - District Councillor, Mrs A. Holmes - District Councillor, PCSO Gary Green, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 5 members of the public.

70/08 **Apologies.** Mr C. Parkin.

71/08 **Councillors Absent.** None.

72/08 **Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

73/08 **Items from members of the public.** A question was raised as to when the overgrown hedge between the school and the pit wheels will be cut back and the Clerk confirmed that the contractor should now be able to carry out this work within the next two weeks and this will also include winter flowers being planted in the Parish Council's containers.

It was reported that there is a dead branch that needs removing on the Centre of England Tree and this will be raised with the local Tree Warden Mr Selwyn Gough.

74/08 **Non-Exempt Minutes - 17th October 2007.**

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th October 2007.

75/08 **Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

76/08 **Clerk of the Council's Report.** Fly tipping - it was reported that there has been no recent incidents of any significance and the current situation near the bridge on Higham Lane is currently tolerable. This item will now be removed from the agenda and any problems of this nature should be raised for discussion if and when they occur in the future.

Evershill Close - Councillor Cooper gave an update on the current situation and the officer who has been nominated to look at the proposed work to see if it is acceptable to the District Council, will contact Councillor Parkin next week when he has returned from leave. Hopefully, by the January meeting we will have a much better idea about what exactly might be possible and estimates can then be obtained for the work to be carried out to the required specification.

Multi-Activities Area - work on this project is still in progress with the assistance of Susan Brighthouse from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council and there was a discussion about the concerns of local people that this project may result in an increase of anti-social behaviour in the New Street area once it is up and running; this was noted and every action possible will be taken in order to ensure that any potential risks are kept to an absolute minimum.

Parish Plan - this has now been completed and distributed throughout the Village; an update will be needed in approximately 4 months time in order that people can see where any progress is being made. It was agreed that there would be an informal meeting at Councillor Hawkins house at 7pm on Wednesday 9th January 2008 in order to review the synopsis of the issues that were raised by members of the public as part of this process.

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

Damaged foot bridge - it was reported that some of the Councillors from Shirland and Higham Parish Council who have an engineering background have come up with some proposals to repair the bridge and clear out the brook with the help of some local youngsters; it has been confirmed that the maintenance of the bridge is the joint responsibility of Morton and Shirland and Higham Parish Councils. This is excellent news and it was agreed that representatives from Morton Parish Council would assist with this work wherever possible. Hopefully we will be able to get one of the County Councils engineers to verify the work in due course.

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

77/08 Matters for Decision.

a). **Village Hall - Access for disable people.** The Clerk has spoken to the solicitors and they are now in communication with Mr Milner's Solicitors regarding the legal transfer of the strip of land that is needed in order that this project can be carried out.

RESOLVED that a meeting is required with the Village Hall Management Committee as soon as possible in order that the way forward with this project can be properly mapped out.

b). **Toxic waste site.** The Environment Agency have been in contact with the Clerk and he is confident that the information requested will be in his possession well before the next meeting on the 16th January 2008.

RESOLVED that the clerk will continue to keep this matter under close review.

c). **Friends of Morton Primary School - request for financial assistance.** The Friends of Morton Primary School are trying to raise funds in order to purchase a PA system for the school at a cost of only £150 and they have asked if we could contribute towards this.

RESOLVED that a grant of £150 should be made in order that the PA system can be purchased.

d). **Request for financial assistance - Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group.** The cost of administering this group need to be found locally each year and as such a voluntary donation from each Parish Council within the geographical area of responsibility is requested.

RESOLVED that a grant of £25 should be made to this group.

e). **Request for financial assistance - Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.**

RESOLVED that a grant of £25 should be made to this charitable organisation..

f). **Precept 2008/09.** The Clerk presented a draft precept for the financial year 2008/09. After a brief discussion it was agreed to accept the figures as presented.

RESOLVED to increase the precept for the 2008/09 financial year from £26,000 to £28,000. The Clerk's wages for 2007/08 have only recently been determined at 2.475% as part of the national agreement which they are now linked to and this is now effective from the 1st April 2007; the rates for 2008/09 may not be agreed for some time but these should also show an increase in the region of 3% and will become effective on the 1st April 2008.

78/08 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

| a). <u>Payee.</u> | <u>Cheque No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
| Wages for October, November and December | - | 1,235 . 55 |
| Inland Revenue - tax and NI Oct. to December 2007 | - | 907 . 26 |
| NEDDC - repair to play equipment | 000966 | 51 . 28 |
| Derbyshire County Council - superannuation | 000967 | 133 . 27 |
| Mr P. Goodwin - expenses | 000968 | 67 . 11 |
| Audit Commission - audit fee 2006/07 | 000969 | 334 . 88 |
| Friends of Morton Primary School - grant | 000970 | 150 . 00 |
| Clay Cross Community PCG - grant | 000971 | 25 . 00 |
| North Wingfield & District RBL - poppy appeal grant | 000972 | 25 . 00 |
| Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre - grant | 000973 | 25 . 00 |

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 21st November 2007 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £32,961.56
Current Account £ 1,242.64

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

79/08 Planning. None.

80/08 **DALC Circulars.** None.

81/08 **General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. North East Derbyshire District Council has sent a copy of their Recreation and Open Space Supplementary Planning Document, the North East Derbyshire Development Framework - Adoption of Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document and their Draft Economic Development Strategy; all three of these documents are now available for anyone to read.

A letter of thanks has been received from Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice in respect of the £25 grant that we recently gave to them.

A letter has been received from the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum that was established in 2003 as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It has an advisory role in strategic access and recreation issues and acts as statutory advisor to Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and to other bodies on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

Section Inspector Mark Bates has written to invite two representatives from each Parish Council to the official launch of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams at the St. Barnabas Centre, Pilsley Road at 1:30pm on Friday 23rd November 2007.

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as listed above and that Councillors Dyer and McCullough will attend the official launch of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams on the Parish Council's behalf.

Sergeant Jon Rawlinson, from the North East Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership, has written to all Parish Councils to inform them about the North East Derbyshire Safety Project; essentially the Project is aiming to replicate a scheme similar to the one in Chesterfield whereby CCTV cameras monitor all of the key areas in terms of crime and anti-social behaviour. The advent of wireless technology means that this is a more realistic aim than it could have been in the past. £160,000 pounds is needed to move this project forwards and £80,000 has already been secured from the Rural Development Council Alliance; each of the 24 parishes is being asked to contribute around £5,000, or as much as they can afford, in order to bridge the funding gap whether or not they currently have a CCTV system in their locality or not.

RESOLVED that at this stage the Parish Council does not want to submit this level of resources towards the project but that the Clerk should write to express the Parish Council's interest in the scheme and to ask that we are kept informed of any developments.

82/08 **Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

Village Hall - Councillor Hawkins stated that progress is now being made in respect of the proposal to create an access for disabled people to the Village Hall and that a meeting needs to be arranged with representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee as soon as possible.

Church - Councillor McCullough gave a brief report on the finances in relation to the local Church and also the Derby Diocesan Church Council and this confirmed that there are very few funds available to the local Rector. With this in mind Morton Church has asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to pay for the upkeep and maintenance of a Church clock if this was to be put in place; this would provide an aesthetic benefit for the whole of the community and not just those parishioners who regularly attend the Church

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 due to take place on Monday 14th January 2008.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - Councillor Cooper reported that there will be a significant change to the format and remit of these meetings although the full details of this have not yet been finalised. This Council will continue to try and engage with the partnership in order to hopefully achieve some real benefits for the residents of North East Derbyshire and Morton in particular.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received. A vote was held in respect of the Church clock and whether or not the Parish Council should commit the sum of £185 for 100 years in respect of maintenance costs. Initially the vote in favour of financing the maintenance of the clock was won on a majority of 5 to 2 with one abstention; however, as Councillor McCullough is on the Parochial Church Council it was decided to vote again which meant that there were 2 abstentions and the vote in favour this time was by a majority of 4 to 2.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm

Chairman 16th January 2008

