

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 11th January 2008.

## **Informal Session.**

**Police.** There was no officer in attendance at the meeting. However, the Clerk had received an e-mail from PC Cathie Copestake that gave the following information:-

“Please find below the monthly crime figures for December 2007 for the parish of Morton.

1 x Theft from Motor Vehicle  
2 x Theft of Motor Vehicle  
1 x Violence

There are currently no specific "Problem Profiles" that the local police are actively dealing with in the Morton Parish. Should there be any ongoing problems that you feel need particular address by your Beat Team that they are not aware of please do not hesitate to raise them at your next Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting or in the meantime via Clay Cross Police Station, to myself or PCSO Gary Green.”

It is not clear whether there will be any regular police attendance at future Parish Council meetings or whether the expectation is that all general issues will be raised at the Safer Neighbourhood Team Meetings; no doubt this will be clarified in the near future.

**District Council.** Councillor Cooper and Councillor Holmes were not in attendance at the meeting but the Clerk had spoken to Councillor Cooper regarding Evershill Close and the Toxic Waste Site both of which he will continue to follow up on our behalf whenever it is necessary to do so.

**County Council.** Councillor Cotterill had nothing new to report to the meeting. The site meeting regarding the proposed path through from Morton to Stonebroom has still not been arranged but this is now being co-ordinated by the County Council on behalf of Councillor Brian Lucas who has Cabinet responsibility for this area of work.

There is an ongoing problem with standing water on Evershill Close and Councillor Cotterill advised that local residents should initially contact Severn Trent Water in this respect.

When the Parish Plan was being developed a number of parishioners raised concerns about the length of time it took for an assessment to be carried out by Social Services; this is still a problem and Councillor Cotterill was asked to follow this up with the County Council on behalf of local people.

Outside the entrance of the old garden centre on Main Road, Morton (approximately number 34/36 Main Road) the words ‘Keep Clear’ have been painted onto the highway. The Clerk will follow this up with the County Council to check if approval has been given for this and if not what action can be taken to remove the wording.

83/08 **Members Present.** Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs L. Henshaw, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski and Mr A. Southey.

Also in attendance were Mr D. Cotterill - County Councillor, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 1 member of the public.

84/08 **Apologies.** Mrs G. Dyer, Mr C. Parkin, Mrs B. Roe and Mr A. Cooper - District Councillor.

85/08 **Councillors Absent.** Mrs A. Holmes - District Councillor.

86/08 **Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

87/08 **Items from members of the public.** There were no new items raised by members of the public.

88/08 **Non-Exempt Minutes - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007.

89/08 **Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

90/08 **Clerk of the Council's Report.** Evershill Close - the Clerk read out an e-mail from Alan Riley, Principal Engineer at the District Council as follows:-

"There seemed to be no point in attending a further meeting on site since all those involved had seen the situation previously. All I requested was details in writing if possible of the proposed depths of construction and surfacing to ensure that the finished job would be fit for purpose. From the information that you have supplied today, I can confirm that the construction you have proposed would appear to be satisfactory. No other correspondence has been received and at no time has the possibility of contributions from residents been discussed, since this is a Parish promotion and my Council is not currently involved. Prior to any work being carried out, there will obviously be a need to enter into a licence or other legal agreement with regard to indemnifying this Council against claims etc. arising from the works and to clarify maintenance and repair responsibilities. The Council's Legal and Estates sections are currently looking into this aspect. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance." The Clerk has written to ask if any licence/legal costs are associated with the work that these are waived or at least only charged at a nominal rate.

After a long discussion on how best to progress this issue it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council to ask them to liaise with the County Council in order to obtain details of at least 3 contractors who could carry out this work to the required standard.

Hopefully then, with Councillor Cotterill and Councillor Cooper's assistance, we will be able to get the approval of both the District Council and the County Council for the relevant Principle Council to adopt the area of land in question for maintenance as part of their planned schedules.

Multi-Activities Area - work on this project is still in progress with the assistance of Susan Brighthouse from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council.

Parish Plan - this has now been completed and distributed throughout the Village. There are a number of issues that had been raised as a result of reviewing the plan and these are as follows:-

- Provision of a new seat in the Village - the Clerk will try and progress this issue once an exact location for the proposed new seat has been given to him.
- The cost of providing approximately 25 flower baskets to be fitted to lampposts and the structural survey costs need to be obtained as soon as possible in order that a decision can be taken in time for this summer. The Clerk will follow this up as a matter of urgency.
- It has been decided that the area around the pit wheels should be tarmaced or concreted in order to make the area look tidier and reduce maintenance costs. The Clerk will seek permission from the County Council for this work to be carried out before any prices for the work are obtained as this land actually forms part of the public highway.
- There are ongoing problems with dog fouling in the Village and it was agreed that a piece would be written in the next Parish Newsletter regarding this issue.

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

Footbridge - there has been no further news from Shirland and Higham Parish Council regarding the work that they were proposing to carry out on the damaged footbridge that is the joint responsibility of Morton Parish Council and themselves.

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

#### **91/08 Matters for Decision.**

**a). Toxic waste site.** An official response has now been received from the Environment Agency stating that they have no information about the area in question relating to materials deposited on this site; this contradicts the requirements of the Non-Statutory Public Inquiry and also the views of both the County Council and District Council.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Cotterill will follow up this issue as a matter of urgency at the County Council. Also, Councillor Henshaw is drafting a letter to the Environment Agency and when this has been completed it will be sent to the Clerk in order that it can be submitted as an official response from the Parish Council

**b). North East Derbyshire Safety Project.** 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 the Clerk should invite Sergeant Rawlinson to the February meeting in order that more information about the possible opportunities for Morton can be obtained before a final decision is taken.

**92/08 Finance.** The following payments have been made: -

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Morton Village Hall - insurance refund (break-in)	000974	750 . 90
SLCC - annual membership fee	000975	145 . 00
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	000976	212 . 39
Gary Wilkes - bus shelter cleaning	000977	50 . 00
Powrie-Smith Architects Ltd. – architects fees	000978	602 . 75
Mr P. Harkins - winter planting and maintenance	000979	698 . 00
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins (July-Oct. 2007)	000980	269 . 17
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	000981	143 . 16
Mr P. Goodwin - expenses	000982	34 . 20

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 11th January 2008 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £27,173.18  
Current Account £ 4,337.07

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

**93/08 Planning.** There were no objections to the following planning application:-

**07/01464/FL** - Proposed change of use of land to the keeping of horses/erection of stable block comprising two loose boxes and a tack room and creation of ménage at Field Nos 2894 and 4199 accessed via Pit Lane, Morton, Alfreton for George Whitmore.

**94/08 DALC Circulars.** In respect of training the Clerk confirmed that DALC would be prepared to arrange an early evening training session for Councillors at the Village Hall, Morton free of charge if we would provide the room and refreshments; Councillors from other Parish Councils would also be invited but Morton Councillors would have the first opportunity to attend.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk should contact DALC in order to arrange a suitable date and time for the training to take place at the Village Hall, Morton. Also, to note the information contained in **32/2007** - Availability of Locum Clerks and Internal Auditors, **33** and **35/2007** - General Circulars, **34/2007** - Training, **1/2008** - Index of most important Circulars in 2007, **2/2008** - Training, **3/2008** - Representing the Future - Report of the Councillors Commission and **04/2008** - Availability of Locum Clerks and Internal Auditors Update.

**95/08 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. Reverend Margaret Jacques has written to thank the Parish Council for the commitment to financially maintain the proposed new church clock up to the sum of £185 per annum for the next 100 years.

A letter of thanks has been received by e-mail in respect of the £25 grant that we recently made to the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.

A letter of thanks has been received from the secretary of the Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group in respect of the £25 grant that we recently made towards their administrative expenses.

The Chief Constable has written to thank the Parish Council for taking the time to write to him praising the efforts of our local PCSO Gary Green; he has also passed a copy of the letter to the Divisional commander of 'C' Division, Chief Superintendent Kelly in order to ensure that our sentiments are officially passed on to Gary.

The County Council has written to confirm that it has now published its first Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as listed above.

North East Derbyshire District Council is asking for comments about its Core Strategy planning document which sets out the main vision for the District and the principles of where new developments will broadly be located and which areas will be protected from development; comments need to be submitted by 5pm on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

**RESOLVED** that any views on the Core Strategy should be submitted to the District Council by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

The County Council has written in response to the request that we made for improved safety measures at the crossing point outside Morton Primary School and their reply reads as follows:-

"We have received similar requests in the past and in response we have provided large yellow backed signs advising of a maximum 20mph accompanied by flashing amber warning lights, a speed reducing plateau at the crossing point with advance warning signs, 'School Keep Clear' markings and a bus stop clearway to further restrict parking. I have spoken to the School Crossing Patrol Supervisor who says that no complaints have been received from the warden working this crossing and it is considered to be safe. A search shows that there has not been an injury accident in this vicinity during the 17 years for which we have records.

I do not feel that it would be appropriate to install a controlled crossing at this point as it would be little used other than at school starting and ending times during weekdays in term time. Crossing at this point would not be particularly desirable for villagers in general as it is not in close proximity to other village facilities e.g. shop, Village Hall, Church etc. I am sorry that I am unable to be of further assistance at this time though I will continue to monitor the situation and take any further action considered necessary in the future.”

**RESOLVED** that the contents of this letter are noted and the information will be made available to the school and also local people.

**96/08 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - The Clerk confirmed that the solicitor has now located the deeds to the Village Hall and next week he will follow up the progress on this issue as a matter of urgency; this is necessary as it shouldn't be too long now before estimates can be obtained and then grant applications can begin to be submitted.

**Church** - Councillor McCullough reported that there was a 'rut' on the path where the Church boundary meets the public highway; it was agreed that the Church would need to confirm that this is not on their land before this issue is raised with the County Council.

**School** - The Friends of Morton Primary School have sent a message of thanks to the Parish Council in respect of the grant that we recently made to them in order to enable them to purchase a PA system for the school.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and Councillors McCullough and Dyer will be attending this on the Parish Council's behalf.

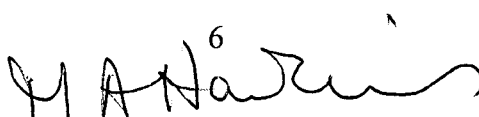
**South Eastern Community Partnership** - The next meeting is due to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and Councillor Southey will be attending on the Parish Council's behalf.

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

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm

**Chairman**

20th February 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M A Harris', with a small superscript '6' above the 'A'.