

# Morton Parish Council

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008.

## **Informal Session.**

**Police.** PC Adam Podam reported that there had been just one crime during the past month. Also, arrangements are being made for an off the road bike unit to spend some time in the area to try and address this problem that has been ongoing for some time now. Councillor Hawkins stated that she had not seen Adam around the village much recently and a request was made for more visibility particularly during the period that PCSO Gary Green is off work; Adam acknowledged this but stated that unfortunately he had to spend a significant amount of time in Mickley and Stonebroom at the moment.

PC Podam was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at this point.

**District Council.** Councillor Cooper was at a meeting in Pilsley but he had left a message for the Clerk earlier to say that the District Council are still in communication with the Environment Agency regarding the toxic waste site and they will report back to us in due course.

Concerns have been raised again about the mess that is left behind when the grass verges have been cut in the village and the Clerk will write to the District Council again about this.

**County Council.** Councillor Cotterill reported that the land towards the rear of the Corner Pin Public House has now been cleaned up by the District Council and approximately 20 dead rats were removed along with all the other items; letters have been sent to all neighbouring properties and as soon as the owner of the land is known they will be advised accordingly.

**1/09 Members Present.** Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski and Mrs B. Roe.

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

**2/09 Apologies.** Mrs L. Henshaw, Mr C. Parkin, Mr A. Cooper - District Councillor and Mrs A. Holmes - District Councillor.

**3/09 Councillors Absent.** None.

**4/09 Election of Chair for the year 2008/09.** The Clerk asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Council for the forthcoming year. Mrs M. Hawkins was proposed and seconded as Chair of the Parish Council for the year 2008/09.

**RESOLVED** that as there were no further nominations received for the position Councillor Mrs M. Hawkins was duly elected as Chair of the Parish Council.

**5/09 Election of Vice-Chair for the year 2008/09.** Mrs Hawkins asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Council for the forthcoming year. Councillor Mrs E.R. McCullough was proposed and seconded as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for the year 2008/09.

**RESOLVED** that as there were no further nominations received for the position Councillor Mrs E.R. McCullough was duly elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council.

**6/09 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

**7/09 Items from members of the public.** The problem with flooding and subsequent blocked gullies on Station Road continue and it is also felt that the boundary wall to the County Council's land may be unsafe as it is being gradually pushed over. Also, the trees at the side of the highway beyond the bus stop looking towards Tibshelf need pruning back again as the visibility is very poor. Councillor Cotterill agreed to follow these issues up on behalf of the Parish Council.

**8/09 Non-Exempt Minutes - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

**9/09 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

**10/09 Clerk of the Council's Report.** Evershill Close - there has been no further progress in this respect and Councillor Cotterill will raise this issue again with Alan Riley at the District Council including the flooding problems due to blocked drains that has still not been resolved.

Multi-Activities Area - Councillor Hawkins reported that there is a multi-purpose play unit for children up to 16 that is currently available for approximately £14,000; given that the larger planned scheme is no nearer to fruition she felt that this would be the best option of a way forward as we have already set aside £16,000 of our own resources for this purpose. Also, the staff from the DRCC who are assisting with the project should be able to obtain funding for a youth shelter for the site and some upgrading of the young children's play area on the same site.

Immediately following the last meeting Councillor Dyer and Councillor Southey both resigned as Parish Councillors. Notices advertising the two vacancies have been displayed and the deadline for requesting an election is the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008; the District Council will confirm if an election has been requested by at least ten electors. If an election is not called both of these vacancies can be filled by co-option.

Toxic Waste Site - the Clerk has written to both Chief Executives and Leaders of North East Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council to ask that some pressure is applied to the Environment Agency in order to ensure that they carry out their statutory testing for contaminants on this site. The Chief Executive of NEDDC, Lee Adams, has already responded stating that they will do everything they can to assist us with this matter and they will also liaise with the County Council to make sure that their efforts are properly co-ordinated.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's report and to approve the expenditure of approximately £14,000 for the play equipment.

#### **1/09 Matters for Decision.**

a). **Detached Youth Worker - Mobile Project.** The Detached Youth Worker for this area, Janice Hacz, would like to attend one of our parish council meetings to discuss the work that she is currently doing.

**RESOLVED** that Janice Hacz should be invited to come to the July Parish Council meeting.

b). **New seat on Main Road.** The County Council has still not confirmed whether or not the proposed location is safe from a highway perspective.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will follow this matter up again with the County Council.

c). **Consideration of the funding for an additional Police Community Support Officer.** Shirland and Higham Parish Council has suggested that jointly we provide funding for an additional PCSO between the two parishes at a cost of £5,000 in total (£2,500 each); the cost is relatively low as the police will fund the remainder of the post.

**RESOLVED** that due to the relative sizes of the two parishes Morton would be prepared to contribute 25% (£1,250) towards the cost of an additional PCSO for the areas covered by Morton and Shirland and Higham Parish Councils. The Clerk will write to Shirland and Higham Parish Council to confirm this decision.

d). **Request for financial assistance - Victim Support Derbyshire.** Victim Support Derbyshire has written to request financial assistance towards their work in supporting local victims of crime and it is worth noting that they have 5 volunteers from within our area.

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £25 be approved towards this most worthwhile local organisation.

e). **NEDDC Chair's Appeal 2008/09 - request for financial assistance.** This year the Chair of the District Council is Councillor Norma Dolby and the appeal is in aid of Leukaemia Research.

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £25 will be made to this year's Chair's Appeal.

**12/09 Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Wages for April, May and June	-	1,479 . 33
HM Revenue & Customs - tax and NI Jan to Mar 08	-	1,190 . 23
NEDDC - supply of school milk (Jan-March 08)	001002	73 . 37
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	001003	158 . 42
MENCAP - grant (replaces cheque no. 000997)	001004	25 . 00
J.S. Marriott & Co. - internal audit fee 2007/08	001005	315 . 00
Victim Support Derbyshire - grant	001006	25 . 00
NEDDC - grant	001007	25 . 00

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £32,306.47  
Current Account £ 3,483.56

The District Auditor has written to confirm that the date of this year's audit is the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008; the Clerk has completed the audit return and John Marriott, Internal Auditor, has also signed off the section of the return that is relevant to his review of the records. Notices have been appropriately displayed informing local people of the availability of the accounts for inspection but the account book is available for anyone to read at every Parish Council meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the accounts are unanimously approved and the Chair and the Clerk duly signed the Annual Return for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 to confirm this. The payments listed above were authorised and the current level of balances noted together with the date of the external audit.

**13/09 Planning.** There were no objections to the following planning applications :-

**08/00378/FL** - Proposed sub division of one dwelling into two dwellings (Conservation Area) at Sycamore Farm, Church Lane, Morton, Alfreton for Cristiano Tramontano.

**08/00446/FL** - Proposed demolition of vacant farm house and outbuildings and erection of two storey 4 bedroom house and single storey outbuildings at 9 Padley Wood Lane, Pilsley, Chesterfield for Mrs Smith.

**The following planning application has now been granted :-**

**08/00287/FL** - Proposed porch to front elevation at 2 Sitwell Villas, Morton, Alfreton for Rykneld Homes Ltd.

**The following planning appeal has now been dismissed :-**

**APP/R1038/A/08/2063441** - Proposed 3 various extensions at Springwell Cottage, Pilsley Road, Morton, Alfreton DE55 6HP for Mr & Mrs Hadfield.

**14/09 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in Training Circular **22/2008** and General Circulars **20, 21** and **23/2008**.

**15/09 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. North East Derbyshire District Council has sent a copy of its draft Affordable Housing Strategy and any comments on this would be welcome.

A letter of thanks has been received from MENCAP in respect of the £25 grant that we recently made to their organisation.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as listed above but it was agreed that no comments on the Draft Affordable Housing Strategy need to be submitted.

**16/09 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - The Clerk stated that there had been no further progress towards the transfer of the small strip of land from Chris Milner to the Parish Council that is required to enable the creation of a proper access for disabled people. He will continue to follow this matter up on a regular basis.

**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/Safer Neighbourhood Team** - Councillor McCullough reported on the recent meetings and the fact that Inspector Mark Bates is keen for the Consultative Group to continue even if he has to attend these in his own time. Apparently Tibshelf have funded an additional PCSO for their Parish. The police information vehicle is regularly visiting Morton and it is hoped that the Stonebroom youth group will attend this years' Morton Carnival; the intention would be for a similar group or 'Youth Council' to be formed in Morton.

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - The next meeting is due to take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008 and Councillor Hawkins will attend this on the Parish Council's behalf.

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

The meeting was declared closed at 9.10pm

**Chairman**

18th June 2008

