

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

## Informal Session.

**Police.** PCSO Gary Green gave a verbal report on the Police Divisional restructuring the key points of which were as follows:-

- Derbyshire police is changing from 20 to 30 sections and by October 2008 'C' Division will have reduced from 5 sections to 3. One of the effects of this is that the Clay Cross and Dronfield Sections are merging to form the North East Derbyshire Policing Section which will be co-terminus with the District Council's boundary.
- Inspector Adam Waterfall will be the new Inspector in charge and he has now taken up the full responsibilities of the new section.
- There is a commitment that no police stations will close as a result of these changes and there will be no reduction in front line staff.
- There is an actual increase in the Safer Neighbourhood Team cover and Inspectors 'freed' up by the restructuring will focus on spontaneous incidents therefore ensuring a more effective response.
- The changes will allow for a larger pool of officers to focus on particular problem areas by removing the small section boundaries.

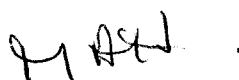
There was then a report on speeding issues in the area and particularly around Morton and nearby Parishes; some warnings had been issued to motorists who were just exceeding the speed limit as well as a small number of fixed penalty fines. The worst case within Morton was a motorbike measured at almost 60mph in the 30mph speed limit but unfortunately due to the small size of the number plate, and the fact that there was no front number plate, the owner could not be identified.

PCSO Green was asked to keep in mind the activity that is now taking place on Love Lane where it is believed that young people are now taking drugs as well as drinking alcohol.

PCSO Green was thanked for his report and left the meeting at this point.

**District Council.** Councillor Cotterill reported that an officer has now been tasked with obtaining a competitive price for the work to be carried out on Evershill Close in order to ease the parking issues; hopefully this will be available before the next Parish Council meeting in September.

The District Council are now going to remove the fly tipping on the land adjacent to the Corner Pin Public House and a charge for the cost of this work will be applied to the land; this will mean that the land will not be able to be sold until this charge has been paid in full.



**County Council.** It was reported to Councillor Cotterill that the trees at the side of the highway beyond the bus stop looking towards Tibshelf have still not been pruned back and this will be brought to the attention of the County Council again.

The gully on Station Road, Morton has been recently cleaned again but there needs to be a longer term solution to this ongoing issue. Local people have to walk on the road for large parts of the year due to the condition of the pavement caused by the flooding; also, it appears that the retaining wall is gradually being pushed over towards the highway and this is also a major cause for concern. The main problem is caused by water pouring off the adjacent land which is also presumably causing the wall to deteriorate. The Clerk has e-mailed the County Council regarding this matter and received the following reply:-

“Further to your email to Simon Kimmons of 20 June 2008, I would advise that the land this water is seeping from is apparently owned by DCC Planning. This matter is now being investigated by Peter Storey in our Reclamation Section to prevent the water seepage if possible and/or improve the drainage of it on the highway.”

There are some protruding grates in the pavement that are a potential hazard and the member of the public raising this problem was asked to report it directly to the County Council on telephone number 08456 058058 as they knew the precise location of both of the grates in question. Any similar issues can also be reported directly to the County Council on this number; if the problem transpires to be the responsibility of the District Council Call Derbyshire will pass a message on to them without the caller having to make a second call.

**31/09 Members Present.** Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski, Mrs B. Roe, Mr C. Parkin and prospective Parish Councillor Mr C. Lawton.

Also in attendance were Mr D. Cotterill - County Councillor, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 4 members of the public (3 aged under 18).

**32/09 Apologies.** Mrs L. Henshaw and District Councillors Mr A. Cooper and Mrs A. Holmes.

**33/09 Councillors Absent.** None.

**34/09 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

**35/09 Items from members of the public.** It was reported that the dog waste bin on New Street, Morton has not been emptied for some time and the Clerk will now follow this up with the District Council. All of the other issues raised had already been dealt with under to District Council and County Council items.

**36/09 Non-Exempt Minutes - 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

**37/09 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

**38/09 Clerk of the Council's Report.** Evershill Close - a price for the work to be carried out should be available for consideration at the September meeting.

Multi-Activities Area - the only work remaining is the installation of a basketball post and net which should be completed soon. Discussion will continue with the 12 plus age group regarding what further facilities they would like to see developed in the future. The lack of help from young people with painting the railings around the play area was disappointing.

Toxic Waste Site - Councillor Cooper had contacted the Clerk to confirm that Nev Haslam from the Environmental Services Department at the District Council has offered to come and talk about this subject at one of our Parish Council meetings; it was agreed that if possible this will be arranged for the September meeting although it should be noted that the District Council are also struggling to get any further meaningful information from the Environment Agency.

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

**39/09 Matters for Decision.**

**a). Detached Youth Worker - Mobile Project.** The Detached Youth Worker for this area, Janice Hacz, had intended to be at this meeting and in her absence a short discussion took place with the 3 young people present regarding their wishes for future facilities and activities within the Village. It was agreed that any Morton young people who are interested should be encouraged to join with the 'STAG' youngsters in Stonebroom as the best way forward to achieve some progress in a range of ways due to the relatively low numbers in Morton.

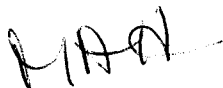
**RESOLVED** that that a further meeting with Janice will be arranged after the school holidays have finished.

**b). Vacancies - co-option of up to two new councillors.** There has been one expression of interest in the 2 vacancies namely from Mr Clive Lawton who was in attendance at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that Mr Clive Lawton is co-opted on to the Parish Council with immediate effect. Mr Lawton completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor and the General Notice of Registrable Interests forms in the presence of the Clerk who provided the witness signature.

**c). Love Lane.** The problems being encountered in this location were reported to PCSO Gary Green at the beginning of the meeting and he will be keeping a close watch on the situation.

**RESOLVED** that PCSO Gary Green will report back to a future meeting regarding this ongoing problem.



d). **NEDDC - grass cutting in Morton.** Following the complaints about the mess that is left behind in the village after the grass has been cut the District Council has stated that they would be prepared to carry out additional cuts if the Parish Council were prepared to pay for these; the additional cuts would mean that there would be much less grass left behind to blow around after each cut.

**RESOLVED** that the Council do not wish to incur any further expenditure on grounds maintenance at this stage.

f). **Morton Monkeys Playgroup.** A request for financial assistance has been received from this newly formed local group which aims to support young families in Morton.

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £50 should be given to this most worthwhile local group.

g). **Morton Colliery Cricket Club.** A request for match sponsorship starting at £20 has been received from the Cricket Club

**RESOLVED** that due to a lack of 'community engagement' by the Cricket Club no sponsorship or grant will be given to them this year.

40/09 **Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

a). <b><u>Payee.</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No.</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Wages for July, August and September	-	1,274 . 03
Mr P. Jackson - stress testing of lamp posts	001016	250 . 00
Peter Harkins - hedge and tree cutting	001017	230 . 00
HM Revenue & Customs - tax and NI Apr. to June 08	-	1,012 . 97
DCC - superannuation	001018	158 . 42
SLCC - membership application for ILCM	001019	65 . 00
Page Kirk - charges for year end return	001020	24 . 68
Morton PCC - grant	001021	900 . 00
Page Kirk - payroll fees January to June 2008	001022	37 . 60
Mr P. Goodwin - expenses	001023	76 . 64
Mr W. Edson - cost of bouncy castle hire	001024	46 . 00

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £25,432.49  
Current Account £ 667.37

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

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**41/09 Planning. The following planning application has now been withdrawn :-**

**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 refused :-**

**08/00505/FL** - Proposed application for the change of use of land outside the settlement development limit to domestic curtilage at the Coach House adjacent to 94 Main Road, Morton, Alfreton, Derbyshire for Mr Sam Fokl.

**42/09 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in General Circulars **24** and **25/2008**, **26/2008** - Derbyshire Selected as a Stakeholder to a Pilot Compact for Code of Conduct Training, Circulars **27/2008** - Empowerment White Paper - Communities in Control (Real People, Real Power) **28/2008** - DALC President 2008-2009, **29/2008** - Corporate Manslaughter, Corporate Homicide Act 2007, **30/2008** - General Circular, **31/2008** - The Power of the Promotion of Economic, Social or Environmental Well Being, **32/2008** - Moving the date of English Local Government Elections to the date of the European Parliament Elections in 2009 and **33/2008** - DALC Training.

**43/09 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. Victim Support Derbyshire and NEDDC (Chair's Appeal) have both sent a letter of thanks in respect of the recent grants of £25 that we made to each of them.**

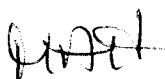
North East Derbyshire District Council has formally adopted an Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document and also and Access for All Supplementary Planning document; copies of both these document are now available for anyone to read.

North East Derbyshire District Council has written to confirm that BT are proposing to remove a number of public payphones across the District and this includes the one outside the Village Hall. They need any comments on this proposal by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as listed above and that there are no objections from this Council regarding the proposed removal of the public phone box outside of the Village Hall.

Derbyshire County Council has written to ask for any comments on their draft North East Derbyshire Local Accessibility Issues and Options Consultation document.

**RESOLVED** that this document is noted and it is felt that the key points for consideration have been well covered in the draft document and that this Council has nothing further to add to that.



The County Council has written to confirm that the site suggested for the new seat near to 62 Main Road, Morton is not suitable as this is used for parking by local residents. However, the site adjacent to the District Council bungalows at 47/49 Main Road, Morton would be acceptable in terms of the grassed area behind the highway edge subject to the District Council's approval as apparently they own the land.

**RESOLVED** that a new seat will be provided at the site agreed by the County Council with the proviso that the District Council will also give their approval as the landowner.

**44/09 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - The Clerk read out an e-mail dated the 15<sup>th</sup> July from the Council's solicitors stating that they are following up the transfer of land issue with Chris Milner's solicitors but to date they have not had a response from them. The Clerk will continue to pursue this matter on the Parish Council's behalf.

**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 gave a verbal report on both meetings and the fact that it looks likely that the Consultative Group will be disbanded now that the SNT meetings are well established; however, due to the low attendance at the SNT meetings they will be held less frequently.

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - Councillor Hawkins gave a verbal report on the meeting that she had attended and the fact that issues affecting older people have now been included in the action plan after this had been raised by her and Councillor McCullough at the meeting.

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

The meeting was declared closed at 9.00pm

**Chairman**

17th September 2008

*Margaret A. Hawkins*