

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 15th October 2008.

Informal Session.

Police. The police were not in attendance at the meeting but the Clerk was pleased to report that there had only been two recorded crimes during the month of September namely one of criminal damage and one theft of a motor vehicle.

District Council. Councillor Cooper reported that he had been requested to follow up on three issues at the last Parish Council meeting which he has now done. The weed killing/clearing in Morton, and particularly the areas around Penfold Way and Bacchus Way, has now been carried out and in this respect we will continue to monitor the situation.

It has been ascertained that the grassed area that has been fenced off near to the Old School Room does not belong to the occupant, the County Council or the District Council. It is therefore difficult to see a quick way forward with this issue although it is understood that a neighbour has taken this matter up with his solicitor and it could be that this will resolve the problem.

The long standing problem of parking on Evershill Close is covered as one of the main agenda items.

Councillor Cooper was thanked for his report and he remained for the duration of the meeting.

County Council. Councillor Cotterill was not in attendance at the meeting but he had sent a report to Councillor Hawkins confirming that the problem of water escaping onto the highway from the former pit tip had been investigated by George Brydon and Simon Kimmons from the County Council; as a result of this the County Council has agreed to clean out the interceptor and if this doesn't resolve the problem it will be replaced altogether.

59/09 Members Present. Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mr C. Parkin and Mr C. Lawton.

Also in attendance were Mr A. Cooper - District Councillor, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 1 member of the public.

60/09 Apologies. County Councillor Mr D. Cotterill and District Councillor Mrs A. Holmes.

61/09 Councillors Absent. Mrs L. Henshaw, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski and Mrs B. Roe.

62/09 Declaration of Members' Interests. There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

63/09 Items from members of the public. The 30mph flashing warning sign on the entrance to the Village from Tibshelf is not working again as the power connection lead has been removed; this has been reported to the County Council together with a suggestion that a protective cover is fitted to the connection point in order to try and avoid a repeat of this problem.

A request has been received for the grassed area immediately surrounding the Centre of England Tree to be cut and Councillor Edson kindly agreed to try and resolve this small piece of work on the Parish Council's behalf.

64/09 Non-Exempt Minutes - 17th September 2008.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2008.

65/09 Items in Exclusion. There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

66/09 Clerk of the Council's Report. Evershill Close - Councillor Cooper reported that he had just distributed an e-mail from Alan Riley, Principal Engineer at NEDDC, stating that the cost of tarmacing an area to improve the parking problems would cost £9,100 including drainage works; also, planning permission would be needed before this scheme could go ahead. Councillor Parkin left the meeting at this point for the rest of the discussion on this item in case his company decides to put a tender in for the work should it go ahead.

It was agreed that Councillor Cooper will speak to Alan Riley in order to ask for 2 quotes from contractors that NEDDC regularly use and the Parish Council will also obtain 2 quotes. In order to do this a full specification for the work will have to be drawn up and the Parish Council may have to pay for this work to be completed. Councillor Cooper and the Clerk will keep in close contact on this issue in order that it can now be moved forward to a position where a firm decision can be made as to whether or not the Parish Council wish to finance this scheme.

Multi-Activities Area - it was reported that the youth Shelter and the basketball net are due to be installed on the play area off New Street on Thursday 23rd October which is excellent news.

New seat for the village - because of the major difficulties in finding an acceptable and useful position in the centre of the Village it was agreed that this issue should not be officially pursued any further at the moment. However, the Clerk will continue to liaise with the District Council on this matter in the hope that a reasonable compromise can be reached and a seat provided in a useful position towards the centre of the Village.

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

67/09 Matters for Decision.

a). Toxic Waste Site. Neville Haslam, Environmental Services Manager at North East Derbyshire District Council, and Georgina Preston from the Environment Agency attended the meeting for this item only. Councillor Hawkins started the discussion by saying that what local people wanted to know was whether or not the area where the toxic waste is buried is safe or not and, if not, what action would be taken to rectify the situation and minimise any risk?

It was explained that the risks can occur if any toxic substance is digested or breathed into the body; in this particular case the only potential risk is through contamination of the water course as the land remains unused (when toxic materials are buried the contaminated land will remain safe unless it is disturbed). Where the land comprises a lot of clay and mud water won't move very easily through this type of material and by the time it does many years later there will be no risk of harm from it. If the land is made up more of shale or sandstone then the water will move more quickly through it. In the original report it was stated that there was little risk of this happening at this site. When considering all of this information it is helpful to remember that dioxins are not soluble.

Neville Haslam explained that the last thorough testing that was carried out in the area was in 1981 but obviously it is the current situation which is relevant and important for people to know about. Georgina stated that her manager had agreed to some funding for short term monitoring of the area but that local knowledge of the key areas to test was vital in order that this resource is most effectively used. This work will be commissioned with a private firm of Consultants, overseen by the Environment Agency, and it should be completed by the end of March 2009. However, there is no long term funding agreed for testing of the site.

If the results show up any areas for concern then the District Council has a legal duty to address the problem; in this case consultation would be required with the County Council who are believed to be the landowners. Neville stated that there is a lot of contaminated land in North East Derbyshire District Council's area and work on this has to be prioritised. Generally speaking areas being developed are the highest priority, particularly land being used for housing, in order to maintain a safe environment for everyone to live and work in.

It was agreed that all communication on this issue will be sent through the Clerk to the Parish Council and Councillor Cooper. When the testing has been completed the results and any supplementary information will be also be distributed via this means.

Neville Haslam and Georgina Preston were thanked for their reports and attendance and left the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED that the reports from Neville Haslam and Georgina Preston are noted and when the results of the tests are available these will be discussed at the first available Parish Council meeting. Thanks were expressed to the District Council for pursuing this matter on the Parish Council's behalf and in particular to Councillor Cooper and Neville Haslam for their sterling efforts in this respect.

68/09 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Derbyshire County Council - printing	001039	10 . 72
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	001040	158 . 42
Gary Wilkes - bus shelter cleaning	001041	50 . 00
Powrie-Smith Architects Ltd. - design fees	001042	1,220 . 87
Mrs E.R. Goodwin - design and print 540 newsletters	001043	380 . 00
HM Chambers & Partners - design fees (replacement)	001044	722 . 63
Mr P. Goodwin - expenses	001045	37 . 19

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 15th October 2008 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £17,539.18
Current Account £ 2,865.79

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

69/09 Planning. The following planning application has now been approved :-

08/00777/FL - Proposed creation of vehicular access (Revised Scheme to NED/07/00685/FL) at 1 Sitwell Villas, Morton, Alfreton for Ms S. Bramley.

70/09 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in **47/2008** - Freedom of Information Act - New Model Publication Scheme, **48/2008** - General Circular, **49/2008** - Training - Quality Parish/Town Council Training Scheme) and **50/2008** - Communities in Control -Consultation on improving local accountability.

The Freedom of Information Act - New Model Publication Scheme will be put on the agenda for the November meeting.

71/09 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors Present including the change of name of a property on Church Lane. The Department for Communities and Local Government has sent a copy of a consultation document on the Making and Enforcement of Byelaws; this is the second in a series of Communities in Control consultation documents following publication of the White Paper on 9th July 2008. This paper invites views on the propose new procedure that will enable authorities to make certain byelaws without the need for scrutiny by the Secretary of State and about proposals for a new enforcement regime for byelaws; any comments about these proposals need to be submitted by the 20th November 2008.

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as listed above but that no comments need to be submitted about the consultation document on the Making and Enforcement of Byelaws.

72/09 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - The Clerk reported that Selwyn Gough from the Village Hall Management Committee had met with Chris Milner today and hopefully there will be some positive news regarding the progress towards the legal transfer of the strip of land that is required in order to build a proper access ramp for disabled people to be able to access the Village Hall. It was also agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting as soon as possible between the Parish Council, VHMC and Powrie-Smith architects to determine the best way forward now that 3 estimates for the cost of the work have been received from companies on the Powrie-Smith tendering list.

Church -A request has been made for the purchase of up to 12 four foot artificial Christmas Trees for inside the Church and Morton Primary School would be involved with the project. This request was unanimously agreed.

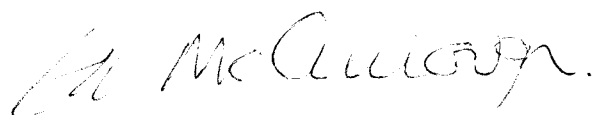
School - There was nothing further to report at the moment.

Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group/Safer Neighbourhood Team - Councillor McCullough gave a report on both these meetings that she had attended and apparently the future of the Consultative Group is not clear as some people want it to continue but others don't. There have been no more SNT meetings arranged as it appears likely that the police will be linking into the Neighbourhood Partnership meetings in terms of their role in communicating with local people and organisations. Councillor McCullough stated that there have been some more speed checks in the area but the main emphasis for the police at the moment is in targeting all drug related activities in the local villages.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership – Councillor Hawkins and Councillor McCullough had attended this meeting on the Parish Council's behalf and reported that whilst the meetings are more structured there have been no tangible benefits from them at the moment. Councillor Cooper stated that he will continue to follow up with senior managers at the District Council what progress they feel is being made by the Partnerships and exactly what outcomes have resulted from them. Unfortunately, the South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership is the worst attended within North East Derbyshire District Council.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm



Chairman

19th November 2008