

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 18th February 2009.

Informal Session.

Police. Inspector Adam Waterfall attended the start of the meeting in order to introduce himself to everyone present and to explain the latest changes being introduced by the police in terms of their approach to community policing. More discretion will be applied to situations where this is warranted e.g. an errant youngster may be spoken to rather than being arrested.

More attention will be given to the situation of the victim and every effort will be made to communicate effectively with local people. In this respect the recognised forum for discussion with the police on strategic/general issues will be the South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting where approximately 45 minutes will be set-aside for matters relating to the police. The Clay Cross Police Consultative Group may continue to run in a voluntary capacity but there will be no guaranteed police presence at the meeting.

The key to the success of the majority of the new strategy will be to free up more officers to be on the beat and this will primarily be achieved by reducing the amount of administrative work that officers currently have to undertake. To assist this process the key target for the police will be the numbers of officers on the beat rather than crime detection although this will obviously still remain a high priority; hopefully the greater police presence on the street will in itself help to reduce the level of crime.

Inspector Waterfall confirmed that the main responsibility for civil parking offences will pass from the police to the County Council with effect from the 19th February 2009 although offences such as obstruction will still be dealt with by the police depending upon the severity of the problem.

A number of questions were raised and these were generally related to the resources available to the police in terms of the budget and also the effect of the current economic situation on the level of crime. After concluding this session with an interesting exchange of views Inspector Waterfall was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at this point.

PCSO Gary Green had submitted his apologies for this meeting but he has sent the crime figures by e-mail; these have been distributed to all councillors with access to e-mail and a paper copy was made available at the meeting for anyone to read. There have been two crimes recorded during January namely one of criminal damage and one burglary from a dwelling; there have also been two incidents of nuisance reported during the month.

PCSO Green has also submitted a comprehensive update report on local issues and the main two of these that are of interest to Morton relate to the development of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and also the ongoing action that has been taken in order to try and reduce the amount of speeding vehicles on the A61.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MAG' or similar, located at the bottom center of the page.

District Council. Councillor Cotterill and Councillor Cooper stated that there was nothing further to report at the moment in respect of the District Council.

County Council. Councillor Cotterill reported on a number of problems that have been previously raised and a few new issues were also raised for the attention of the County Council as follows:-

The County Council has inspected the fence that has been erected around land outside the Old School Room that does not belong to the property; if it is found that this land forms part of the highway the County Council will take the necessary steps in order to ensure that it is removed.

Councillor Cotterill reported that the problem with leaking water that is just on the land that was the former Morton Colliery Yard land is in fact the responsibility of British Coal and they have arranged for a contractor to carry out this work as soon as possible.

A number of the roads and pavements in Morton are now in a poor state of repair and it was agreed that a member of the Area Highways Team should review all of these issues in conjunction with at least one representative from the Parish Council in order that these can be put into some priority order for repair.

Evershill Close - it has been agreed that due to the lack of progress with this proposed work by the District Council the matter is to be handed over to the County Council in order that they can draw up a proper specification for the scheme of works.

In addition, because of the increasing problems with parking on New Street it was agreed that this will be put on the agenda for the next meeting together with the problem of the poor road surface on Back Lane which is an unadopted road; one possible solution would be to increase the size of the area that is used as a car park at the top of New Street and at the same time put some road planings on to Back Lane.

The footpath adjacent to Main Road, Morton at the bottom of the Village is being obstructed by a large builder's bag still partly filled with sand and this needs removing as a matter of urgency before there is an accident.

101/09 Members Present. Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mrs C.E. Kozlowski, Mr C. Lawton, Mrs B. Roe and Mr C. Parkin.

Also in attendance were Mr D. Cotterill - County Councillor, Mr A. Cooper - District Councillor, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 3 members of the public.

102/09 Apologies. District Councillor Mrs A. Holmes.

103/09 Councillors Absent. None.

104/09 Declaration of Members' Interests. There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

105/09 Items from members of the public. There is to be an informal meeting with PCSO Gary Green regarding a number of local issues that primarily relate to Mickley and Stonebroom; however, it was agreed that it would be helpful for someone from Morton Parish Council to attend the meeting if at all possible. It was stressed that this was not a Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting as these have now been replaced with police attendance at the South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting

A question was raised regarding the work that is being carried out near the highway on Station Road where there has always been a problem with silt on the road and flooding; Councillor Cotterill stated that the County Council had investigated the problem of water escaping onto the highway from the former pit tip and, as a result of this, they have agreed to clean out the interceptor which is supposed to disperse the draining water. If this doesn't resolve the problem it will be replaced altogether.

106/09 Non-Exempt Minutes - 21st January 2009.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st January 2009.

107/09 Items in Exclusion. There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

108/09 Clerk of the Council's Report. Evershill Close - it has been agreed that due to the lack of progress with this proposed work by the District Council the matter is to be handed over to the County Council in order that they can draw up a proper specification for the scheme of works.

Toxic Waste Site - no information has yet been received in respect of the testing that is due to take place, and in fact to be completed by the 31st March 2009.

New seat for the Village - the Clerk will continue to pursue this matter on the Parish Council's behalf with Karen Perkins at the District Council.

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

109/09 Matters for Decision.

a). Senior Citizen's Christmas Party - request for financial assistance. An e-mail has been received from Selwyn Gough to ask for a grant towards this party that cost a total of £295.48.

RESOLVED that a grant of £300 should be made towards this valuable local event.

b). Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre - request for financial assistance. This registered charity provides the opportunity for a holiday break for many children throughout Derbyshire who otherwise wouldn't have this opportunity.

RESOLVED that a grant of £25 should be made to this most worthwhile Charity.

110/09 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

| a). <u>Payee.</u> | <u>Cheque No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| HM Revenue & Customs - tax and NI Oct. to Dec. 08 | - | 961 . 07 |
| Page Kirk - payroll fees to 31-12-08 | 001062 | 28 . 75 |
| Derbyshire County Council - superannuation | 001063 | 162 . 32 |
| Gary Wilkes - bus shelter cleaning (14-11-08 & 7-1-09) | 001064 | 100 . 00 |
| NEDDC - supply of school milk (Sept. to Dec. 08) | 001065 | 92 . 38 |
| NEDDC - empty dog waste bins (Oct. to Dec. 08) | 001066 | 299 . 65 |
| Morton VHMC - grant towards OAP party | 001067 | 300 . 00 |
| Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre - grant | 001068 | 25 . 00 |
| Mrs E.R. Goodwin - design and print 422 newsletters | 001069 | 422 . 00 |

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 18th February 2009 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £12,577.94
Current Account £ 1,602.25

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

111/09 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning applications :-

09/00011/FL - Proposed construction of new rear extension at *The Brambles/ Conifers*, Church Lane, Morton for Mr Martyn Morris.

CD4/0209/195 - Proposed erection of a single classroom temporary classroom unit to facilitate the extension of the existing school building. The temporary classroom will be removed at the end of the main building contract (12 month contract) at Morton Primary School, Main Road, Morton, Alfreton DE55 6HH for Derbyshire County Council.

A certificate has been issued in respect of the following planning application :-

08/01144/LDC - Proposed Lawful Development application for retention of a balcony over an existing garage at 584 Pilsley Road, Morton, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 6HP for Mr Raymond Mansfield.

The following planning application has now been granted :-

08/01072/FL - Proposed Conversion and extension of existing two-storey building (Amended Plan) at 94 Main Road, Morton, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 6HH for Mr M Foki.

112/09 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in Circulars /2009 - and 4 and 5/2009 - General Circulars.

114/09 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The following e-mail has been received in respect of a recent inspection by the District Council of the Parish Council's two play areas:-

"Please see attached independent inspection report carried out in December on the parish play areas in Morton. There is nothing really of any concern but please note my comments below.

Bacchus Way

Wicksteed swing unit - as per previous correspondence regarding this, the inspector has recommended a safer surface is installed beneath the swings, as play equipment with a concrete base no longer conforms to the current European Standards. The estimated cost of carrying this out would be £3,500. The estimated total cost of replacing the whole unit i.e. new swings and wet pour surfacing would be £7,000.

New Street

Playdale junior multi unit - As per previous years correspondence, although certain items on this equipment and surfacing fail to meet the requirements of the current European Standards, the unit was installed prior to the introduction of these standards and did meet the requirements of the previous British Standards BS5696 current at the time of installation. Therefore I would not recommend any works be carried out this time.

Overall, you will see the play areas have been given an overall risk assessment of medium. Just to give you an idea of the District wide picture, there were a total of 66 sites inspected. 4 were assessed as high risk, 55 medium and 7 low. The inspector also said, as in previous years, that it is evident that we have a high standard of maintenance. Therefore an assessment of medium is not really a cause for concern.

I trust this is to your satisfaction but I am happy to discuss any of these issues in more detail if you want to give me ring."

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as listed above and that no action is currently necessary in respect of either play area although consideration needs to be given about the timing of the future replacement of the surface underneath the swings on the Bacchus Way play area.

115/09 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - The Clerk reported that progress is now being made by the two sets of solicitors in respect of the transfer of the small strip of land required to enable the creation of a proper access for disabled people from Chris Milner to the Parish Council and a draft contract has now been received which is acceptable to the Parish Council; the Clerk has confirmed this in writing to the solicitors in order that this matter can now be progressed.

It was also agreed that assistance is needed both in terms of drawing up an effective business case for the project and also trying to secure the necessary funding; in this respect Councillor Hawkins was authorised to try and commission someone locally to carry out this work on our behalf.

Church - There is nothing further to report at the moment.

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

Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group/Safer Neighbourhood Team - These meetings have now been replaced by the police attendance at the South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings although the Clay Cross Community Police Consultative Group may continue in a voluntary capacity.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - The next meeting date has not yet been received.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm

Chairman

18th March 2009

Margaret Hawkins