

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 18th July 2012.

33/13 Members Present. Mr A. Coates, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mr A. Cooper, Mr C. Lawton, Mrs B. Roe, Mr S. Cashin, Mr M. Morris and Mrs L. Taylor.

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk, PC Phil Parkin, PCSO Gary Green and 2 members of the public.

34/13 Apologies. Mr B. Lewis - County Councillor.

35/13 Councillors Absent. None.

36/13 Declaration of Members' Interests. There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

37/13 Public Speaking.

Items from members of the public. It was reported that a number of needles have been found near to the brook in Morton and also on Love Lane; Councillor McCullough offered to raise this issue with PCSO Green.

The issue of horse riders using Pit Lane and other routes in the Village was raised again; Councillor Coates stated that there was nothing that could be done in respect of Pit Lane until the Inspector has determined whether or not this footpath should be upgraded to a bridleway.

The Clerk has received an e-mail from a local resident regarding the condition of two footpaths in the Parish, namely Pit Lane and the path that runs from Paul Cupit's garage down to the brook.

The Clerk will write to both the District Council and the County Council in order to try and ensure that the necessary work is carried out as soon as possible.

The e-mail also refers to the litter bins that have been provided near the brook as part of the joint project with Shirland and Higham Parish Council which has had a really positive effect on litter in the vicinity. A local resident has been emptying these bins and the question has been asked, "if the Parish Council have a formal long-term plan for emptying these temporary bins, as they are a good idea, and in fairness, are being used by the public?"

Police. The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there was 1 recorded crime in Morton during June; this was in respect of the theft of diesel fuel from a farm on Pilsley Road.

There were 2 reports of nuisance made within Morton during June; these were in respect of one incident of a drunken relative banging on the door late at night and a verbal disagreement on Evershill Lane.

PC Phil Parkin distributed a map of the area that is now being covered by the Clay Cross and North East Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The attitude of the community service order supervisor towards local residents when they approached the Morton Park play area whilst fence painting was being carried out was raised and this matter will be taken up with them.

PC Phil Parkin and PCSO Gary Green were thanked for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

District Council. Councillor Cooper had nothing new to report. However, Councillor Coates stated that he had been approached about the possible use of the football pitch belonging to the District Council by a local team and it was unanimously agreed that this should be supported if it comes to fruition.

County Council. There was no verbal report as Councillor Lewis was not in attendance at the meeting.

However, a number of items were raised for the attention of the County Council and these were as follows:-

The issue with the water seeping through the wall onto Station Road was raised again but this time in respect of the fact that water is now also apparently bubbling up through the pavement.

The County Council Inspector has determined that there isn't a problem with overhanging trees/vegetation in the Village but this is disputed locally. When copies of photographs are available to evidence this problem the Clerk will forward them on to the County Council for action.

It was reported that there is a large pothole in the road just before Westwood Gardens when entering the Village from the Tibshelf direction and the Clerk will report this to the County Council.

Also, apparently there is a pavement that is inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation on the way out of Morton towards Tibshelf but it was felt that this was in Tibshelf Parish; however, the Clerk will write to the County Council in order to ensure that they are aware of the problem.

38/13 Non-Confidential Minutes - 13th June 2012.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on the 13th June 2012.

39/13 Items in Exclusion. There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

40/13 Clerk of the Council's Report. War memorial - two estimates have now been received for the work that needs to be carried out and the Clerk has submitted the grant application to the War Memorials Trust. If this bid fails there is another possible avenue through which to get the work carried out and if necessary the Clerk will pursue this.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report.

Risk Assessment and Asset Register. The Clerk presented an up to date copy of the Parish Council's risk assessment and asset register for approval by the Councillors present.

RESOLVED that the risk assessment and asset register are approved as presented.

41/13 Matters for Decision.

a). Village Hall. Councillor Coates introduced this item and asked Councillors to consider a proposal that the feasibility of the provision of a new Village Hall in Morton should be investigated; it was proposed that the initial investigation should be carried out by Councillors A. Coates, S. Cashin and M. Morris in conjunction with someone from North East Derbyshire District Council Planning Department. Councillor Cooper stated that he would support this approach in his role as a District Councillor.

RESOLVED that once at least two dates when everyone is available for a short tour around the Parish to look at the possibilities the Clerk will ask for a Planning Officer to attend in order that any options identified can be fully explored.

There are some building repairs to the Village Hall that may need to be carried out prior to the September meeting in order to keep the Hall open.

RESOLVED that expenditure up to £2,500 is authorised to carry out any essential repairs in order to ensure that the Village Hall can keep operating normally.

b). Adoption of a new Code of Conduct. The Clerk informed all Councillors that one of the requirements of the Localism Bill is that each Council has to adopt a new Code of Conduct that is consistent with the seven Nolan principles; a copy of the District Council's draft Code of Conduct is available if the Parish Council wish to adopt this.

The code document also contains the requirements for the registration and disclosure of interests as these will change from the 1st July 2012 when personal and prejudicial interests will be replaced by two new classifications of interest namely disclosable pecuniary interests and 'other interests'. The District Council has drawn up a new registration form for this purpose and a copy was given to each Councillor for completion.

RESOLVED that the District Council's draft Code of Conduct is adopted by Morton Parish Council. Also, the Clerk will take a copy of all the new registration forms before these are returned to the District Council.

42/13 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Page Kirk - year end payroll fees	Direct Debit	54 . 00
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	Standing Order	170 . 70
Gary Wilkes - bus shelter cleaning (3 months)	001275	150 . 00
Derbyshire County Council - lease of land	001276	60 . 00
Premier 1 (U.K.) Ltd. - supply of plants	001277	252 . 00
NEDDC - grounds maintenance 2012/13	001278	1,731 . 56
Boiler Room Digital - work on Council website	001279	37 . 33
Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk	001280	106 . 94
Holy Cross Church Morton PCC - grass cutting and room hire	001281	350 . 00
Morton Neighbourhood Watch - grant	001282	50 . 00
NEDDC - Chair's Appeal 2012/13	001283	25 . 00

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 13th June 2012 up to and including the 18th July 2012 are as follows :-

Balances at the 13 th June 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 1,002.24
	Current Account	£ <u>237.32</u>
	Total	£ 1,239.56
	Income Received	£14,270.20
	Expenditure Incurred	£ 2,987.53
Balances at the 18 th July 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 1,003.24
	Current Account	£ <u>11,518.99</u>
	Total	£12,522.23

RESOLVED that the payments listed above were authorised and the current level of balances noted.

c). Cricket Club ball sponsorship - Morton Colliery Cricket Club.

RESOLVED that a grant of £20 should be made to sponsor a match day cricket ball for the current season.

d). Request for a grant - Morton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

RESOLVED that a grant of £50 should be made towards the general funds of the Morton Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

e). Request for financial assistance - NEDDC Chair's Appeal 2012/13 . The Chair's nominated charity for the 2012/13 financial year is the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance (DLRAA).

RESOLVED that a grant of £25 should be made to the Chair's Appeal for 2012/13.

f). Request for financial support - Party in the Park. Councillor Edson stated that this event is scheduled for the 7th September 2012 and that the organising committee will need some financial support to underwrite this scheme if there is a shortfall.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council will provide financial help towards this event up to a maximum of £200.

g). Request for financial support - Tennis sessions in Stonebroom. Councillor Coates stated that there are tennis sessions available in Stonebroom to any children in Morton between the ages of 5 and 12. If Shirland and Higham Parish Council and Morton Parish Council can provide £60 funding each for these sessions they will be able to carry on throughout the school holidays.

RESOLVED that funding of £60 is agreed in order to support this activity.

43/13 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning applications :-

12/00557/FLH - Proposed construction of a single storey extension to rear at Springfield, Pit Lane, Morton, Alfreton for Mr M Grant.

12/00583/FLH - Proposed construction of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension at 61 Stretton Road, Morton, Alfreton DE55 6GW for P Mellor.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council expressing the support of Morton Parish Council for both of these planning applications to be approved.

44/13 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in Circulars **30/2012, 31/2012, 32/2012, 34/2012** and **35/2012** - General Circulars and **33/2012** Derbyshire County Training Partnership.

45/13 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. Derbyshire County Council has written with details of its Excellence in the Community Awards 2012 which recognises outstanding achievement and the important contribution local people make to local life.

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as listed above.

46/13 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - It was reported that there has not been a recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Church - Councillor Lawton stated that £1,300 had been raised at the recent garden party and this was helped by the good weather on the day.

School - Councillor Edson stated that he had resigned as a school governor but he is happy to carry on with the role of liaising with the school on the Parish Council's behalf.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - Councillors McCullough and Roe reported about the last meeting and the fact that it was not very well attended; also, that the future of the Partnership is now under review. In particular the reports from the police, activities to raise funds for a BMX track in Mickley and the community walkabouts by Rykneld Homes were of interest; the walkabout in Morton is scheduled for the 20th September 2012. The next Partnership meeting is due to be held on Thursday 27th September 2012.

Morton Park Play Area, New Street, Morton and Youth activities - Councillor Coates thanked everyone who had helped with the organisation of the official opening of the new play area which had been a tremendous success.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - Councillor McCullough reported that 17 members of the public had attended the last meeting and it had been very successful with everyone enjoying the evening. The main points of note were that anti-social behaviour is low within Morton and the overall cost of vandalism across the County is down by approximately 25% to £38,000,000.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received.

47/13 Items for the next agenda. No additional items were raised.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm

Chairman 19th September 2012