

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

**48/13 Members Present.** Mr A. Coates, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mr A. Cooper, Mr C. Lawton, Mr S. Cashin, Mr M. Morris and Mrs L. Taylor.

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**49/13 Apologies.** Mrs B. Roe and Mr B. Lewis - County Councillor.

**50/13 Councillors Absent.** None.

**51/13 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

**52/13 Public Speaking.**

**Items from members of the public.** It was reported by a member of the public that there is a problem with horses riding on a field at the rear of the Morton Manor building and it is believed that this field belongs to the District Council. Due to the extremely wet conditions the horses have caused some damage to the field which is not a bridleway; there is also some bad 'rutting' on it caused by a tractor that may have been used to retrieve hay, possibly by a local farmer. Importantly, it is thought that a football team are intending using this at some point in the near future.

Councillor Cooper was given a photograph of the area in question and he will pass this on to the relevant officer at the District Council next week. It is alleged that someone has given away keys to the barriers that are installed on the Stonebroom side to some horse riders and if this is true it may be possible to retrieve these. One local resident in Morton at least is very unhappy that this has happened. In the medium and longer term the Parish Council would like to look with the District Council at ways of stopping the horse riders accessing this land from Stonebroom otherwise the problem will just keep recurring from time to time; it should be noted that this is an area which the horse riders are not entitled to access and the Parish Council is just trying to stop the area from being damaged.

The Clerk will report all of this information to the District Council as they are the landowner.

Also, apparently the street nameplates on New Street and Pilsley Road have still not been replaced and the Clerk will raise this matter again.

**Police.** The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there were 3 recorded crimes in Morton during July; these were in respect of one theft of mail over a period of time on Station Road (dealt with under the restorative justice system), one theft of a section of chain link fence on Evershill Close (undetected) and one incident of criminal damage on Evershill Lane (undetected).

In August there were 3 recorded crimes; these were in respect of a theft of a trailer from a farm on Pilsley Road, theft of metal building items on Stretton Road and one incidence of violence during a domestic argument on New Street.

There were no reports of nuisance made within Morton during July and August.

PCSO Green had written to the Clerk to explain that he is on holiday and would not therefore be able to attend this meeting.

**District Council.** Councillor Cooper reported that the outline planning application in respect of the housing development near to Sitwell Villas has now been approved. There were no strong objections brought forward by local people when this application was being considered by the District Council.

However, Councillor Cooper has asked that a bus turning circle should be provided at this location and also improved road safety schemes in order to mitigate against the danger caused by vehicles travelling at very high speeds when entering and leaving the Village. We also need to be mindful of the 'planning gain' under the section 106 agreement that should be due when the scheme eventually gets underway in order to ensure that any funds are spent in the best interests of the local community.

A number of different points were raised about grounds maintenance within the Parish and it was agreed that the Clerk should, in the first instance, write to the District Council in order to try and find out as many answers as possible. Also, further details are required from the District Council in order that the Parish Council can determine the best way forward in 2013/14; key to this will be information about what services we currently receive for the annual grounds maintenance payment that is made to them.

On the Parish Council land at the rear of Morton Manor the grass hasn't been cut for some time now; this is on our schedule and it may just be that work is behind due to the poor, but fast growing, summer weather conditions. There is also a need to look at the provision of some more strategically placed litter bins and dog waste bins near to Morton Brook and on Pit lane.

Finally, there is the new play area off New Street which will include the on-going inspection and maintenance that is required here; the cost of this needs to be calculated and consideration given to exactly what is covered by the agreement. Alison Griffiths from the District Council has worked closely with the local people involved with this project and her input would be very helpful in this respect.

After the Clerk has written to the District Council it was agreed that the best way forward would be to have a site meeting in order to look at all of these issues and how to deal with them. The Clerk will co-ordinate this meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

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

However, the following issues were raised and these will be reported to the County Council by the Clerk for investigation:

The overgrown hedges that were previously reported have now been cut well back. However, only those specifically reported were dealt with and a number of areas need some attention now particularly on Stretton Road between the Village and the A61.

There is a large ditch with soil either side of it on the old colliery yard at the back of the pit wheels; this is quite deep with water and is potentially a serious hazard particularly for children.

There is some damage to the Main Road near to the kerb edge on the opposite side of the road to the school down towards the Post Office; apparently there is no tarmac on the surface at all in certain places.

**53/13 Non-Confidential Minutes - 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

**54/13 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

**55/13 Clerk of the Council's Report.** War memorial - the Clerk reported that the War Memorials Trust has now approved a grant of up to £476 towards the cost of renovating the war memorial; the total cost of the works will be a maximum of £925. The amount set aside in the Precept in respect of the war memorial was £350.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's report and to approve the expenditure to renovate the war memorial preferably prior to Remembrance Sunday which falls on the 11<sup>th</sup> November this year.

Quality Parish Council status - the Clerk informed everyone that re-accreditation is due by the end of September 2013. The cost of the application is £60 and it will take between 20 to 30 hours of the Clerk's time to compile the application prior to submission; however, in this respect there will be no additional cost to the Parish Council. The only other potential costs are those of continuing to produce 4 newsletters per annum, which is still a requirement of the scheme, and that both Councillors and the Clerk have to undertake relevant training.

It has just been announced that the Quality Parish Council Scheme is to have a full review and therefore at this stage it is not certain what the full requirements of Councils wishing to apply will be.

**RESOLVED** that a decision on whether or not to apply for re-accreditation of Quality Parish Council status is deferred until further information about the new scheme is available.

**56/13 Matters for Decision.**

a). **Village Events.** Councillor Edson reported that the 'Party in the Park' had made a small loss but that more or less the same value in stock was left over which could be used at the next event to be held.

The next two Village events that are planned are a Halloween Party and also a Christmas Party, both of which will be held in the Village Hall. This is a separate Christmas Party to the traditional lunch that is held for the older people in the Village. Following these the next occasion to be organised will possibly be an Easter Party.

**RESOLVED** that many thanks are due to Councillor Edson and everyone else involved. Special mention should be made in respect of the tremendous effort and entertainment provided by the tribute act namely Conrad Winstanley and Lee who were DJ's and entertainers at the event; it wouldn't be the same without the both of them.

Also, it was unanimously agreed that the Christmas luncheon party for older people in the Village will once again be paid for by the Parish Council.

**b). North East Derbyshire Local Plan.** Councillor Cashin reported that this is an extensive document and there are 21 questions posed that can be answered by individuals, groups or Councils.

**RESOLVED** that following a short discussion it was agreed that due to the level of detail in the document there was insufficient time available to allow a proper response to be made to this consultation.

**c). Doe Hill Community Park Advisory Group.** The Clerk stated that the meeting that was planned for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 has been postponed and it will now be held in Tibshelf Village Hall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 12 noon.

**RESOLVED** that as Councillor Coates is not able to attend on the revised date Councillor Edson will try to attend the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and report back to the October meeting. Of particular interest is determining whether or not it will be useful for someone from this Council to regularly attend future meetings of this group.

**57/13 Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

| <b>a). <u>Payee.</u></b>                          | <b><u>Cheque No.</u></b> | <b><u>Amount</u></b> |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Wages for April, May and June                     | -                        | 1,425 . 33           |
| HMRC - tax and NI April to June 2012              | -                        | 1,014 . 00           |
| Page Kirk - payroll fees to 30-6-12               | Direct Debit             | 33 . 00              |
| Derbyshire County Council - superannuation        | Standing Order           | 170 . 70             |
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| Cancelled   | 001284                   | -                    |
| Morton Primary School - supply of school milk     | 001285                   | 75 . 14              |
| Audit Commission - audit fee 2011/12              | 001286                   | 342 . 00             |
| J.M. Nicholas - licence fee for old colliery land | 001287                   | 5 . 00               |

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

|  |                         |                   |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Balances at the 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2012 :-      | Capital Reserve Account | £ 1,003.24        |
|  | Current Account         | <u>£11,518.99</u> |
|  | <b>Total</b>            | <b>£12,522.23</b> |
|  | Income Received         | £ 16,000.00       |
|  | Expenditure Incurred    | £ 3,235.87        |
| Balances at the 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2012 :- | Capital Reserve Account | £ 1,003.24        |
|  | Current Account         | <u>£24,283.12</u> |
|  | <b>Total</b>            | <b>£25,286.36</b> |

c). The Clerk was pleased to report that the Audit of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 has been concluded and there were no issues to report.

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

Also, that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit and Right to Inspect the Annual Return, together with a copy of the Annual Return, will be placed on the Parish Council's website and also displayed on the Parish Council notice boards within the Village.

**58/13 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning application :-**

**12/00670/AD** - Proposed application for advertisement consent for display of 2 no. fascia signs at 45 Main Road, Morton, Alfreton DE55 6GS for Ms Dianne Bowler.

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

**12/00556/DISCON** - Application for discharge of conditions attached to 11/01068/FL for construction of a detached house at land adjacent at Greenacres, Pilsley Road, Morton, Alfreton for Mr R Ford.

**59/13 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in Circulars **36/2012, 37/2012, 38/2012, 39/2012, 40/2012** and **41/2012** - General Circulars.

**60/13 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. The Department for Communities and Local Government has sent a copy of a brief guide for councillors entitled "Openness and transparency on personal interests" and the Clerk provided a copy of this document for each councillor.

The Audit Commission has written to confirm that Grant Thornton UK LLP have been appointed as external auditor to audit our annual return for 5 years from 2012/13. The County Council has written to ask if we would like to take part in this years' 'snow warden' scheme.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as listed above and it was agreed that we would not participate in the 'snow warden' scheme.

### **61/13 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - Councillor Coates stated that there is a meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September and both he and Councillor Cashin will be attending as the Parish Council nominated representatives on the Committee. One issue that will be raised is the on-going problem with the drains at the Village Hall.

**Church** - Councillor Lawton confirmed that there was nothing further to report at the moment.

**School** - Councillor Edson had nothing new to report to the meeting. The school had asked about the payment of the last invoice for the provision of school milk and the cheque for this was presented to the meeting.

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - Councillor McCullough reported that the next planned meeting had been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. It is possible that these meetings may not continue for much longer, certainly in their current format; if that proves to be the case a different, and more effective, means of public participation and engagement with local Councils and Agencies needs to be developed.

**Morton Park Play Area and Youth Activities** - Councillor Cashin reported that 105 trees are being delivered for planting within the Village and the school are receiving a further 60 for their own use. The planting is scheduled to take place at 1pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November and all volunteers are welcome to help with this project. Councillor Cashin is attending a meeting which is being held in order to determine the best location(s) for the planting to take place.

**Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** - Councillor McCullough reported that the last meeting had gone very well but the attendance was lower than hoped for at around 15. Mick Waller, Safer Neighbourhood Youth Officer, had delivered an interesting talk about drugs in the area. What was really disturbing is that there are some instances of children as young as 10 using drugs although he stressed that this is not necessarily in the immediate vicinity of Morton.

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

### **62/13 Items for the next agenda.** There were no new items suggested for the next agenda.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.40pm

**Chairman** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012