

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 17th October 2012.

63/13 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 and Mr M. Morris.

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 1 member of the public.

64/13 Apologies. Mrs L. Taylor and Mr B. Lewis - County Councillor.

65/13 Councillors Absent. None.

66/13 Declaration of Members' Interests. There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

67/13 Public Speaking.

Items from members of the public. The problem with horse riders causing damage to land in Morton was raised again. The Clerk reported that a meeting was being arranged with the District Council initially in order to look at possible solutions to this problem together with a number of other issues; these include the condition of local footpaths as this has been raised separately with the Clerk by another local resident.

Police. The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there were 2 recorded crimes in Morton during September although one of these relates to a crime in August that was not included in the previous figures; these were both in respect of thefts from a farm on Pilsley Road, one of which is still under investigation.

There were no reports of nuisance made within Morton during September.

The police have also issued the following message:

“We still suffer from incidents of metal thefts from around the parish and would urge all residents to be extra vigilant. We have also seen a spike in theft of items from motor vehicles and intelligence suggests that we may have two offenders, possibly riding pedal cycles, generally in the early hours. Again we urge anyone seeing individuals riding cycles who are out and about during the early hours of the morning to contact police so they can be checked out. Thefts are generally from insecure vehicles and again please pass out the message to all residents to check their vehicles and secure them, particularly during darkness”

There have been a number of reports of ‘near misses’ to road traffic accidents in the Village and in particular near to the brow of the hill at Sitwell Villas on Stretton Road; the Clerk will ask the police to provide a more regular mobile police camera presence at this location if at all possible.

District Council. Councillor Cooper had nothing new to report. However, the poor quality of some of the recycling bins, particularly the green bins, was raised as some people have had three replacements of these within a twelve month period due to them splitting.

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

However, the following information has been received by e-mail from the County Council regarding the issues that were raised following the September meeting:

“Alan Tulloch has looked at this but cannot see any ditch within or close to the highway. According to our maps DCC do not own the land at the rear of the pit wheels themselves, our land is slightly to the left and well to the right.

Do you mean the ditch is on the land that is being developed at the rear of the wheels as this will be privately owned? If this is the case, this is not an issue for DCC but the owner direct I assume.

An order for hedge cutting works has been made to our corporate resources to be undertaken over autumn/winter. The Inspector has also issued works to repair the edge of carriageway on Main Road.”

The Clerk had received a message from Councillor Taylor that two different residents from Stretton Road have expressed their concerns about speeding on this road; the two households in question are just before the brow of the hill and both narrowly avoided a serious collision on the way to school this week. They asked if it would be possible for a speed camera to be deployed again at this location.

There were other concerns expressed at the meeting about speeding on this stretch of road and the Clerk will write to County Councillor Barry Lewis to ask for consideration to be given for some sort of road improvement scheme/traffic calming measures at this location particularly given that there is now outline planning permission for a further 34 houses near to Sitwell Villas.

There is no condition for this in the outline approval but presumably it would be possible to introduce this at the point when full permission is applied for. District Councillor Andrew Cooper has already raised a number of points on our behalf when the outline approval was being considered and one of these was in respect of the need for a bus turning area somewhere in this vicinity.

Also, local schoolchildren will be asked to design an ‘anti-speeding poster’ which may have some short term effect certainly with drivers who live in the Village.

68/13 Non-Confidential Minutes - 19th September 2012.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on the 19th September 2012.

69/13 Items in Exclusion. There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

70/13 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 of 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. The work will be carried out prior to Remembrance Sunday which does fall on the 11th November this year.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report.

71/13 Matters for Decision.

a). Village Events. Councillor Edson confirmed that the Halloween Party will be held on Sunday 28th October in the Village Hall from 6pm to 8pm; young children must be accompanied by an adult.

RESOLVED that a number of Councillors are attending this event and therefore there will be sufficient people to help out on the night.

b). Doe Hill Community Park Advisory Group. The Clerk stated that this meeting has been deferred yet again and no new firm date has yet been fixed.

RESOLVED that either Councillor Coates or Councillor Edson will attend this meeting if possible when the new date has been agreed.

c). 60th Anniversary of the Queens' Coronation. Next year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation and information has been received in respect of commemorative items that are being issued in order to mark the occasion.

RESOLVED that the general view was that the main celebrations had taken place this year for the Queen's birthday and that on this occasion the commemorative coins will not be purchased.

72/13 Finance. The following payments have been made :-

| a). <u>Payee.</u> | <u>Cheque No.</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Derbyshire County Council - superannuation | Standing Order | 170 . 70 |
| Gary Wilkes - bus shelter cleaning (26-08-12) | 001288 | 50 . 00 |
| Ashover Business Centre Ltd. - 520 newsletters | 001289 | 647 . 00 |
| NEDDC - supply and deliver play area sign and post | 001290 | 88 . 80 |

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 19th September 2012 up to and including the 17th October 2012 are as follows :-

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Balances at the 19 th September 2012 :- | Capital Reserve Account | £ 1,003.24 |
| | Current Account | £ <u>24,453.82</u> |
| | Total | £ 25,457.06 |
| | Income Received | £ 25.12 |
| | Expenditure Incurred | £ 956.50 |

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Balances at the 17 th October 2012 :- | Capital Reserve Account | £ 1,003.36 |
| | Current Account | £ <u>23,522.32</u> |
| | Total | £ 24,525.68 |

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

73/13 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning application :-

12/00796/FL - Proposed application for residential development of 3 no. bungalows and garages on land opposite 134-146 Main Road, Morton for Mr Alan Walters.

The following planning applications have now been approved :-

11/00961/OL - Proposed outline application (means of access submitted) for the development of 34 residential dwellings with associated garages and parking (Major Development) (Amended Title/Additional Information) on land between Sitwell Villas and 85 Stretton Road, Morton, Derbyshire for Harworth Estates

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

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.

74/13 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in Circulars **42/2012** and **43/2012** - General Circulars.

75/13 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. North East Derbyshire District Council has issued a Public Consultation for *Successful Places: A Guide to Sustainable Housing Layout and Design*, Interim Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulations 12 and 13.

The consultation is open for a period of 6 weeks from the 15th October 2012 until the 26th November 2012 and comments can be submitted through a hard copy response form or by using the website: <http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/ResidentialDesignSPD>

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as listed above.

76/13 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - Councillor Coates reported that a recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee had taken place and this had been very productive; a New Year's Eve Party will be planned for 2013 and the possibility of holding some plays in the Village Hall will also be pursued. Necessary repairs to the Village Hall were also discussed. This was the first meeting that Councillor Coates and Councillor Cashin had attended as Parish Council representatives.

Church - Councillor Lawton raised the question of a further grant payment towards the cost of the Churchyard grass cutting during 2012/13 and it was agreed that this will be put on the agenda for the November meeting.

School - Councillor Edson stated that the headteacher had mentioned to him about the possible effects on the school numbers when the 34 new houses near to Sitwell Villas are built. This was noted but it will be some time before the properties are built as full planning permission has not yet been granted; this issue will have to be considered and dealt with by the school and the County Council at the appropriate time.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - Councillor McCullough stated that there has not been a recent Partnership meeting and the future of this forum now seems to be in some doubt.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - Councillor McCullough stated that a date for the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting has yet to be determined.

Morton Park Play Area and Youth Activities - A decision needs to be made about the future inspection and maintenance of both the New Street play area and also the one on Bacchus Way; this has been carried out in the past by the District Council and has continued with the new play area at New Street which will obviously increase the cost due to the additional equipment that has been installed.

Councillor Cashin reported that the tree planting is scheduled to take place at 1pm on Sunday 11th November and all volunteers are welcome to help with this project. To date no-one has volunteered apart from Parish Councillors; tree guards will be needed in order to protect these young trees. Work is also underway to create a wild flower meadow on part of the land that we are leasing from the County Council.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received and that in future the Parish Council will make its own arrangements for a suitably qualified person to carry out the annual inspection of both New Street and Bacchus Way play areas; this is the minimum legal requirement and any additional inspections or maintenance that may become necessary will also be arranged by ourselves. The Clerk will write to the District Council to thank them for the work that they have carried out in the past and to end the current contract with them.

Also, Councillor Morris will try to source the most cost effective tree guards in order that these can be purchased and made available on the 11th November.

77/13 Items for the next agenda.

- a). General Power of Competence.
- b). Churchyard grass cutting.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.25 pm

Chairman 12th December 2012