

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**78/13 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.

**79/13 Apologies.** Mrs L. Taylor and Mr B. Lewis - County Councillor.

**80/13 Councillors Absent.** None.

**81/13 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were declarations made by all Councillors, except Councillor Cooper as he does not reside within the Parish, in respect of the agenda item regarding the setting of the precept. The members present signed the dispensation request form and the signatures were witnessed by the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** that it was unanimously agreed that all Councillors should be granted dispensation in respect of the discussion, and decision, about setting the precept until the next election in May 2015.

**82/13 Public Speaking.**

**Items from members of the public.** It was reported that the contractors that have been carrying out the work to the electricity supply around Maltby Avenue have left the area in a very poor condition. Separately there is damage that has been caused by the refuse collection lorries over time. Some of the problems are very close to the old people's bungalows.

It was agreed that photographs of these problems should be sent to the Clerk in order that he can report it to the Highways Inspector for urgent action.

The siting of the dog bin near to Morton Grange Nursing Home was raised again as it is felt that this position is dangerous to anyone trying to use it because of the speed and volume of traffic at certain times of the day. There are only a small number of dog owners in this area and it was agreed that they should all be consulted about the best location to move the bin to.

**Police.** The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there were 2 recorded crimes in Morton during November and these were in respect of a burglary on Station Road and one incident of criminal damage on New Street.

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

In response to the concerns expressed at the meeting last month regarding speeding on Stretton Road, PCSO Green has followed this up and sent the following response:

“We have received a reply back from Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team (CREST) and this is as follows:

“Having checked the collision history over the past 3 years they can confirm that there have been 0 Personal Injury Collisions (PIC's) through Morton Village. Due to this reason it does not warrant enforcement by the CREST team as it does not meet their criteria. They concentrate enforcement efforts on the worst 60 roads across the county which suffer from having a poor injury collision problem. They only have resources to target these 60 routes unfortunately.”

We will endeavour to set up some kind of operation encompassing the local school, similar to that we used over in Stonebroom. This would obviously need some organising and support from the school and will be based around education and advice rather than enforcement.”

Further to this PCSO Green has sent a full report of the action that has taken place and this includes three independent speed checks being carried out in Morton and Shirland on Monday 26th November, Tuesday 27th November and Wednesday 28th November where a number of motorists were spoken to about their speed. The children at both Morton and Shirland Schools were also actively involved with this initiative.

**District Council.** Councillor Cooper had nothing new to report to the meeting.

**County Council.** There was no report as Councillor Lewis was not in attendance at the meeting. However, it was reported that the pavement where the water is seeping through the wall is extremely hazardous at the moment; also, the material that has been removed from the pavement is now blocking the gully on the road.

### **83/13 Non-Confidential Minutes - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### **84/13 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

### **85/13 Clerk of the Council's Report.** War memorial - the Clerk reported that the work to the War Memorial has now been completed and the request for the payment of the grant has now been submitted to the War Memorials Trust. Everyone has commented positively about the work that has been carried out but apparently there are two bolts that need to be provided for the railings in place of the screws that are currently there.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's report and to approve the payment of the invoice subject to the two screws being replaced with bolts.

## 86/13 Matters for Decision.

a). **Power of General Competence.** Councillor Coates introduced this item by explaining that in order for a Council to adopt the power of general competence two criteria must be met; a Council must have a qualified Clerk in accordance with the recognised sector specific qualifications and, at the time the Council resolves that it meets the criteria, the number of Councillors elected at the last ordinary elections (or subsequent by-election) must equal, or exceed, two-thirds of the total number of Councillors.

**RESOLVED** it was noted that Morton Parish Council meets the eligibility criteria to adopt the Power of General Competence by having the requisite number of elected councillors and an appropriately qualified clerk; it was unanimously agreed to adopt this power and this will remain in place at least until the next elections in May 2015.

b). **Precept.** A discussion took place regarding the precept for 2013/14 and whether or not to keep it at the same rate, or to apply a small increase, as it has remained at the same rate for the past four financial years.

**RESOLVED** that after careful consideration it was unanimously agreed that the precept should remain at £32,000 for the financial year 2013/14. The Clerk will notify the District Council of this decision accordingly.

c). **Doe Hill Community Park Advisory Panel.** The Clerk reported that a meeting of the Advisory Panel had taken place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at Blackwell Community Centre and Councillor Walter Edson had attended the meeting on behalf of Morton Parish Council. The minutes from the meeting were made available for anyone to read.

Councillor Edson stated that the Panel is still in its infancy and that a reserve fund of £40,000 has been set aside for the area and initially around £13,000 will be available to use as necessary.

d). **Request for financial assistance - churchyard grass cutting.** Councillor Lawton left the meeting for this item as he had previously declared an interest when the matter was first raised earlier in the year. This item was dealt with at the end of the meeting so that Councillor Lawton did not need to return to the meeting after the discussion was completed.

A request has been received for a further grant, of an unspecified amount, towards the cost of the grass cutting in the Church grounds during 2012/13 in addition to the £250 that has already been made.

The Parish Council's budget for the current year shows an excess of expenditure over income and therefore any further grant would need to be covered by the Parish Council's reserves, which are already below the recommended level.

When the budget for 2013/14 is determined this matter will be given full consideration. In addition, certain members of the Parish Council will again offer to undertake the grass cutting at the Rectory Rooms which would help to reduce the external contractor costs being incurred by the Church on grass cutting. Comment was made that there may be other volunteers in the local community who would be prepared to assist with the grass cutting thereby further reducing the costs incurred by the Church

Councillor Cashin will also be in contact with the Church again regarding the offer that he has made which would assist further in this respect; however, he is doing this as a local resident and not on behalf of the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED** that after careful consideration it was unanimously decided that the Parish Council was not in a position to be able to offer a further grant towards the Churchyard grass cutting during the 2012/13 financial year.

**87/13 Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>V.A.T.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Wages for July, August and September	-			1,425.33
HMRC - tax and NI April to June 2012	-			1,014.00
Page Kirk - payroll fees to 30-9-12	Direct Debit			33.00
DCC - superannuation	Standing Order			170.70
ICO - Data Protection registration	Direct Debit			35.00
Mr S. Cashin - tree guards, canes and shelters	001291			44.96
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	001292	324.36	64.87	389.23
Cancelled	001293			-
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - wreath	001294			25.00
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	001295	330.72	66.14	396.86
Peter Harkins - war memorial renovation	001296			960.00
Mr A. Coates - flowers & 1&1 Internet	001297			51.38
Mr M. Morris - compost and Christmas lights	001298			58.94
Neil Shacklocks - Village Hall boiler service	001299	54.60	10.92	65.52
Ashover Print - 520 newsletters	001300			520.00

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 up to and including the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 are as follows :-

Balances at the 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 1,003.36
	Current Account	£ <u>23,351.62</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 24,354.98</b>
	Income Received (Advertising revenue)	£ 20.00
	Expenditure Incurred	£ 5,189.92
Balances at the 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 1,003.36
	Current Account	£ <u>18,181.70</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,185.06</b>

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

**88/13 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning application :-**

**12/00901/FLH** - Proposed application for Removal of existing porch and construction of a conservatory to side at 88 Main Road Morton Alfreton DE55 6HH for Mr David Thompson.

**The following planning applications have now been approved :-**

**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.

**12/00950/AMEND** - Application for a non-material amendment to planning approval 12/00583/FLH to allow use of brickwork instead of render to new extension at 61 Stretton Road, Morton, Alfreton DE55 6GW for Mrs S Mellor.

**89/13 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in Circulars **44/2012, 45/2012** and **46/2012** - General Circulars.

**90/13 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. Rykneld Homes has sent a number of copies of an information leaflet regarding Neighbourhood Improvement Budget Funding that is available to groups in North East Derbyshire with a maximum grant payable of £5,000.

Inspector Glenn Hoggard has written to introduce himself as the newly appointed Inspector for the North East Section.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as listed above and

**91/13 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - Councillor Coates stated that he has made some initial enquiries regarding possible grants that may be available either to refurbish the existing Hall or to build a new facility if there is sufficient land available. Also, the senior citizen's Christmas Party was well attended and everyone had a really good time.

**Church** - The Remembrance Day Service was well attended and the war memorial had been renovated in time for this. There is a Carol Service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December and everyone is welcome to attend.

**School** - There is nothing new to report at the moment.

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - It was agreed that this item can now be removed from the agenda as the meetings are no longer taking place.

**Events Committee** - Councillor Edson stated that the 'Spooktacular' Halloween event had been a big success and a grant application for £3,000 has been submitted to Rykneld Homes in order to provide funding towards the cost of future events.

**Morton Park Play Area and Youth Activities** - Councillor Cashin was sorry to report that most of the trees which were planted on the 11<sup>th</sup> November were stolen within a day or so. On a positive note a funding application is to be submitted in order to try and provide some five-a-side nets on this area.

**Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** - Councillor McCullough reported that the next meeting is now due to take place in January 2013.

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

**92/13 Items for the next agenda.**

a). Future plans and priorities for the Village.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.40pm

**Chairman**      16<sup>th</sup> January 2013