

Morton Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Morton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 18 November 2015** at 7.30 pm at the Rectory Rooms, Church Lane, Morton, DE55 6GU

PRESENT

Cllr R Austin, Cllr J Browne, Cllr A Coates (Chair), Cllr S Cashin, Cllr J Funnell, Cllr S Pleming, Cllr B Roe, Cllr C Lawton

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr A Cooper, Cllr G Butler - N E Derbyshire District Councillor

Cllr K Gillott - Derbyshire County Councillor

Members of the public

1/11/15 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Martin

C Wharton - Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

2/11/15 - COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None

3/11/15 - DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

4/11/15 - RECORDING AND FILMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council was noted.

5/11/15 - PUBLIC SPEAKING

Matters raised by members of the public and by councillors: A wider access road had been constructed by Morton Grange without planning consent and which had resulted in the removal of hedges and the council's dog bin; and road safety with dangerous parking throughout the village.

6/11/15 - COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Gillott advised the meeting that the flooding near the railway bridge on Pilsley Road should now be much improved as the drains had been cleared out; the construction over the ditch near Bacchus Way was not on DCC land; a feasible plan is being developed regarding the long-standing issue regarding water seeping through the retaining wall and once developed this will need to go into the funding bidding process; and that he has authorised a cheque towards the village hall development fund.

Cllr Gillott also gave an update on the devolution plans for Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire and he also advised that the government's Comprehensive Spending Review next week should set local authority spending levels for the next few years, which could result in a further cut of 30%.

7/11/15 - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Butler and Cllr Cooper updated the meeting. Planning enforcement officers have visited the access road by Morton Grange and the site at Bacchus Way – the ditch. NEDDC is talking to the developers about the bus turning circle at Harron Homes development which has not yet been constructed. Engineers are involved in the ditch / drainage issue on the same development.

8/11/15 - POLICE UPDATE

The written report was noted which showed no recorded crime or ASB (anti-social behaviour) in Morton during October.

9/11/15 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 September 2015 be approved as a true record.

10/11/15 - TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY AGENDA ITEM SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

There were no items.

11/11/15 - FINANCE

a) Payments (including those approved later in the meeting)

Chq no.	Supplier	Description	Net £	Gross £
1448	Brian Waterfall	Painting & gardening maintenance	£845.00	£845.00
	Brian Waterfall	Gardening maintenance	£135.00	£135.00
1441	John Funnell	Fireworks display - reimbursement	£1,666.67	£2,000.00
1449	NEDDC	Installation of picnic bench & slabbed base	£632.68	£759.22
	NEDDC	Grounds maintenance annual contribution	£497.27	£596.72
	NEDDC	Emptying of dog bins (Apr- Jun 2015)	£426.24	£511.49
1450	Andrew Coates	Web services – domain name - reimbursement	£6.98	£8.38
	Andrew Coates	Royal British Legion – Remembrance Day wreaths - reimbursement	£100.00	£100.00
	Andrew Coates	Fireworks Event posters- reimbursement	£19.99	£23.99
1451	Grant Thornton	Auditors - Annual Return 2015	£200.00	£240.00
1452	C Wharton	Clerk salary (1 Oct - 1 Dec 2015)	£672.00	£672.00
	C Wharton	Clerk expenses (1 Oct - 1 Dec 2015)	£70.00	£70.00
1453	HMRC	PAYE tax (5.3.15 - 5.7.15)	£445.35	£445.35
1454	Village Hall Improvement Fund	Contribution towards incidental expenditure	£200.00	£200.00

Chairman

Date 20th January 2016

RESOLVED - to approve the above items for payment and these are to be signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllrs Coates and Lawton.

b) Bank reconciliation – the bank reconciliation as at 30 September 2015 was noted and approved.

c) Budget 2016/17 – The draft budget was discussed and amended.

RESOLVED - that the Budget for 2016/17, as amended, be approved.

d) Precept 2016/17 – The Precept for 2016/17 was considered in the light of the Budget and the council's plans.

RESOLVED - that the Precept for 2016/17 be unchanged at £33,000 (inclusive of any council tax support grant).

12/11/15 MATTERS TO REPORT

- a) Fireworks event – the fireworks event was a great success with 485 adults paying for entry (children were free). Assuming the VAT can be reclaimed on the expenditure then the event unexpectedly very nearly covered its costs through gate ticket sales, the contribution from the Sitwell Arms and the profit made on glow sticks and other novelties. Cllr Funnell was thanked for organising this event. Cllr Roe questioned the ticket price charged and it was agreed that the charging structure for next year would be discussed by the council prior to the 2017 event.
- b) School gates – New Street residents' concerns – As the clerk was absent through illness and as no councillor present was aware of this issue, this matter was adjourned to the next meeting.
- c) Precept payment – it was reported that £16,500, being the second and final instalment for 2015/16, had been received on 29 September 2015.
- d) Fitness for All Grant funding – noted that the clerk is preparing the end of grant report.
- e) Online banking – no further progress has been made. To be considered at a future meeting.

13/11/15 MATTERS FOR DECISION

- a) Sub Committees

RESOLVED – that a sub-committee be formed comprising Cllr Martin, Cllr Roe and Cllr Browne to advise the parish council on planting throughout the village, including bulbs, the Pit Wheels area, hanging baskets and planters.

This sub-committee when it first meets will also consider whether they wish to advise the parish council on grass cutting and regular maintenance of bedding, grass and planted areas.

- b) Parish Council support of Village Hall improvements – Noted that the parish council will need to make a substantial contribution towards the costs of improving the village hall facilities, although it is anticipated that The Big Lottery will be the principal funder.

RESOLVED - that the Council in principle is prepared to make a financial contribution towards the village hall improvements of £25,000, conditional upon the council being satisfied with the plans once developed.

RESOLVED - to make an immediate payment of £200 to the Village Hall improvement fund towards incidental costs, such as printing of leaflets etc.

- c) New Street football pitch marking out.

RESOLVED – to write to the Morton Colliery Cricket Club asking if they would be willing to mark out the football pitch twice each month and if so what they would charge for this service.

If the cricket club is not able to provide this service then consideration may be given to buying the equipment necessary for the parish council to carry out the marking themselves.

- d) Performing Arts at the Village Hall – Cllr Roe will find out about organising a film club and will report on this at the next meeting.

14/11/15 PLANNING

- a) Averill Solar Farm – signing of agreement to receive Community Benefit offer - As the clerk was absent through illness and as no councillor present had seen this agreement, this matter was adjourned to the next meeting.
- b) Upgrading of Public Footpath no.18 to a Bridleway – the council has been notified that following the planning enquiry the decision to upgrade this path to a bridleway has been confirmed.

15/11/15 DALC CIRCULARS

Noted

16/11/15 CORRESPONDENCE

None

17/11/15 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Lawton reported on forthcoming activities at church and that a new Chair of Governors had been appointed at school. Cllr Roe reported that around 120 people had attended the cricket club annual dinner.

18/11/15 ANY ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2016

- a) Update from Cllr Roe on the possibility of starting a film club.
- b) Marking out of football pitch.
- c) To report on online banking options.