

Morton Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Morton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 18 January 2017** at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Main Road, Morton, DE55 6GS

PRESENT

Cllr J Browne, Cllr A Dean, Cllr J Funnell (Chair), Cllr C Lawton, Cllr L Rodgers, Cllr B Roe.

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr G Butler – N E Derbyshire District Councillor
 Cllr A Cooper – N E Derbyshire District Councillor
 Cllr K Gillott – Derbyshire County Councillor
 Tina Frost Morris – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
 Members of the public

01/01/17- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

02/01/17 - COUNCILLORS ABSENT

None

03/01/17 - DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST

Cllr J Funnell declared an interest in item 11/01/17 f) relating to the War Memorial tidying and maintenance.

04/01/17 - RECORDING AND FILMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

05/01/17 - PUBLIC SPEAKING

Matters raised by members of the public and by councillors: concerns regarding the HS2 line were discussed under the HS2 item later in the agenda.

06/01/17 - COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllr Gillott updated Councillors regarding Derbyshire County Council's precept and the savings that would continue to be made. Following a judicial review, Chesterfield would not be joining with the Sheffield City Region due to a lack of consultation with Chesterfield residents which was deemed unlawful and unfair. The merge could still proceed following a proper consultation process. Cllr Gillott had agreed to provide £300 funding for Morton Gala and was thanked for the contribution.

07/01/17 - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Cllrs Cooper and Butler updated Councillors regarding the NE Derbyshire Local Plan and stated that consultation events would be taking place in March and would be advertised in "The News" newsletter. The development at Oakview Gardens had not been to the NEDDC Planning Committee for a decision, due to the District Council having requested an extension.

08/01/17 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 November 2016 be approved as a true record.

09/01/17 - TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY AGENDA ITEM SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

The item to discuss the Clerk's hours and rate of pay would be dealt with following the exclusion of the public and press.

10/01/17 - MATTERS TO REPORT

- a) Crime figures – The report was noted which included two anti-social behaviour incidents at Maltby Avenue and Church Lane and a violence/sexual offence at Penfold Way during October 2016. There were 6 crimes during November 2016, which included anti-social behaviour at Sitwell Villas, 4 violence/sexual offences at Maltby Avenue, Main Road and Westwood Gardens and a vehicle crime at Westwood Gardens.

11/01/17 - MATTERS FOR DECISION

- a) Changes to the Parish Council website – Councillors discussed the possibility of an update to the website to allow access by approved community groups to update their own News and Information pages. This would be on condition that the changes would allow nominated members of the Parish Council to preapprove any content added to the website.

RESOLVED – To approve the changes to the website and contact the web developer to agree the changes and obtain a quotation for the work.

- b) Updated Community Grant guidance notes – The guidance notes had been simplified in line with the new form to attract more people to apply for grants.

RESOLVED – To approve the updated Community Grant guidance notes and add them to the website.

- c) Proposal for village housekeeping – More work was required on this item and it was therefore deferred to the next meeting. Quotations for the work could then be sought from suppliers to carry out the work.

- d) New Councillors update – The three Councillor vacancies remained. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor was asked to contact the Clerk.

- e) Playground inspections – Until recently, the playground inspections had been undertaken sporadically and were required as part of the Council's insurance. The playground inspection form had been updated to include all the equipment at each park and regular inspections had commenced with the form completed and retained.

RESOLVED – To approve the updated Playground Inspection form.

RESOLVED – To approve a rota for Councillor's to undertake the playground inspections on a monthly basis. Cllr Funnell agreed to train other Councillor's on the carrying out of inspections.

- f) War memorial tidying and maintenance – The war memorial was covered with algae due to the lack of sunlight restricted by the overhanging trees. Additionally the roots of the trees were lifting the slabs around the war memorial. The two trees concerned were both covered by Tree Preservation Orders. One of the trees was in a state of decay and required attention. The owner of the trees had put in a planning application to Derbyshire County Council to remove the decaying tree and prune the other.

RESOLVED – To await the outcome of the planning application from Derbyshire County Council, before deciding upon a way forward.

- g) Review of Risk Assessment policy – The Risk Assessment policy had been updated and reviewed with a section added for the war memorial.

RESOLVED – To approve the updated Risk Assessment policy.

- h) Review of Financial Regulations – The Financial Regulations had been updated and reviewed with a section added for petty cash.

RESOLVED – To approve the updated Financial Regulations

- i) Review of Standing Orders – The Standing Orders had been reviewed.

RESOLVED – To approve the Standing Orders

- j) Review of Clerks hours and rate of pay – This item was discussed with the press and public excluded.

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public would be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1, in order to discuss the item at the end of the meeting.

Clerks Hours - At the Parish Council meeting on 15 June 2016 Councillors had agreed to review the hours of the Clerk to reflect the additional workload associated with the increase in the number of Parish Council meetings. The actual hours worked by the Clerk were presented and discussed, along with the Council's future plans and requirements.

RESOLVED – To approve an increase in the Clerk's hours to 6 hours per week to be worked on an annualised hours basis.

RESOLVED – To require the Clerk to continue to record the actual hours worked.

RESOLVED – To approve the payment of the Clerk's salary in equal monthly instalments.

RESOLVED – To update the Clerk's Contract of Employment in line with the approved changes.

Clerk's Pay – Councillors reviewed the Clerk's pay in line with the NALC salary rate increases.

RESOLVED – To approve an increase in the Clerk's rate of pay to £12.51 per hour to take effect from 1 January 2017.

RESOLVED – To approve a one off salary payment of £120 to the Clerk in lieu of back pay to be included in the next salary payment.

- k) Community Grant Application – A Community Grant application had been received from Morton Kurling Group requesting £291.60 to fund the purchase of kurling equipment.

RESOLVED – To approve a payment of £291.60 for kurling equipment in support of the Community Grant application from Morton Kurling Group.

- l) Village Hall refurbishment project – The Big Lottery bid had been unsuccessful at phase 2 of the bidding process due to insufficient feedback from residents during the consultation and doubts over the need for another room at the village hall. There was also a question over whether the fund that was applied for, would be ceasing in the near future. Alternative funding options were discussed, however the need to have secured planning permission before applying for any further funds would be an important factor.

RESOLVED – To proceed with the planning application for the village hall.

Three quotations were obtained for architect's services to undertake the searches, draw up plans and submit the planning application for the village hall.

RESOLVED – To approve the quotation from Pilkington Architects up to a value of £5,000 for architects services to submit a planning application for the village hall.

The details of the land transfer from the owner of Morton Manor to the Village Hall had been finalised.

RESOLVED – To approve the land transfer to the Village Hall and instruct the solicitor to proceed with the transaction.

- m) Impact of HS2 on the village - a concern was raised regarding plans for a HS2 spur line due to run through the village. Councillor's confirmed that they shared these concerns and Cllr Browne and Cllr Roe would be attending the consultation event in Hilcote on 2nd February 2017. Detailed plans for the HS2 line were made available to the public at the meeting. Councillors urged residents to make representations to the local MP, Dennis Skinner.

- n) Lamppost testing – Cubit Ultrasonic had offered a 10% discount for placing an early order for lamppost testing.

RESOLVED – To approve the placing of an order to Cubit Ultrasonic for the testing of 18 lampposts at a cost of £202.50. The lampposts would be the same as those tested last year.

- o) Change to date of Parish Council meeting – It was proposed to change the date of the next Parish Council meeting due to unavailability on the original date.

RESOLVED – To approve the change of date of the next Parish Council meeting to 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 in the Village Hall.

- p) Hanging basket and planter requirements for 2017 – The Council were in the second year of a 3 year hanging basket contract with Woolley Moor Nurseries. Cllrs Brown and Roe agreed to contact Woolley Moor Nurseries to obtain a quotation for 18 hanging baskets. A request was also made for a new planter on Orchard Way. Planters for the Pit Wheels had been purchased but required securing to the steps.

RESOLVED – To obtain quotations for hanging baskets and a new planter for Orchard Way.

RESOLVED – To include the securing of the planters at the Pit Wheels in with the proposals for Village Housekeeping.

12/01/17 - FINANCE

a) Payments

Payments listed on the agenda

Cheque Number	Supplier	Description	Net Amount	Gross Amount
001520	T Frost Morris	Clerk's salary (01 Nov–31 Dec)	£537.60	£537.60
001520	T Frost Morris	Clerk's expenses (01 Nov–31 Dec)	£30.00	£30.00
001521	HMRC	PAYE tax (01 Nov–31 Dec)	£134.40	£134.40
001522	A Coates	Reimbursement for 1&1 Internet invoice for extra email storage to 10GB plus additional domains Nov 16	£30.95	£37.14
001522	A Coates	Reimbursement for 1&1 Internet invoice for extra email storage to 10GB Dec 16	£2.99	£3.59
001525	Cash	Reimbursement of Petty Cash	£19.12	£22.94

Late Payments and payments approved during the meeting

001523	Spoilt cheque	Spoilt cheque	-	-
001524	Morton Village Hall	Community Grant - OAP's Christmas party	£253.57	£253.57
001526	A Dean	Reimbursement for stamps & envelopes for posting newsletters	£4.81	£4.81
001527	T Frost Morris	Community Grant for purchase of kurling set for Morton Kurling Group	£291.60	£291.60

Payments previously approved

001522	A Coates <i>(Change of supplier from 1&1 Internet Ltd)</i>	Reimbursement for 1&1 Internet invoice for extra email storage to 10GB Oct 16 <i>(Payment previously approved in Nov 2016 to 1&1 Internet, but auto payment taken from A Coates)</i>	£2.99	£3.59
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RESOLVED – to approve the above items for payment and these were signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllrs Funnell and Lawton.

- b) The budget monitoring for the period ended 31 December 2016 was noted and approved.
- c) The bank reconciliation for period ended 31 December 2016 was noted and approved.

13/01/17 - PLANNING

- a) 3 Stretton Road – application to discharge condition 1 to 19 of application 14/01241/FL.
- b) Hawthornes Back Lane – discharge of all conditions of application 15/00960/FL.
- c) 36 Bacchus Way – application to retain car port and garden area 16/01109/FL.
- d) 4 Westwood Gardens – demolition of existing conservatory and replace with larger conservatory 17/00057/FLH.

14/01/17 - DALC CIRCULARS

Noted.

15/01/17 - CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Ramblers' Association - Public rights of way in Morton - Noted
- b) Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral review of NE Derbyshire Noted
- c) Mr & Mrs Henshaw – Impact of HS2 on the village – Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- d) Banks Mining – Submission for the creation of a Public Bridleway at Love Lane, Doe Hill. A response to the letter would be made stating that the Parish Council did not support the change of use to a bridlepath.

16/01/17 - REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Lawton reported on activities at the Church and School. Cllr Funnell reported on activities at the Village Hall and Cllr Roe reported on activities at the Neighbourhood Watch.

17/01/17 - ANY ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2017

- a) Proposal for village housekeeping
- b) Trees overhanging the war memorial
- c) Potential for defibrillators in the village
- d) Request for financial contribution to signs on footbridge

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall, Main Road, Morton, DE55 6GS