

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 18th April 2012.

151/12 Members Present. Mr A. Coates, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mr C. Lawton, Mrs B. Roe, Mr A. Cooper, Mr S. Cashin, Mr M. Morris and Mrs L. Taylor.

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 18 members members of the public.

152/12 Apologies. County Councillor Mr B. Lewis.

153/12 Councillors Absent. None.

154/12 Declaration of Members' Interests. There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

155/12 Public Speaking.

Items from members of the public. A number of residents had attended the meeting in order to raise two main issues that related to the horse riding problems being encountered within the Village and the withdrawal of the Number 98 bus service with effect from the 27th May 2012.

In terms of the horse riding the Clerk explained that the County Council had decided to upgrade Public Footpath No.3 in the Parish of Morton and Public Footpath No.46 (formerly part of public footpath No. 18 in Shirland and Higham Parish). Derbyshire County Council took the decision as they had satisfied themselves that horse riders had used the footpath for a period of over 20 years prior to 2005 when the 'A' frame barriers were installed in order to stop the nuisance being caused by off the road bikers. The decision can only be overturned if it is referred for an appeal and this can only be made on the grounds that it is not the case that horse riders had used the footpath for the period of 20 years. If the decision is not overturned then every effort needs to be made in order to ensure that stringent measures are in place to avoid the return of motor vehicles onto the route and also that adequate precautions are taken to avoid any possible injury to pedestrians (including young children) by horse riders on what is a narrow path in parts.

In respect of the withdrawal of the Number 98 service by Stagecoach, the Clerk reported that this is a non-subsidised commercial route and they have taken the decision on financial grounds alone; the County Council is currently looking at possible alternatives to replace this service. In the meantime it would be helpful if local people expressed their concerns to the County Council about this reduction in service that in particular will leave a good number of elderly residents isolated within their own community. The Clerk will try and find out as soon as possible what the conclusion of this matter is and what affect it will have upon the local community.

It was reported that the potholes on Pilsley Road are getting really dangerous now and also there is a problem with a sunken grate at the junction of Station Road and Pilsley Road, Morton. Also, that the boundary hedge near to the bus shelter next to the Corner Pin Public House is in need of cutting back. The Clerk will write to the County Council about both of these matters in order to try and ensure that they are all dealt with as soon as possible.

Police. The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there was just 1 recorded crime in Morton during March; this was in respect of an assault on Evershill Lane in a family related incident that is being dealt with through the restorative justice route.

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

It was reported that there has been a suspicious vehicle within the Village reportedly trying to sell solar panels to house owners. However, apparently the police are well aware of this vehicle.

The longstanding problem of vehicles parked across pavements within Morton, which forces pedestrians onto the highway, was raised again for action by the police when this is brought to their attention.

District Council. Councillor Cooper had nothing new to report other than a planning application for a large development of 77 houses within Pilsley has recently been unanimously turned down by the District Council's Planning Committee despite the fact that the application was recommended for approval by the Planning Officer.

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 Councillor Lewis which has been sent to him by the responsible officer at the County Council namely Glynn Dutton who is the Principal Engineer (Highway Maintenance) for this area:

There was a meeting at the end of last month between the Highways District Manager, Alan Tulloch, and a colleague from Countryside section to try to come up with a solution. Below I attach the agreed actions from that meeting:

“When you carry out the resurfacing of the damaged section of pavement by where the water overflows the channel and the resetting of the channel, a new larger gully will be installed to connect to the highway drain presumed to lie under the pavement. The made ground behind the pavement in this location is to be excavated up to the end of the retaining wall and a soakaway installed to attempt to collect the water currently running out through the wall.

This will be filled with clean large stone and a reinforced perforated land drainage pipe be installed in the stone to connect to either the gully or the adjacent highway drainage pipe. Using the existing old bridge coping stones a small retaining wall will be laid at the back of the pavement to prevent soil creep filling the open channel. The ground behind will then be re-graded and a wooden post and rail fence installed across the gap. If necessary, repair work will be undertaken to the end of the existing retaining wall.

Not sure about the timescales for the works but I will ask Alan to advise when he returns from leave. The works do look quite extensive so I am hopeful it will be a good and lasting solution to this difficult problem.”

156/12 Non-Confidential Minutes - 21st March 2012.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st March 2012.

157/12 **Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

158/12 **Clerk of the Council's Report.** War memorial - an estimate from Hopkinson Memorials Ltd. has now been received and once a second price has been received from another company the Clerk will be able to submit the final bid for the grant to assist with the cost of carrying out the work.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report.

Parish Council insurance - The Clerk reported that he has now received quotes from two different companies to our current insurer who is AON Ltd. Both quotes are for less than the current insurance costs even based on last years' premium; one is from Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd. (Ansva Insurance) and the other is from Came & Company (Aviva Insurance).

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report and it was agreed that although the quote from Came & Company (Aviva Insurance) is slightly higher this quote should be accepted; Aviva Insurance is a major company and currently holds around a third of the Parish Council Sectors insurance in the UK. Also, that the three year deal should be accepted as this provides a further 5% discount.

159/12 **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
DALC - annual subscription	001261	297 . 68
NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	001262	390 . 62
Morton Village Hall - room hire	001263	35 . 00
Mr P. Goodwin - clerk's expenses	001264	70 . 82

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 21st March 2012 up to and including the 18th April 2012 are as follows :-

Balances at the 21 st March 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.87
	Current Account	£ <u>3,084.92</u>
	Total	£ 6,086.79
	Income Received	160.00
	Expenditure Incurred	£ 964.82
Balances at the 18 th April 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.87
	Current Account	£ <u>2,280.10</u>
	Total	£ 5,281.97

The District Auditor has written to confirm that the date of this year's audit is the 24th May 2012; the Clerk has completed the audit return and John Marriott, Internal Auditor, has taken all of the relevant records in order to carry out the internal audit. Notices have been appropriately displayed informing local people of the availability of the accounts for inspection but the account book is available for anyone to read at every Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the payments listed above were authorised and the current level of balances, and the date of the external audit, were both noted.

160/12 Matters for Decision.

a). **Morton Park Play Area.** Councillor Cashin reported that consideration is being given to the 'ribbon-cutting' opening event and also the provision of a Village 'time capsule' that would mark the occasion.

There will be a detailed article in the next newsletter about the play area and a funding bid for the planting of the surrounding area will be submitted in the next few months in order to try and maximise the resources available for this element of the Project.

Finally, the height of the hedge between the car park and the play area will be reduced in order that the general visibility around the site can be improved.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cashin's report is noted.

b). **Litter within the Village.** Councillor Edson confirmed that the 'tidy up' in the Village has been successfully carried out; also, that the planter which it had been agreed should be moved from outside of Paul Cupit's garage onto the middle of the grass verge a few yards from its current position has now been re-positioned.

RESOLVED that thanks are due to everyone involved but in particular Mr Gareth Waller, who first raised this matter at a Parish Council meeting a few months ago and who has been most helpful in participating in the clean-up.

c). **Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.** Councillors Edson and Taylor reported that a Pimms and pudding party is being planned at the Village Hall with entertainment on the 2nd June in order that the Village can celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Liaison is currently taking place with the Church as they are also holding a celebratory event and every effort needs to be made in order to ensure that none of the events clash on the day.

RESOLVED that Councillor Taylor and Councillor Edson's report is noted.

d). **Request for financial assistance - Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre.** The Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre provides holiday breaks for disadvantaged children across Derbyshire and they have written to ask for a small donation towards their Charity.

RESOLVED that due to the current level of balances no grants of this kind can be made at the moment but all such requests will be considered later in the financial year.

161/12 Planning. None.

162/12 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in Circulars **13/2012, 14/2012, 15/2012** and **16/2012** - General Circulars.

163/12 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. Derbyshire County Council has written to confirm that an Order has now been made to upgrade Public Footpath No.3 in the Parish of Morton and Public Footpath No.46 (formerly part of public footpath No. 18 in Shirland and Higham Parish). The final date for comments, which must be sent in writing to the Director of Legal Services at Derbyshire County Council, is the 10th May 2012. The Clerk has contacted both the County Council and the District Council to try and arrange a meeting to look at all of the issues concerning horse riding within Morton; several possible dates for a site meeting have now been received from the County Council.

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as distributed at the meeting and it was agreed that Councillor McCullough and Councillor Morris, together with the local residents who volunteered at the meeting should attend a site meeting on the Parish Council's behalf on Tuesday 1st May 2012 at 4pm on Pit Lane, Morton. The Clerk will confirm this date, together with the time and exact location of the meeting, with both the County Council and the District Council; County Councillor Barry Lewis has also indicated that he would like to attend the meeting.

An e-mail has been received from a local resident stating that, "As you may know, over the past seven years I have been tirelessly attempting to get the Morton pit tip and surrounding areas accepted as a designated wildlife/nature reserve, with the main emphasis towards the pupils of Morton school. To attract and keep wildlife we already have and to make sure they have the favourable habitat required, this is where the pupils can contribute within the curriculum."

It concludes with "Could you, the Parish Council, write to DCC and ask to possibly designate the tip area to the school, preferably before there are plans to recycle it and build a recycling plant or an industrial estate or similar in its place? Without the origins of this tip, there would have been no Morton!"

RESOLVED to note the comments and this matter will be considered by the group that are looking at the nature and wildlife issues around the new Morton Park Play Area.

164/12 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - The Clerk has received the copy of the Title Deed for the Village Hall and this plan shows a small area of land adjacent to the highway as belonging to the Parish Council whereas the plan that Chris Milner has from the Land Registry shows it to be in his ownership. The Clerk has contacted Banner Jones Solicitors in order to ascertain who does own this piece of land as this is crucial in determining what options may be available in order to create a proper access to the hall for disabled people.

When the outcome of this is known Councillor Coates and Malcolm Clarke from the Village Hall Management Committee will arrange to meet with Chris Milner in order to try and resolve a way forward with this longstanding issue.

Councillor McCullough stated that she had attended a recent meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee and whilst their current bank balance is £2,139 they are struggling to replace items of necessary equipment. They have increased the hourly charge for the hire of the hall but want to know if the Parish Council would be willing to assist with some of the general running costs. The Parish Council already pays for the cost of repairs at the Village Hall. It was unanimously agreed that no additional funding was available; a fuller discussion is needed about the future of the Village Hall and this will take place at the June meeting.

Church - The Clerk reported that he had spoken to John Culverhouse from the Parochial Church Council to inform him that the Parish Council were not in a position to consider whether to make a grant in respect of the churchyard grass cutting until the June 2012 meeting when he will be invited to attend.

School - Councillor Edson had been asked if the Parish Council intended to provide anything for local youngsters in respect of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and it was agreed that this would not be possible due to the pressure on the budget during the 2012/13 financial year.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - Councillor McCullough and Councillor Roe attended the meeting that took place on the 29th March 2012 at Tupton Primary School. The main items to report were in respect of the Credit Union which should be operational soon with a full time worker in charge, problems with off the road bikers between Tupton and Clay Cross, changes to GP services, the County Council review of the Youth Service, the County Council switching off of street lights, the clean up of Morton Brook, Morton Park Play Area, new rugby facilities in Tupton and Rykneld Homes has contributed some funding towards the Shirland play area.

Unfortunately the meeting was not well attended and particularly disappointing was the fact that no police officer was in attendance as this meeting is currently the official mechanism for the police to communicate with the local community and its representatives.

Youth Activities and the proposed new play area for New Street, Morton - Councillor Cashin stated that there was nothing further to add to the discussion that had taken place under the Morton Park Play Area agenda item.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - Councillor McCullough reported that the next meeting is due on the 19th April 2012 in the Village Hall and Nicky Atkinson from the police is attending to talk about home security.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received.

165/12 Items for the next agenda.

There are no additional items that need adding to the Annual General Meeting agenda but the request for a grant towards the churchyard grass cutting and the Village Hall will need including on the June agenda.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm

Chairman

9th May 2012