

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

## **Informal Session.**

**Police.** The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there were 2 recorded crimes in Morton during January; these were in respect of one theft of farm equipment on Pilsley Road and one theft of a motor cycle on New Street.

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

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

**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 regarding the ongoing problem of water seeping through the wall and onto the pavement and the road at Station Road, Morton:-

“The issue regarding the ice problem on Station Road has been reported again to officers and is currently under investigation. The drainage channel has been cleared and the Highways Inspector is trying to ensure that this is kept clear as a short term solution. Highways officers are liaising with colleagues in the Countryside section to try and come up with a more permanent solution, particularly in the light of the severity of the problem shown in the photographs that were sent.”

Concern was also raised that some of the pavements in Morton are currently undergoing repairs when it is felt that there are other areas that are in greater need of attention within the Village. The Clerk has raised this matter with the County Council and the following response has been received:-

“The footway resurfacing currently being undertaken on Stretton Road, Morton is due to be completed in the next few days.

With regards to other footway works in Morton I can advise,

- I have got a meeting later this week with our countryside section to try and establish a way forward with the ongoing water issue problem on the footway on Main Road.
- There are currently no capital schemes within Morton that are likely to be included for footway resurfacing in the new financial year. All the footways are subject routine inspection and I can re-assure you that any minor patching works resulting from these safety inspections will be undertaken.

I hope this is of assistance. Alan Tulloch District Manager - Project Engineer (NE Derbyshire).

**120/12 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, Mr M. Morris and Mrs L. Taylor.

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**121/12 Apologies.** County Councillor Mr B. Lewis.

**122/12 Councillors Absent.** None.

**123/12 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

**124/12 Items from members of the public.** A complaint was raised about the amount of litter at the Tibshelf end of the Village and the view that other parts of Morton receive more attention as they appear to be more tidy in their appearance. Another issue was the amount being spent on the proposed new play area off New Street, Morton and the planting/wildlife scheme that is a part of the project. Also, the fact that the hanging baskets weren't being provided this year was a disappointment to a lot of people.

Councillor Coates explained that there is no additional litter picking taking place in other parts of the Village but that attempts would be made by the Parish Council to address this issue wherever it is a problem within Morton. Councillor Coates also explained that the funding for the play area is mainly coming through a grant from Viridor (Landfill Tax Credits Fund) and that the Parish Council's contribution of £7,137.49 is attracting funding amounting to over £60,000 which is a major boost for a small Village like Morton; further to this the play area planting scheme is a key part of the project without which the funding application would not have been successful and this is being achieved at an additional minimal cost to the Parish Council.

Finally, it was confirmed that the decision not to have hanging baskets in the Village this summer had reluctantly been made in order to balance the budget in 2012/13 and it was no means an indication that these would not be provided in future years if the funding is available.

**125/12 Non-Exempt Minutes - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**126/12 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

**127/12 Clerk of the Council's Report.** War memorial - the Clerk has completed the application for funding from the War Memorials Trust in respect of the renovation of the memorial close to the Sitwell Arms and quotes for the completion of the necessary work will be obtained as soon as possible in order that the application can be submitted for consideration. The Parish Council will have to fund 50% of the cost of the work involved.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's report.

**128/12 Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Wages for October, November and December	-	1,424 . 07
HM Revenue & Customs - tax and NI Oct. to Dec. 12	-	1,023 . 24
Page Kirk - payroll fees	Direct Debit	30 . 00
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	Standing Order	170 . 70
Morton Primary School - school milk	001257	42 . 26
Ashover Business Centre Ltd. - 540 newsletters	001258	542 . 00

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 up to and including the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012 are as follows :-

Balances at the 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.87
	Current Account	£ <u>7,008.51</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,010.38</b>
	Income Received	None
	Expenditure Incurred	£ 3,232.27
Balances at the 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.87
	Current Account	£ <u>3,776.24</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 6,778.11</b>

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

**129/12 Matters for Decision.**

a). **Morton Park Play Area.** Councillor Cashin introduced this item and also present for this discussion was local resident Christina Chipp who has contributed a significant amount of work towards the funding application in the specific area of planting around the scheme, the positive effect of this on wildlife and the biodiversity of the local area in general.

Councillor Cashin explained that negotiations are taking place with the contractors in order to try and enclose the whole area with fencing within the funding available and at the moment the signs are quite positive. However, in order to do this the area will encroach slightly onto the football pitch area of the land but it was agreed that this was necessary. It was pointed out that there is another football pitch in the Village although this hasn't been used for some years now.

Christina outlined the planting scheme proposed and the fact that the Princes' Trust are interested in assisting with the project together with the County Council; the protection of a rare butterfly that is in this area is also of great importance as the scheme will be extremely beneficial to its future survival at this location. A small amount of funding will be required to enable some of the planting to take place.

Also required will be a sign near to the junction of New Street/Main Road depicting where the play area is and also a sign on the play area acknowledging the funding provided by Viridor for the project.

Finally, it is hoped that the play area work can be completed prior to the Morton Gala taking place on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

**RESOLVED** that funding for the planting of part of the area will be provided by the Parish Council and the Clerk will write to the County Council regarding the highway sign that is required as part of the project.

**b). Hanging Baskets and Planters.** There is limited funding available in the 2012/13 financial year for floral displays in the Village. It was proposed that some of the planters should be moved to better locations within the Village and that the cost of flowers, planting and watering should be obtained before a final decision is taken. If possible the flowers should be red, white and blue as it is both the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics this summer.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Morris and the Clerk will obtain prices for the plants and the cost of the work involved; also, that everyone should consider the best location for the planters in order that a final decision can be made at the March meeting.

**c). Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.** Both events were discussed and it was agreed that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations should be the occasion that the Parish Council organise an event for in the Village Hall and this will be led by Councillor Edson and Councillor Taylor. In respect of the Olympics, a 'theme' will be incorporated into the Morton Gala activities wherever possible.

**RESOLVED** that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee event will be celebrated in the Village Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012, which is a public holiday.

**d). Request for financial assistance - Morton Colliery Cricket Club .** Following the January meeting the Clerk has supplied the Cricket Club with the details of a funding opportunity for them in order to assist with the possible purchase of the remaining land that forms the Cricket Ground from the Brewery that owns it. Nothing further has been received in respect of a request for financial assistance from the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED** that this item will be removed from the agenda until such time as further correspondence is received.

e). **E-mails and circulars for distribution.** Councillor Coates had asked for this item to be put on the agenda due to the large volume of e-mails that are received by the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council and even now not all of these are distributed.

**RESOLVED** that only items of direct relevance to Morton and DALC Circulars should be distributed to all Councillors but that the Clerk should use his discretion on any other items that he feels should be brought to the attention of Councillors.

**130/12 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning application :-**

**11/01068/FL** - Proposed construction of a 2 storey 4 bedroom detached house with detached garage and new vehicular access at land adjacent (Revised scheme of 11/00629/FL) (Amended Plans) at Greenacres, Pilsley Road, Morton, Alfreton for Mr R. Ford.

**131/12 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in Circulars **05/2012** and **06/2012** - General Circulars and **07/2012** - DCC Items Circular.

**132/12 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. North East Derbyshire District Council has invited the Chair of the Parish Council to attend the Chair's Civic Service at St. Bartholomew's Church, Clay Cross on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 2.30pm.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as distributed at the meeting and that the Clerk will submit the apologies of Morton Parish Council in respect of the 2012 NEDDC Chair's Civic Service.

**133/12 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - There has been no further progress in respect of the transfer of the small strip of land from Chris Milner to the Parish Council in order that a ramp to enable proper access by disabled people can be built at the side of the Village Hall. A joint meeting of the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee will be held at 7:00pm prior to the next Council meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 in order to try and determine the best way forward.

**Church** - Councillor Lawton stated that there was nothing further to report at the moment.

**School** - Councillor Edson stated that there is nothing further to report at the moment.

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - Councillor Coates and Councillor McCullough will be attending the next meeting on behalf of the Parish Council although a date for this has not yet been determined.

**Youth Activities and the proposed new play area for New Street, Morton** - Councillor Cashin stated that there is nothing further to report as all of the issues had been discussed under the Morton Park Play Area main agenda item.

**Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** - Councillors McCullough reported that an interactive day has been arranged by the police for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012, although the venue for that has yet to be confirmed; places for this event will be limited to approximately 100. At the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme meeting that is due to be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February there will be a presentation made about the Trusted Traders Scheme from a representative from the Cultural and Community Services Department of the County Council.

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

**134/12 Items for the next agenda.**

- a). Hanging baskets and planters. The current contract has come to an end and a decision is required about the hanging baskets and planters for 2012 onwards.
- b). Litter within the Village.
- c). Request for financial assistance from the Holy Cross Church, Morton.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm

**Chairman**      21<sup>st</sup> March 2012