

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

## **Informal Session.**

**Police.** The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there were 2 recorded crimes in Morton during December and these were in respect of two thefts, one on Bacchus Way and one on Pilsley Road; there were no reports of nuisance made within Morton during December.

PC Parkin stated that there has been an increase in burglaries from domestic properties around this area but not in Morton itself at the moment. The police are asking the public to be vigilant and it should be noted that it seems to be where the offenders can determine that there is no-one in the property that are being targeted.

PCSO Green stated that efforts are currently being made to raise funds to enable an 'awareness raising' day in respect of crime and disorder for Morton and the surrounding villages.

Councillor McCullough stated that there will be a presentation about the Trusted Traders scheme at the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

It was reported that there have been a number of motorbikes causing a nuisance again on the football field and PC Parkin noted this for possible action as this was the first time recently that the issue has been raised with the police.

PC Phil Parkin and PCSO Green were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

**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, it was noted that a number of photographs evidencing the serious problem of water seeping through the wall onto the public highway on Station Road, Morton have been sent to Councillor Lewis in order to try and assist him in his efforts to get this matter resolved. In the recent icy weather the condition of the pavement in particular has been treacherous.

**105/12 Members Present.** Mr A. Coates, Mrs E.R. McCullough, 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, PC Phil Parkin, PCSO Gary Green and 6 members of the public.

**106/11 Apologies.** Mr W.H. Edson and County Councillor Mr B. Lewis.

107/11 **Councillors Absent.** None.

108/11 **Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

109/11 **Items from members of the public.** The ongoing issue of horses riding on public footpaths, and some private land, was raised again and a petition with over a 100 signatures on it from Morton and the neighbouring villages was presented to the meeting. Damage is being caused to some of the land and the amount of fouling taking place is felt to be totally unacceptable. After some discussion it was agreed that representatives from both the County Council and the District Council should be invited to a future meeting in order that this can be discussed as a main agenda item and possible solutions to the problems explored.

It was mentioned that the street signs on Station Road and New Street, Morton have still not been replaced and this will be raised by the Clerk again.

110/11 **Non-Exempt Minutes - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

111/11 **Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

112/11 **Clerk of the Council's Report.** War memorial - the Clerk has submitted an expression of interest application to the War Memorials Trust and the outcome of this initial enquiry will be in around 4 weeks time from now.

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

113/11 **Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

a).	<b><u>Payee.</u></b>	<b><u>Cheque No.</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
	Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	Standing Order	170 . 70
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	Viridor Waste Management Ltd - Morton Park	001255	7,137 . 49
	Morton VHMC - grant	001256	243 . 91

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011 up to and including the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012 are as follows :-

Balances at the 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.50
	Current Account	£14,731.31
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,732.81</b>
	Income Received	£ 0.37
	Expenditure Incurred	£ 7,722.80
Balances at the 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.87
	Current Account	£ 7,008.51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,010.38</b>

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

#### **114/11 Matters for Decision.**

a). **Request for financial assistance - Morton Colliery Cricket Club.** The Cricket Club have written to the Parish Council outlining the fact that they have the opportunity to purchase the remaining land that forms part of the cricket field from the Brewery and therefore secure the area for its use as a cricket field for future generations; they have applied for grants to assist with the purchase but to date these have not been successful and they have only managed to raise £400 through fund raising events. The total cost of the purchase, including legal fees, is likely to be around £13,800. However, there will be a shortfall and the Cricket Club have asked for consideration to be given by the Parish Council to cover some of these costs.

Four representatives from the Cricket Club namely David Williamson, Edward Williamson, Tony Lowe and Margaret Treweek attended the meeting in order to explain the situation in detail and in particular the importance of securing this piece of land on a restricted covenant that would ensure the whole ground is available for use as a cricket field for future generations.

Following an interesting discussion the four representatives from the Cricket Club were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that it is agreed that the Parish Council is supportive of the Cricket Clubs attempts to purchase the piece of land in question from the Brewery and that the use of a restrictive covenant is highly desirable in this respect. The Clerk was asked to write to the Cricket Club in order to obtain a copy of their last full years' accounts and to ask for details of their current plans to obtain funding for this project. The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Andrew Coates, has also offered to speak to a representative(s) of the Cricket Club in order to see if he can offer any general guidance or advice in this respect.

**b). Morton Park Play Area.** Councillor Cashin reported that just over £69,000 worth of funding has been agreed by Viridor for this project and this is obviously excellent news for the Village. Thanks are due to Councillor Cashin for all of his efforts in this respect but also many other local people who have dedicated their time and expertise that has enabled this application to be successful.

A cheque for £7,137.49 is needed from the Parish Council to progress this matter and ensure that the funding is secured. Also, an application to ENTRUST, who are the Regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund, has to be completed for approval of the scheme. Other matters such as signage both on the site and adjacent to the highway need to be arranged in due course.

**RESOLVED** that the payment of £7,137.49 to Viridor Waste Management Ltd. is unanimously approved and that the remaining requirements to bring the project to a successful conclusion will be completed as soon as possible.

**c). Doe Hill Community Park.** The Clerk reported that no further information has yet been received in respect of this proposal.

**RESOLVED** that this matter will be considered further when sufficient information has been made available.

**d). Hanging Baskets and Planters.** During the budget and precept meeting in December a reduced budget of £1,000 was agreed for the provision of floral displays during the 2012/13 financial year. This is insufficient to maintain the current level of hanging basket and planter displays throughout the Village.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write and give 28 days notice to Civic Pride Limited for the termination of the fixed three year contract for the supply and watering of hanging baskets and planters in the Village. However, Civic Pride will be asked to detail what level of planter displays would be possible for £1,000 using the existing containers.

**e). Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.** Due to more urgent issues that need dealing with there were no firm proposals for the celebration of these two major events.

**RESOLVED** that both of these matters should be deferred until the next meeting.

**f). Bus Shelter near to Sitwell Villas.** A petition had been received at the end of last year asking for the provision of a new bus shelter at this location to replace the existing old style brick built bus shelter. The Parish Council does not have sufficient funds in order to demolish and replace this bus shelter during the current financial year or in 2012/13. In an effort to improve the existing situation the Clerk has already asked for the vegetation to be cut back around the shelter; also, if there are any instances of buses not stopping at this location when there are passengers waiting these should be reported to the Clerk and they will be sent to the Public Transport Unit at the County Council for them to investigate.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk will write to the person who sent the covering letter with the petition in order to inform them about the Parish Council's response to this matter.

**g). Request for financial assistance - OAP Christmas Party.** The Clerk reported that the total net cost of the Christmas party was £243.91.

**RESOLVED** that a payment of £243.91 is made to the Village Hall Management Committee in respect of the 2011 Christmas party.

**115/11 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning applications :-**

**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) Greenacres, Pilsley Road, Morton, Alfreton for Mr R Ford.

**11/01131/FLH** - Proposed construction of a 2 storey rear extension at 69 Stretton Road, Morton, Alfreton, Derbyshire for Mr & Mrs Mark Patton.

**11/01147/FLH** - Proposed loft conversion including rear facing dormer with Juliette balcony and side facing gable window at 16 Main Road, Morton, Alfreton, Derbyshire for Mrs Kay Price.

**The appeal against the refusal by North East Derbyshire District Council of the following planning application has been dismissed by the Planning Inspector :-**

**11/00366/FLH** - Proposed construction of extension to side and raising of roof of bungalow providing second storey habitable space to form house at Springfield, Pit Lane, Morton, Alfreton by Mrs Mandy Grant.

**116/11 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in Circulars **61/2011**, **02/2012** and **04/2012** - General Circulars, **62/2011** - Training 2012, **63/2011** - 2011 Model Contract of Employment, **01/2012** - Index of most important 2011 DALC Circulars and **03/2012** - Local Council Review subscriber form.

**117/11 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. A letter has been received from Derbyshire County Council regarding their attempts to bring faster and more reliable broadband throughout Derbyshire; in order to do this they are looking to recruit Community Broadband Champions across the whole of Derbyshire.**

North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) has written to confirm that it has formally adopted the Sustainable Buildings Supplementary Planning Document on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The document describes the way in which the planning system can help deliver Sustainable Buildings to meet the needs of local residents.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence as distributed.

An e-mail has been received from NEDDC regarding the New Street and Bacchus Way play areas and this reads as follows:-

“As per the previous years' correspondence, although certain items of equipment and surfacing may fail to meet the requirements of the current European Standards, the units were installed prior to the introduction of these standards and did meet the requirements of the previous British Standards BS5696 at the time.

Also there has recently been an update of the current European Standards BSEN1176 and BSEN1177 so you may notice that there are a few additional points identified in the report that haven't been previously i.e. finger traps and gauge tests. The Parish Council as always should be aware that compliance with the standards is not a legal requirement but represents good practise in the event of a claim.

New Street - Item 1 - Junior multi unit

See comments above regarding compliance with the standards.

Bacchus Way - Item 2 - Swing unit

Regarding the concrete surfacing beneath the swings I would refer to my previous correspondence on this. If the Parish would like me to pursue the replacement of this item of equipment or the installation of safer surfacing beneath the swings then please let me know.

Ancillary Items - the hedge has now been cut as per our maintenance schedule that means that the overhanging branches referred to near the slide have been removed.”

**RESOLVED** to note the report but that no action is to be taken at the moment.

#### **118/11 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - The Clerk has contacted the solicitors again but there has been no further progress from Chris Milner in terms of instructing his solicitors to progress the transfer of land issue despite the fact that the Parish Council have agreed to meet all of the legal fees.

Councillor McCullough reported that the Village Hall Management Committee need to know as soon as possible if the small strip of land required to form a disabled persons access ramp is going to be acquired before any further expenditure is incurred on this project. It was also reported that some maintenance is required in respect of the roof, guttering and drains of the Village Hall.

In order to try and make progress on all of these issues it was agreed that a meeting should be held with the Morton Village Hall Management Committee immediately following the Parish Council meeting that is due to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 at 7.30pm. In view of this the length of the Parish Council meeting in March will be kept to an absolute minimum.

Finally, it was pleasing to note that a new St. George’s flag has recently been displayed outside the Village Hall.

**Church** - Councillor Lawton stated that there had been a successful Christmas tree festival and this had raised £2,000 which is excellent.

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

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - Councillor McCullough reported that Shirland and Higham Parish Council had offered to donate £200 into a central fund for the Neighbourhood Partnership but no commitment has yet been made by Morton Parish Council as this has not been discussed at one of our meetings. There were presentations by the Chesterfield Credit Union and the police also gave a detailed report. Rykneld Homes have stated that they will let Morton Parish Council know when the next Village ‘walkabout’ is arranged. The next meeting is due to take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and the venue has not yet been confirmed.

Following a recent request after the South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership meeting three representatives from the Parish Council, namely Councillors Andrew Coates, Walter Edson and Liz Taylor, have met with Councillors from Shirland and Higham Parish Council in order to look at possible joint areas of local interest. It was agreed that the first attempt at working in partnership on a practical local project should be the cleaning up of the brook between Morton and Stonebroom and Councillor Edson has volunteered to take a lead on behalf of Morton Parish Council in this respect.

**Youth Activities and the proposed new play area for New Street, Morton** - Councillor Cashin had nothing new to report as this had been dealt with under the Morton Park Play Area specific agenda item.

**Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** - Councillors McCullough and Roe had nothing new to report to the meeting.

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

**119/11 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). Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.10pm

**Chairman**      15<sup>th</sup> February 2012