

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 13th June 2012.

18/13 Members Present. Mr A. Coates, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr C. Lawton, Mrs B. Roe, Mr S. Cashin, Mr M. Morris and Mrs L. Taylor.

Also in attendance were Mr B. Lewis - County Councillor, Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 2 members of the public.

19/13 Apologies. Mr W.H. Edson and Mr A. Cooper.

20/13 Councillors Absent. None.

21/13 Declaration of Members' Interests. Councillor Lawton declared his interest in the agenda item No. 9 a). regarding the application for a grant from the Morton Parochial Church Council as he is a member of the Parochial Church Council. Councillor Lawton will be able to express his views on the matter but he will not be part of the debate and will not vote on the issue.

22/13 Public Speaking.

Items from members of the public. It was reported that the trees near to the 'White House' on Main Road are overhanging onto the highway by some distance and recently a lorry knocked a branch off and this hit a passing pedestrian; fortunately the person was not injured.

Also, the New Street sign has still not been replaced.

The Clerk will raise the problem with the overhanging trees with the County Council and the street nameplate with the District Council.

Police. The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there were 3 recorded crimes in Morton during May; these were in respect of a theft from a resident's bag at Morton Grange Nursing Home, a theft of a pedal cycle from outside a property on Main Road and one incident of violence on Station Road and the suspect for this has now been charged.

There was one report of nuisance made within Morton during May and this was in respect of motor cycles on the old colliery yard.

It was raised at a later point in the meeting that some needles had been found at the rear of the former Morton Manor building and Councillor McCullough agreed to bring this to the attention of PCSO Gary Green.

District Council. There was no verbal report as Councillor Cooper was not in attendance at the meeting.

County Council. Councillor Lewis reported on a number of issues and these were as follows:-

Derbyshire County Council's proposals to switch off some streetlights between midnight and 5.30am - in general terms these have been broadly welcomed by Parish Councils with the main concerns being raised around older peoples' and sheltered accommodation and the fear of crime that is actually unsubstantiated in this respect.

Following some recent correspondence it has been determined that the land from where the water is draining onto the highway at Station Road, Morton, and causing a hazard, does not belong to the County Council and therefore Councillor Lewis has written to the owners (British Coal) in order to see what action they are prepared to take in order to rectify this situation; he will report back to a future meeting about this ongoing problem.

The survey regarding the County Council's winter maintenance programme has been distributed

to all Parish Council's and the Clerk confirmed that after distributing this to all Councillors he had submitted a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

The proposed upgrade of 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) to a Bridleway has

been referred to the Secretary of State and this is likely to be delegated to an Inspector who will determine the outcome of the application. The case can be dealt with by the exchange of correspondence or through a formal hearing and Councillor Lewis will support the Parish Council's request for it to be dealt with at a hearing.

Everyone agrees that if this application is granted the path will not be safe to allow both pedestrians and horse riders to use it in its current state. Councillor Lewis would like to see the path included in the Green Lanes Network in order that it could be properly upgraded and he will advocate for this on the Parish Council's behalf.

Objections can only be made on the grounds that the path has not been continuously used by horse riders over the past 20 years (excluding the period from when the 'A' frames were installed) and everyone concerned is now aware of this fact.

Councillor Lewis confirmed that he will be attending the Morton Gala on Sunday 24th June when the new Morton Park Play Area will also be officially opened and at this point he left the meeting.

23/13 Non-Confidential Minutes - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 9th May 2012.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on the 9th May 2012.

24/13 Items in Exclusion. There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

25/13 Clerk of the Council's Report. War memorial - two estimates have now been received for the work that needs to be carried out and the Clerk has submitted the grant application to the War Memorials Trust.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report.

26/13 Matters for Decision.

a). **Request for financial assistance - Morton Parochial Church Council.** John Culverhouse, from Morton Parochial Church Council, attended for the discussion about this item and he outlined the fact that all residents of the Village, and those who have left but were born in the Village, have a right to be buried in Morton Churchyard.

Also, in support of the request for a continuance of the grant from the Parish Council towards the cost of the churchyard grass cutting Mr Culverhouse made the following points:-

- The Church is probably the most iconic building in the Village and it dates back to the year 1006 with gravestones being evident dating back to the 17th century.
- The £900 grant from the Parish Council meets approximately half of the cost of the churchyard grass cutting and the grass cutting at the Rectory Rooms. Last year a total sum of £26,400 had to be raised by local people in order to fund the continuing operation of the Church.
- As the graveyard extends further the amount of work involved in maintaining it increases.
- The age of the people who mainly support the Church is increasing and this will make the ongoing fund raising efforts harder to achieve.

Mr Culverhouse concluded by asking that the Parish Council should give consideration of the grant towards the cost of the churchyard grass cutting has had been the case for many years now.

Councillor Coates thanked Mr Culverhouse for putting his case forward and this had been most compelling. Speaking on behalf of the Parish Council Councillor Coates stated that the Church is a fundamental part of the Village and acknowledged that there is a small core group of people who work incredibly hard to raise the necessary funds to support the Church.

However, the Parish Council has very limited funds this year and expenditure will exceed the precept figure for 2012/13. Difficult decisions have to be made and obviously this grant is one of them. Councillor Coates confirmed that careful consideration would be given to this request for funding by all Parish Councillors before a decision is reached.

Following the submission by John Culverhouse, Councillor Lawton was asked for his views before he left the meeting; Councillor Lawton stated that he supported the points already raised and that as the Church is such a focal point of the Village it is vital that the churchyard is kept in as good a condition as possible. Councillor Lawton left the meeting at this point before the general discussion began and returned after this had taken place.

Mr Culverhouse was thanked for attending the meeting and he left at this point.

RESOLVED that a commitment of a £250 grant should be made towards the cost of the churchyard grass cutting and this will be paid as soon as funds allow.

Following a suggestion from Councillor Cashin that in the long term it would be helpful to consider the most cost effective solutions possible for grass cutting and grounds maintenance throughout the whole of the Village, it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged between Parish Council members, Morton Parochial Church Council, the Cricket Club and Alison Griffiths from the District Council in order that this process can be started as soon as possible.

Also, to provide some further assistance in the short term it was agreed that a combination of Parish Councillors would cut the grass at the Rectory Rooms in order to reduce the costs being incurred by the Church.

Once a decision has been made regarding the best long term solution to this issue consideration will be given as to whether any further financial assistance should be made during the 2012/13 financial year.

b). Morton Park Play Area. Councillor Cashin reported that the work on the new play area is now almost complete including the painting of the railings. Councillor Lawton confirmed that the sign for the play area has now been ordered.

RESOLVED that the report is noted.

c). Parish Plan.

RESOLVED that due to the lack of time available this item will be deferred until the July meeting.

d). Village Hall.

RESOLVED that due to the lack of time available this item will be deferred until the July meeting.

e). Risk Assessment and Asset Register. The Clerk had distributed an up to date copy of the Parish Council's risk assessment and asset register by e-mail for approval by all Councillors.

RESOLVED that due to the lack of time available to consider the document this item will be deferred until the July meeting.

27/13 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

Cubit Ultrasonic - streetlight testing	001266	150 . 00
Premier 1 (U.K.) Ltd. - hanging baskets	001267	1,200 . 00
Hags UK Ltd. - VAT costs for play area	001268	13,989 . 60
Notts ALC - training course	001269	60 . 00
Ashover Print - 560 newsletters	001270	560 . 00
DALC - general power of competence training	001271	20 . 00
Broker Network Ltd. - annual insurance premium	001272	1,936 . 96
C. Lawton - reimburse cost of painting materials	001273	72 . 32
Neil Thompson Nurseries - play area planting	001274	574 . 30

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 9th May 2012 up to and including the 13th June 2012 are as follows :-

Balances at the 9 th May 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£15,002.24
	Current Account	£ <u>3,550.50</u>
	Total	£18,552.74
	Income Received	£ 1,420.70
	Expenditure Incurred	£18,563.18

Balances at the 13 th June 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 1,002.24
	Current Account	£ <u>237.32</u>
	Total	£ 1,239.56

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

The Audit Commission Annual Return has been submitted and all Councillors have now received a copy of the return, and the Annual Accounts, as prepared by the Clerk for this purpose.

28/13 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning application :-

12/00395/FLH - Proposed construction of a single storey rear and side extension (Conservation Area) at Chivenor, 8 Main Road, Morton, Alfreton for Mr M Poiney.

There were no additional comments to those that were made when the original application was submitted :-

11/00961/OL - Proposed outline application means of access submitted for the development of 34 residential dwellings with associated garages and parking (Major Development) (Amended Title/Additional Information) at land between Sitwell Villas and 85 Stretton Road, Morton, Derbyshire for Harworth Estates.

The Clerk has re-submitted all the comments made in respect of the original application in

November 2011 on the Parish Council's behalf.

29/13 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in Circulars **22/2012**, **24/2012** and **28/2012** – General Circulars, **23/2012** - DALC Further Training - A Neighbourhood Plan, **25/2012** - The Localism Act 2011 - Parish & Town Councils' Training Event - Monday 23rd July at Trowell Parish Hall, **26/2012** - DALC Training, **27/2012** - New Standard Regime - Code of Conduct for Parish/Town Councils and **29/2012** - DALC President 2012-13.

30/13 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present. Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Trust (DCHS) has applied for Foundation Trust Status and information has been provided regarding how both individuals, and organisations, can become involved if the application is approved in October 2012.

RESOLVED that the information from DCHS is noted.

The Audit Commission has written to consult the Parish Council on the proposed appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP to audit our annual return for the five years from 2012/13; the appointment would commence on the 1st September 2012. Any reasons that the Commission should not appoint Grant Thornton UK LLP as our Auditor need to be submitted to the Director of Audit Policy and Regulation by Friday 29th June 2012.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council does not know of any reason why Grant Thornton UK LLP should not be appointed as the Parish Council's auditors of our annual return for the five years from 2012/13.

Derbyshire County Council has written providing details of how the Phase 2 of the County Council's part night lighting proposals will affect Morton. The community engagement process for this project is expected to start on June 18th and run until July 15th and details will be displayed in the Village Hall and the Post Office as well as on the Parish Council's website.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections to the County Council's part night lighting proposals as they have been presented.

North East Derbyshire District Council has sent a copy of their Draft Housing Strategy 2012-15 and any comments need to be submitted to them by 5pm on Tuesday 10th July 2012.

RESOLVED that any comments should be submitted to the Clerk who will send them together as the official response from the Parish Council.

31/13 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - There is still a problem with the drains at the Village Hall and Councillor Morris agreed to look into this problem as soon as possible.

Church - Councillor Lawton stated that it is the annual garden party on Saturday 7th July and

everyone is welcome to attend.

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

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - There was nothing to report as there has not been a Partnership meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.

Youth Activities - There is nothing further to report at the moment.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - Councillor McCullough reported that at the next meeting on the 5th July at 7.30pm in the Rectory Rooms the main topic will be anti-social behaviour and these discussions have so far proved to be most interesting and useful.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received.

32/13 Items for the next agenda.

- a). Parish Plan.
- b). Village Hall.
- c.) Risk Assessment and Asset Register.
- d). Cricket Club ball sponsorship.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.10pm

Chairman 18th July 2012