

Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on the 21st March 2012.

Informal Session.

Police. The crime figures have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there were no recorded crimes in Morton during February. Also, there were no reports of nuisance made within Morton during February and this is excellent news.

However, it was reported that there are still ongoing problems with parked vehicles obstructing the pavements in a number of locations throughout the Village; this was noted by the police for action in the future if they feel it is necessary.

Also, apparently there is someone cold calling on people to try and convince them to allow him to carry out work to their property and his manner can sometimes be quite threatening. The police confirmed that they are aware about this individual and that he will be advised accordingly.

PC Phil Parkin and PCSO Green were thanked for their attendance and they left the meeting at this point.

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

County Council. There was no report as Councillor Lewis was not in attendance at the meeting.

135/12 Members Present. Mr A. Coates, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson, Mr C. Lawton, Mrs B. Roe, Mr S. Cashin, Mr M. Morris and Mrs L. Taylor.

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk, 6 members of the public. In addition Mrs R. Taylor, Mrs A. Wright, Mr S. Towndrow and Mr M. Clarke were in attendance up to, and including, the agenda item regarding the Village Hall.

136/12 Apologies. Councillor Cooper and County Councillor Mr B. Lewis.

137/12 Councillors Absent. None.

138/12 Declaration of Members' Interests. There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

139/12 Items from members of the public. A suggestion was made following the discussion that took place at the last meeting that the large planter outside of Paul Cupit's garage should be moved onto Bacchus Way or placed in the middle of the grass verge a few yards from its current position. It was unanimously agreed that the planter would be moved to the middle of the grass verge outside of the garage.

The ongoing problems being caused by horse riders passing through the Village were raised again and apparently the amount of fouling, damage being caused to land and inappropriate routes being used has reached the stage where it is totally unacceptable. It was agreed that in order to make any progress a site meeting is needed with the District Council and the County Council in order that the range of problems being encountered can be clearly explained and also observed. The Clerk will try and co-ordinate this meeting as soon as possible.

140/12 Non-Exempt Minutes - 15th February 2012.

RESOLVED to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th February 2012.

141/12 Items in Exclusion. There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

142/12 Morton Village Hall. This was a joint session with members of the Village Hall Management Committee and these were Mrs R. Taylor, Mrs A. Wright, Mr S. Towndrow and Mr M. Clarke.

a). Long-term plans.

Discussions took place around the relative merits of completely renovating the Village Hall or trying to aim for a new build. Either project would be medium or longer term particularly in the case of a new building as no land has currently been identified for this purpose.

It was agreed that one last attempt would be made to acquire the land required for the disabled person's access from Chris Milner who owns the Morton Manor building next to the Village Hall. At the same time a back-up option of providing a lift or a shorter ramp will be explored by approaching 3 reputable companies in order to get their views on what might be possible without any additional land being made available.

b). Access for disabled people.

This subject was covered in the discussion regarding the overall way forward to try and improve the Village Hall.

c). Possible theatre performances/pantomime.

Apparently these events have been held in the past and the Parish Council is prepared to subsidise an initial event in order to try and ensure that it is successful. The possibility of a pantomime was also unanimously thought to be an excellent idea and every effort will be made in order to try and progress both of these events.

d). Repairs.

It was reported that the guttering is overflowing and this may be the cause of the damp on the kitchen wall. All of this could be the result of a blocked shared drain outside the Hall and apparently this is now the responsibility of the Severn Trent Water Authority. A copy of the water bill will be sent to the Clerk in order that he can follow this up as a matter of urgency.

143/12 Clerk of the Council's Report. War memorial - the Clerk reported that he is still waiting for at least two estimates for the cost of the work that needs to be carried out.

RESOLVED to consider this matter again when the two quotes have been received.

Parish Council insurance - the Clerk has already distributed details of an alternative quote provided by Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd. for the Parish Council's annual insurance which is due for renewal on the 1st June 2012. Priced upon entering a three-year deal with the company there is an annual saving of £1,406.03 on the current premium with a guarantee of no increase during the three years as long as there isn't a claim or any other change in our insurance requirements. Councillor Coates asked what the price would be if the insurance was to be taken out on an annual basis only.

RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report and the Clerk will obtain a price from Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd. for just one year's insurance with this company. Also, the Clerk will check with DALC to see if they have any information about them and if possible one further quote will be obtained from a firm that are known to DALC and who are well established in this field.

144/12 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
	NEDDC - empty dog waste bins	001259	390 . 62
	Derbyshire County Council - rock salt supplies	001260	360 . 00

b). The Clerk reported that the Council's financial activity and balances from the 15th February 2012 up to and including the 21st March 2012 are as follows :-

Balances at the 15 th February 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.87
	Current Account	£ <u>3,776.24</u>
	Total	£ 6,778.11

Income Received 230.00

Expenditure Incurred £ 921.32

Balances at the 21 st March 2012 :-	Capital Reserve Account	£ 3,001.87
	Current Account	£ <u>3,084.92</u>
	Total	£ 6,086.79

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

145/12 Matters for Decision.

a). **Morton Park Play Area.** Councillor Cashin reported that work on the new play area is due to commence on the 11th April and it should be completed by the 10th May 2012. Christina Chipp is continuing the work on the planting around the area particularly in respect of conservation; this will cost in the region of £575, which the Parish Council will have to fund initially. However, 50% of this should be recovered in the form of a grant from the Prince's Trust. Councillor Cashin and Councillor Lawton are working together with the District Council and the funding body in order to design a suitable sign for the play area that will meet everyone's requirements without being too lengthy.

RESOLVED that the expenditure of £575 on planting is agreed.

b). **Hanging Baskets and Planters.** Councillor Coates introduced this item again following the discussion at last month's meeting as an opportunity has arisen for a smaller number of baskets to be provided this summer at a very competitive price that will include maintenance. The same company will also supply plants for the large planters in the Village.

RESOLVED that hanging baskets will be provided this summer once the lampposts have been tested. Also, that compost will be purchased separately for the large planters and local groups 'adopting' their planters and taking full responsibility for them will maintain these throughout the summer. The total budget for all of this was agreed at £1,500.

c). **Morton Brook.** The clean up of Morton Brook was recently organised by Morton Parish Council and Shirland and Higham Parish Council and this work has now been completed.

RESOLVED that many thanks are due to everyone that assisted with the Morton Brook clean up and this includes residents from Morton, Stonebroom and Mickley.

d). **Litter within the Village.** A litter clean up within Morton has been arranged and this will be carried out within the next few weeks by the community payback team.

RESOLVED to note that this work has now been arranged and that it will soon be completed.

e). **Request for financial assistance - Holy Cross Church, Morton.** This item had already been deferred until a future meeting due to the volume of items to be discussed.

RESOLVED that it was agreed this request should be considered at the June meeting when the financial position of the Parish Council in the 2012/13 financial year will be clearer and the VAT due on the young people's play area will have been reclaimed.

146/12 Planning. None.

147/12 DALC Circulars.

RESOLVED to note the information contained in Circulars **08/2012, 11/2012** and **12/2012** - General Circulars, **09/2012** - Neighbourhood Planning and **10/2012** - Meetings of Local Councils - a Summary of the various types of meetings held by Local Councils.

148/12 General Correspondence. Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present.

RESOLVED to note the correspondence as distributed at the meeting.

149/12 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.

Village Hall - This matter had been dealt with as a main agenda item.

Church - There was no report as Councillor Lawton had left the meeting prior to this agenda item.

School - Councillor Edson confirmed that there was nothing further to report at the moment.

South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership - Councillor McCullough and Councillor Roe will be attending the next meeting that is due to take place on the 29th March 2012.

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 - Councillors McCullough and Roe reported that the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting is not due to be held until April 2012.

RESOLVED to note the verbal reports that were received.

150/12 Items for the next agenda.

a). Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics

The meeting was declared closed at 10.00pm

Chairman 18th April 2012