

## **Morton Parish Council Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of Morton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 16 September 2015** at 7.30 pm at the Rectory Rooms, Church Lane, Morton, DE55 6GU

### **PRESENT**

Cllr R Austin, Cllr J Browne, Cllr A Coates (Chair), Cllr S Cashin, Cllr J Funnell, Cllr R Martin, Cllr S Pleming, Cllr B Roe, Cllr C Lawton

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr A Cooper - N E Derbyshire District Councillor  
Cllr G Butler - N E Derbyshire District Councillor  
Cllr K Gillott - Derbyshire County Councillor  
C Wharton - Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer  
Members of the public

### **1/09/15 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence

### **2/09/15 - COUNCILLORS ABSENT**

None

### **3/09/15 - DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

### **4/09/15 - RECORDING AND FILMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council was noted.

### **5/09/15 - PUBLIC SPEAKING**

A member of the public highlighted parking concerns relating to their property which is adjacent to New Street car park. It was explained to the Council that there currently are no preventative measures in place such as a barrier to stop vehicles accidentally crashing through the living room wall or garden fence of their property. District Cllr Cooper delivered an update on the New Street car park situation informing the Council that North East Derbyshire District's (NEDDC) acting assistant engineer has been informed and has conducted a site visit. Cllr Cooper will keep the Council updated on any further developments.

### **6/09/15 - COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

Cllr Gillott advised the meeting that the Morton Primary School zebra crossing is now fully operational. Members reported that the painting of the crossing has not been ideal as some of the paint has already been removed by passing traffic.

It was reported by Cllr Gillott that it will be a substantial cost to rectify the water seepage off Morton Tip onto the highway. This project, if it went ahead, would need

to be paid for out of the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) capital budget. The County Council are currently considering this matter.

#### **7/09/15 - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

Cllr Butler updated Members on the Derbyshire / Nottinghamshire Combined Authority initiative affecting NEDDC in which an application was submitted to central government on 4 Sep 2015. Cllr Butler will keep the Council updated on any further developments on the matter.

Cllr Cooper reported to Members that NEDDC has now appointed a new Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Swane, who will be in post 1 Oct 2015.

Cllr Cooper updated Members on the A61 highway corridor development. It was reported that 500 new houses are expected to be built along the corridor with the creation of approximately 800 jobs. Members were advised that questions had been raised about the condition of the A61 and that £16 million has been allocated for improvements.

Cllr Cooper reported that NEDDC Planning officer Sandra Tagg has been in contact with the developers at Sitwell Villas requesting further clarity of the original proposal of the bus turning circle. Cllr Cooper will keep the Council updated on any further developments on the matter.

Cllr Cooper advised the Council that NEDDC Environmental Services officer, Matthew Boot has been informed of flooding concerns around the Harron Homes / Sitwell Villas area. A proposed meeting for concerned residents to discuss the issue is to be arranged.

#### **8/09/15 - POLICE UPDATE**

PCSO Hodnett sent her apologies as she was unable to attend the meeting. A report was sent by email;

##### **2/8 Pilsley Road, Morton**

Burglary in a dwelling - offender gained entry to property and steals keys belonging to the IPs vehicle and removes from driveway. The vehicle has since been recovered and a suspect identified.

##### **8/8 Station Road, Morton**

Theft from motor vehicle - front number plate stolen from the front of IPs vehicle.

#### **ASB Figures**

There have been no reports of ASB for Morton.

#### **9/09/15 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2015**

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 July 2015 be approved as a true record.

## 10/09/15 - TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY AGENDA ITEM SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

There were no items.

## 11/09/15 - FINANCE

- a) Payments (including those approved later in the meeting)

Supplier	Description	Net £	Gross £
Cllr A Coates	Hello Print – Morton Messenger (reimbursement of payment)	£229.00	£229.00
NEDDC	Independent annual playground inspection	£54.00	£64.80
NEDDC	Football pitch mark-outs	£368.77	£442.52
Came & Company	Insurance annual renewal	£1923.93	£1923.93
HMRC	Plantscape – Village Hall noticeboard	£725.00	£870.00
C Wharton	Clerk/RFO salary (1 Aug- 1 Oct 2015)	£480.00	£480.00
C Wharton	Clerk / RFO expenses (1 Aug- 1 Oct 2015)	£70.50	£70.50
Shirland & Higham Parish Council	Supply of acting Parish Clerk for meeting on 15.7.15	£80.55	£80.55

**RESOLVED** - to approve the above items for payment and these are to be signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllrs Coates and Lawton.

- b) Bank reconciliation – not available, to be reported at the meeting on 18 Nov 2015.

- c) Bank mandate – Members discussed amending the authorised signatories on the Parish Council Natwest bank account.

**RESOLVED** - that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for both of the Council's bank accounts with National Westminster Bank Plc, be changed to remove Joanne Taylor, Walt Edson and E Ruth McCullough and add Christopher Wharton, Sean Cashin and Betty Roe and the current mandate will continue as amended with Cllrs A Coates and C Lawton remaining on the mandate.

## 12/09/15 MATTERS TO REPORT

- a) Clerk / RFO appointment – after an interview process the Council appointed a new clerk / RFO, Chris Wharton, on 1 Aug 2015. The Clerk /RFO introduced himself to the Council.
- b) Hanging baskets 2015 permit – Members were informed that a retrospective permit had been issued by Derbyshire County Council Street Lighting Services until 30 Oct 2015.

- c) PAYE assessment – the Council was informed that currently the situation with HMRC payroll seems to be in order.
- d) Fireworks event (6 Nov 2015) – Cllr Funnell informed the Council that 1<sup>st</sup> Galaxy Fireworks Ltd will be organising and conducting the event. It was reported that the police authority and ambulance service have been informed and volunteers are now being recruited to assist with the event. Members enquired into the insurance cover for the event which is to be confirmed in writing before the event.
- e) Change of status of footpath to bridleway (Pit Lane) – Members were informed that the public enquiry into the matter is to take place in Oct 2015 and has been advertised in the Sep 2015 edition of the Morton Messenger newsletter.
- f) Village Hall notice board – Members were informed that the new notice board located outside the Village Hall has now been erected. Members expressed their appreciation to Cllr Funnell and Cllr Fleming for undertaking this task.
- g) Parish Council website for mobile devices – the Council discussed the possibility of extending the current website to be compatible for viewing on mobile devices such as smartphones and iPads and were of the consensus not to pursue this option at this time.
- h) Parish Council banking – Members discussed the option of moving to online banking as an alternative to the current method of banking and requested more information for a decision to be taken at the next meeting on 18 Nov 2015.
- i) Collection of used Christmas trees – Cllr Cooper had enquired of NEDDC whether they would reintroduce a Christmas tree collection service after Christmas and was informed that there are no plans to do so. Councillors were of the consensus that it is not viable for the Parish Council to do so.

### **13/09/15 MATTERS FOR DECISION**

- a) Setting the Parish Council 4 Year Objectives -

Members discussed suggestions raised at the Council meeting on 15 July 2015 regarding the adoption of Parish Council key objectives for the next 4 years. The Council amended and agreed on the following areas outlined as key priorities;

- A. Village Hall improvements.
- B. Improve the appearance of the Parish to reflect a true Derbyshire village.
- C. Make grants to community groups.
- D. Pit Memorial – marking 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of pit closure.
- E. Improve youth facilities.
- F. Facilitate celebrations and events throughout the Parish.
- G. Improved publicity and awareness of what is available in the Parish

**RESOLVED** – that the above Parish Council's 4 Year Objectives (A-G) be adopted.

- b) Village Hall improvements – Cllr Funnell updated Members on the Village Hall Open Meeting held on Mon 14 Sep 2015 at the Village Hall. It was reported that approximately 50 people attended the meeting offering important feedback to the future direction of the Village Hall. Further to the Open Meeting, the Council were apprised that a Village Hall steering group has been set up consisting of Parish Councillors, volunteers and members of the Village Hall Management Committee to examine the options available for the future development of the Village Hall. Members were also informed that consultation questionnaires are being completed and returned by local residents. It was reported that an application for a Stage 1 Big Lottery funding for the Village Hall will be submitted by the Village Hall Management committee possibly in Dec 2015 whilst other options and funding streams are simultaneously being considered and investigated.

**RESOLVED** - that the Council supports the actions being undertaken by the Village Management Committee to consult with local residents and develop proposals to improve the Village Hall facilities.

- c) New Planters for 2016 - Cllr Martin updated the Council on the type of planters and plants that would be suitable for the village appearance. Members discussed the quantity and location of planters required and also discussed whether Morton Grange would possibly sponsor a planter. Cllr Browne offered to make some enquiries with Morton Grange regarding sponsorship on behalf of the Council.

**RESOLVED** – that the purchase of one planter and suitable plants (bulbs) for all the planters be approved.

- d) Frequency of Parish Council meetings – the Council discussed the number of Parish Council meetings held throughout the year. Some members expressed interest in increasing the amount of meetings throughout the year. A suggestion was raised by Cllr Coates to consider forming sub-committees focussing on specific budgetary areas rather than increasing the number of Parish Council meetings.

**RESOLVED** –

- I. that the current frequency of 6 meetings per year continue with the condition this is kept under review.
- II. that the formation of sub-committees be considered at the parish council meeting on 18 November 2015.

- e) Village Hall Christmas tree and decoration contribution – it was requested by the Morton Events Committee that the Council make a financial contribution towards the Village Hall Christmas tree and decorations.

**RESOLVED** – that a contribution of £200 for a Village Hall Christmas tree and decorations be approved.

**14/09/15 PLANNING**

None

**15/09/15 DALC CIRCULARS**

None

**16/09/15 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**17/09/15 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Funnell delivered an update on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee under agenda item 13 (b)

**18/09/15 ANY ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 18 NOV 2015**

- a) To approve the setting of the Parish Council 2016/17 budget
- b) To approve the composition of Parish Council sub-committees
- c) To report on online banking options
- d) To agree on the displaying of a commemorative metal plaque marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Morton Colliery pit closure.
- e) To approve a financial donation towards the Pensioner's Christmas party

Chairman .....

Date 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015