**Morton Annual Parish Council Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of Morton Parish Council held on Wednesday **Monday 21st May 2021** at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, Main Road, Morton, DE55 6GS

**PRESENT**

Cllr J Funnell Chair, Cllr C Lawton, Amanda-Jayne Pike – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, Cllr V Lawrence, Cllr B Roe, and Cllr B England.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Amanda-Jayne Pike – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Cllr K Gilliott - Derbyshire County Councillor

Cllr A Cooper – N E Derbyshire District Councillor

Members of the public (4)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr K Morrisroe

**01/05/21 – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME**

Cllr J Funnell opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for attending

**02/05/21 - MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**04/05/21 – CHAIRMAN REPORT**

The Chair of Morton Parish Council gave his report for the year.

Welcome to the Annual Morton Parish Council meeting.

2020/21 has been a particularly challenging year for everyone as we came to terms with the Covid epidemic. Hopefully, we can see the end of the tunnel as more and more people are being vaccinated and lock down comes to an end.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our team. As such, I would like to thank the Vice Chairman of all the Committees and all Members of the Council for the work they have carried out on behalf of parishioners during the past year. Our meetings have been held remotely but this has not stopped the Parish Council making excellent progress.

**Finances and precept**

**General** –

In deciding the budget for 2021/22 the council must balance the need for tight control of its finances whilst also recognising there are activities that need doing around our parish to maintain or improve our village.

This is always a challenging time as the council tries to balance the need for sensible, justifiable expenditure and allocating funds to projects benefiting the community, whilst also trying to minimise the impact of these on the precept.

The final proposals were agreed for approval in December 2020, and they were agreed to go forward to main council in January 2021 for ratification.

The parish council precept shows a 0% increase and reflects the tight budgetary control of our funds during the year as well as restraint and common sense looking forward. We recognise many people will have suffered financially during the pandemic, so we were keen to not make any increase in this year’s precept. My thanks to all concerned.

**Income**

precept - £50k plus grant £687.38

grants from solar farm - £5527.44

VAT return - £3564.59

Bus shelter Insurance Claim

**Main spends** –

Village improvement - £13,162.80 – tree maintenance, xmas trees, xmas lights, solar trees (£3998.40), and bus shelter (£5193.20).

Dog waste bins - £3583.25

PWLB - £8280.72

Clerk - £5167.08

**Community support and grants.**

We have continued to support the Community Grant scheme with grants approved for 2021 including –

Rectory roof - £5000

Food hub - £763.46

Community speed watch - £518.08

Community Garden Benches £877.92

Morton Football Club - £1,000

Cricket club - £25

**During the year**

**VE Day -** celebrations went ahead and a great village atmosphere was created

**Christmas Lights –** the lights across the village were extended and now cover all lamp posts and some trees

**Climate Change**

1) with the help of the woodland trust and Morton Junior school over 100 trees were planted on the side of the pit tip

2) Bird and owl boxes have been installed around the villager

3) The two Community gardens have been well tendered and looked after by volunteers

4) The hanging baskets and planters have been extended and again looked after by villagers who have adopted a planter

5) Footpath cleared for walkers.

**Village Hall**

Although closed the village hall has been remarkably busy providing support across the village

**Marvellous Morton Food Hub -**

As always, the Council strives to improve itself and its facilities on behalf of parishioners. The ongoing success of Morton Food Hub is a fantastic example of how the Council works hand in hand with a dedicated group of volunteers to provide a facility that can be accessed by parishioners of all ages. The logistics of keeping the Morton Food Hub is no small task. The Council's thanks go to all the volunteers, the Village Hall Committee. The food hub remains viable because of the strong Volunteer support received and everyone should be proud of their contribution to this achievement. Over 1000 hampers were delivered and over 1000 people have visited the pop-up shop. This is due to end in June, but the Cafe is planned to open in May.

Funding and grant support received from several organizations enabled to food hub to develop during the covid crisis.

Business grants have also been obtained during the year which have helped to cover the operating and start-up cost for the village hall.

**Planning**

Two larger planning applications have been approved during the year including 94, Main road and the 100 homes on Stretton road. The Parish Council unsuccessfully objected to the larger development by Davidsons who have agreed to have an open meeting in the Village hall in June.

**Plans for the Parish 2021/22**

* Continue to support village activities i.e., bonfire night Christmas party,
* Focus on housekeeping and village improvements.
* Support and promote the Community Grant Scheme
* Support Climate change
* Morton Colliery site

 **Vacancies x2**

We still have two vacancies on the Parish Council for anyone interested.

**MEETING CLOSED 19.20pm**