

# Morton Parish Council

At a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Rectory Rooms on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

## **Informal Session.**

**Police.** The crime figures and a written report have been received from PCSO Gary Green and there was no recorded crime in Morton during August. It was also stated that there were no reports of nuisance made within Morton during August.

PCSO Green has also submitted a comprehensive update report on local issues and the main two of these that are of interest to Morton relate to the purpose and operation of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and also the ongoing concern regarding distraction burglaries in the area. There was also an incident where the careless riding of motor bikes in the vicinity of two horse riders almost caused an accident and this is a reminder for all drivers to take extra care when either passing or driving near to horses.

Councillor McCullough gave a report on the annual meeting with senior members of the Police Authority that had taken place recently; this highlighted the fact that the Derbyshire Police Force is the eleventh lowest funded in England and Wales and according to reports after 2011 it may be under funded by around £11 million.

There are 69 organised crime gangs with 500 members, 72 involved in Cannabis cultivation and approximately 8,000 heroin users; this becomes a serious problem when the number is in excess of 5,000 and so this is now obviously a serious concern for the police and local communities. For information John Beresford of the Youth Offending Drugs team is available if needed in any of these respects within our own community and his contact number is 01629 581100.

There has been an increase in the number of alcohol related incidents and also Domestic violence although this may be due to more awareness of the problem and therefore higher reporting levels.

On a positive note Derbyshire Police achieved the top performance grade following an independent scrutiny of the service; also, for the sixth consecutive year there was a reduction in the amount of crime in Derbyshire and there is a high detection rate. The Restorative Justice approach to relatively minor crimes, offenders and their victims came into force in April 2009 and detailed information about this is now available from the police.

Councillor McCullough was thanked for her most interesting and informative report.

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

There are 7 Lime trees on the perimeter of the Bacchus Way play area and the District Council has recommended that 5 of these should be removed because of the problems these are causing for the neighbouring property; the cost of this work would be in the region of £700 and a decision needs to be made before the next meeting regarding what course of action to take in this respect. The Clerk will ensure that the decision is conveyed to the District Council as a matter of urgency.

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Councillor Cooper had agreed to take up the problem of the weeds on Bacchus Way and Penfold Way with the District Council on our behalf and the Clerk will now follow this up with him.

Alan Riley from the District Council has now provided some information regarding the specification that might be required in order for this proposed improvement to the car parking problems on Evershill Close to go ahead particularly in respect of the problems of drainage from the highway. Once there is a clear idea about the associated costs involved in carrying out a scheme that is acceptable to all parties a decision will have to be made as to whether or not to carry out the work. In this respect it will also be necessary to arrange a site meeting with the County Council in order to ensure that they are completely satisfied with the proposals.

There is still a problem with fly tipping under the bridge on Higham Lane and this will be raised with the 'STAG' organisation in case they are able to assist in any way; once the area has been cleared the land needs to be fenced off in order to avoid the same problem quickly arising again.

Apparently there has been a sighting of rats in the vicinity of the garages on Evershill Close and if this occurs again it needs reporting to the Environmental Services Department at the District Council immediately.

**County Council.** Councillor Lewis was not in attendance at the meeting but the following issues were raised again as no progress has yet been made with any of them:-

A question was raised again regarding the work that was carried out near to the highway on Station Road where there has always been a problem with silt on the road and flooding. Councillor Cotterill stated that the County Council had investigated the problem of water escaping onto the highway from the former pit tip and, as a result of this, they agreed to clean out the interceptor that is supposed to disperse the draining water. The Clerk has spoken to Simon Kimmins at the County Council and he has indicated that the only course of action left is to clean the drain out as and when required. Councillor Lewis agreed to take this matter up again on behalf of the Parish Council and local residents. The Clerk will check with Councillor Lewis to see what progress, if any, has been made in this respect as even though there has been no rainfall for some time water is still seeping on to the highway and the condition of the wall continues to deteriorate.

The County Council has just confirmed that they are going to prune the overgrown trees and trim the vegetation on the opposite side of the road to Westfield Gardens. The Clerk will now send to the County Council the photographs of the tree outside number 16 Penfold Way that is obscuring the street light in order that they can take the appropriate action. The Clerk will raise both these matters with the County Council again.

The services cover on the private land at the old pit yard is still in a dangerous condition due to the depth it is below the level of the land surrounding it; the Clerk has spoken to Simon Kimmins at the County Council regarding this and apparently they will try and enforce this issue if they are given the details of the landowner. Councillor Cotterill will be asked if he has arranged for the details to be sent to Simon by the officer at the District Council who holds this information.

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**45/10 Members Present.** Mrs M. Hawkins, Mrs E.R. McCullough, Mr W.H. Edson and Mr C. Lawton.

Also in attendance were Mr P. Goodwin - Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**46/10 Apologies.** Mr A. Cooper, Mrs B Roe, Mr C. Parkin and Mrs A. Holmes - District Councillor.

**47/10 Councillors Absent.** Mr A. Sams, Mr D. Cotterill and Mr B. Lewis – County Councillor.

**48/10 Declaration of Members' Interests.** There were no declarations made in respect of any of the agenda items.

**49/10 Items from members of the public.** The only new item raised was in respect of what is likely to happen to the Live and Let Live Public House that has now closed but unfortunately there is no information currently available in this respect.

**50/10 Non-Exempt Minutes - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009.**

**RESOLVED** to confirm as a correct record the Non-Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**51/10 Items in Exclusion.** There were no items to be taken in exclusion.

**52/10 Clerk of the Council's Report.** New seat for the Village - the seat has now been put in place and it is being well used by local people which is excellent news.

Toxic Waste Site - apparently the water and soil sampling has now been carried out and this has not shown any problem with either; the District Council will now be asked to confirm this briefly in writing in order to reassure local people that everything is in order and being appropriately monitored.

**RESOLVED** to note the Clerk's report and to approve the action stated against the appropriate items.

**53/10 Matters for Decision.**

a). **NEDDC Chair's Appeal - request for financial assistance.** This Chair's Appeal for 2009/10 is the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice Fund.

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £25 is given to this most worthwhile organisation.

**54/10 Finance.** The following payments have been made :-

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a). <u>Payee.</u>	<u>Cheque No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Wages for July, August and September	-	1,412 . 07
HM Revenue & Customs - tax and NI Apr. to June 09	-	983 . 36
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	001098	325 . 62
Mr P. Goodwin - expenses	001099	168 . 90
NEDDC - grounds maintenance 2009/10	001100	1,409 . 90
Page Kirk - payroll fees to 30-6-09	001101	28 . 75
Peter Harkins - various work in the Village	001102	695 . 00
Gary Wilkes - bus shelter cleaning 12-6 and 29-7	001103	100 . 00
NEDDC - supply of school milk	001104	67 . 43
J.M. Nicholas - licence fee for land	001105	5 . 00
Derbyshire County Council - superannuation	001106	162 . 81
NEDDC - Chair's Appeal 2009/10	001107	25 . 00

The Clerk reported that the Council's balances up to and including the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009 were as follows :- Capital Reserve Account £14,583.27  
Current Account £ 4,770.42

The External Auditor's report from the Audit Commission has been received and the Clerk was pleased to inform the members present that no points of concern have been raised in respect of the audit of the 2008/09 financial year.

**RESOLVED** that the payments listed above were authorised, the current level of balances confirmed and to note the External Auditor's report from the Audit Commission.

## **55/10 Planning. There were no objections to the following planning applications :-**

**09/00454/FLH** - Proposed erection of two-storey rear extension to form kitchen space with en-suite. W.C. over and alteration to existing house to form a new side facing bedroom window at first floor and retention of decking to rear (Amended Title/Amended Plan) at 48 New Street, Morton, Alfreton, Derbyshire for Mr C. Parkin.

**09/00514/FL** - Proposed change of use of derelict former hospital ward to day care centre offices and training facility including new roof and windows erection of conservatory and external alterations at Morton Grange Nursing Home, Stretton Road, Morton, Alfreton for Inverhome Limited.

## **The following planning applications have now been approved :-**

**09/00427/OHLN** - Proposed application to rebuild approximately 2400m of 11kV overhead line on new wooden poles at the overhead line east of the rail line between Morton Lodge Farm and Old Pit Lane, Pilsley Road, Morton, Alfreton for Central Networks East.

**09/00443/FL** - Proposed erection of 4 bedroom dwelling with integral garage (Amended Plan) on land immediately adjacent to 1 The Laurels, Station Road, Morton, Alfreton for Mr Rob Spence.

**09/00454/FLH** - Proposed erection of two-storey rear extension to form kitchen space with en-suite. W.C.

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## **56/10 DALC Circulars.**

**RESOLVED** to note the information contained in Circulars **40, 44, 46** and **48/2009** - General Circulars, **41/2009** - County Council Parish/Town Council Liaison Forum, **42/2009** - DALC President 2009/2010 and **43/2009** - The Power of Well Being - Parish Council Training, **45/2009** - Strengthening Local Democracy and **47/2009** - Parish Council Liaison Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 at County Hall, Matlock - Derbyshire Transformational Partnership.

**57/10 General Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were distributed amongst the councillors present although there were no items that required a decision to be made or that warranted a specific discussion.

**RESOLVED** to note the correspondence and that Councillor Hawkins and Councillor McCullough will attend the meeting with the County Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 at County Hall, Matlock where there will be an open agenda.

## **58/10 Reports from Parish Council Representatives on other bodies.**

**Village Hall** - The Clerk reported that progress is still being made by the two sets of solicitors in respect of the transfer of the small strip of land required to enable the creation of a proper access for disabled people from Chris Milner to the Parish Council and he will now follow this up again.

**Church** - The Church requires a range of maintenance work in order to keep it in a reasonable condition and to protect it for future generations. A request has been made for grant assistance from the Parish Council and this was agreed in principle and this will be put on the agenda for the October meeting as a separate item for consideration.

**School** - Nothing further to report at the moment other than the building work at the school is going well and is still on schedule for its planned completion date.

**South Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership** - Councillor Hawkins reported about the next meeting is due to take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and there is nothing further to report at the moment.

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

The meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm

**Chairman**            21<sup>st</sup> October 2009

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