

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022 at the Village Hall, Morston - (7pm)

Covid 19 – The public health advice and guidance (as at previous meetings) was still followed.

Present: J.Burdell (Chair), C.Bean, J.Tibbetts, R.Hamond, and the Clerk. Also present were V.Egan (NT) and 10 members of the public.

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C.Ward, J.Temple, and S.Bean. Apologies were also received from Dr.V.Holliday (NNDC).

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

No interests declared.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 26.1.22

The minutes, which had already been circulated, were accepted as a true record. (Prop: RH, Sec: JPT).

3a. Public Participation (requests to speak on agenda items)

The Chair pointed out that members of the public could speak on items on the agenda but after that should not join in with the debate of the council on that item. Requests to speak on items 3c, 6d, and 10 were received.

3b. To receive reports from District & County Councillors, and the Police.

*** Dr.V.Holliday (NNDC) had submitted a written report which had been circulated. It referred to :- (a) grants to low income households (b) help to make houses more energy efficient (c) support to prevent rent arrears and evictions (d) developing skills in “Health & Social Care” (e) the Taxi Association had decided against a fare review as it would impact negatively on their businesses.

3c. To receive report from NT and consider new toilet block & its funding.

The Chair adjourned the meeting and a parishioner spoke on the proposed toilet block and the quay. He stated that he was concerned with the commercialisation of the quay as it was originally a wild space and it was just turning into a visitor attraction. He also thought that the National Trust should fund its own projects. The Chair re-opened the meeting and invited V.Egan (NT) to speak. She thanked JT for all his recent help on the quay. VE referred to the roof of the proposed building and stated that a revised large drawing would be available for the next meeting. The NT were talking to various parties regarding funding and hoped the PC would become one of this group, requesting that the annual payment regarding the car park payment (£17.8k) could be suspended this year. The Chair stated that he was concerned with the amount of building space sliding in on the back of extra toilet provision. He thought that the idea of the PC waiving some payment from the NT was not acceptable in principle but ultimately if the PC was to contribute it would be a clear payment to the NT in support of a “partnership/group funded project” with clear objectives and benefits. The Chair questioned who would benefit from the extra/better toilet provision and he

thought this would not be the parishioners. (“its hard to see where Morston as a parish needs any more toilet provision”). The Chair stated that those whose activities and profitability generates the need for extra toilet provision should pay a proportionate amount towards it as a legitimate business cost. On the basis that it was important to keep the car park income the Chair proposed that this money be received from the NT during this financial year. This was agreed. (Prop: JB, Sec: JPT). V.Egan (NT) informed the Clerk that she would expedite this matter a.s.a.p. RH expressed her concerns regarding protecting the landscape stating that we are not paying enough attention to this beautiful area.(“the beauty of the quay is its bleakness”).

Members agreed. The Chair concluded the discussion by stating that the parish council needed firmed up plans with projected costs and “other incomes” before committing any further to this project.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £323.10, HMRC £81.00, East of Eng.Ambulance Serv. £339.60, Information Commissioner £40.00, P.Bullimore £35.54, N.Nfk Signs £381.60.

*** The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, were approved. (Prop: JPT, Sec: RH).

(b) To note/consider the contractor’s new grass cutting price.

Members agreed to accept the new price of £185 per cut (Prop: JPT, Sec: CB).

5. Planning:

(a) To note decisions & information received from NNDC since last meeting. PF/21/3237; New dwelling etc at Garden of Eden; application had been withdrawn.

(b) To consider planning applications received since agenda was printed
None received.

(c) To further consider the new North Norfolk Local Plan.

RH spoke again re the protection of our landscapes and AONBs. There was no specific response re the local plan.

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

(a) To receive update re maintenance of the pond.

The Clerk had nothing further to report other than NCC Highways had dealt with the drains and gullies which would hopefully improve the water quality of the pond. JPT asked whether a group of volunteers could be formed to help clear the non-native species. The Chair thought that the ecologist at Norfolk CC. should again be consulted and he had concerns regarding volunteers “acting” on behalf of the council.

(b) To consider lopping of the tree on the Green

This was agreed and the Clerk was instructed to contact the contractor who had worked in the past for the PC. (Prop: RH, Sec: JPT).

(c) To further consider the parking area east of church (surface)

The Chair reported he was still waiting for NCC.Highways to patch the tarmac adjacent to the entrance before proceeding to overall surface area.

(d) To further consider traffic speeds in the village.

The Chair referred the meeting to the minutes and asked the Clerk to read NCC Highways responses to the PC letter of 31/1/22. The Chair reported that hedge lines and vegetation had been cut back to the west of the village (A149) to make signage clearly visible. The SAM2 sign cannot go on the existing post as it had rotted through but hopefully it could go next to the 30mph repeater sign fairly soon when the post

had been replaced. JB stated that NCC Highways were not against the “gateway” arrangement seen on boundaries of other villages (e.g. Thornage) and he hoped something like this could be progressed for the A149 west of the village. Reasonable points had been raised about pedestrian safety and he will be raising these with the Highways Engineer. The Chair adjourned the meeting and a parishioner asked about speed limit signs approaching the Blakeney boundary. Re-opening the meeting, and after further discussion, the Chair said that further contact with the Highways Engineer was required regarding (a) gateways or similar on the A149 plus painted road markings showing 30mph (b) pedestrian warning signs in centre of village (c) creation of a “painted walkway” on road surface in centre of village (d) mirror to be placed on side of A149 to assist pedestrians crossing A149 into Quay Lane. This was agreed (Prop: JPT, Sec: RH).

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

The Clerk reminded members of (a) Community First Responder meeting on 16/3/22 and (b) Ambulance Response Times meeting on 2/3/22.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) To further consider way forward following completion of tenancies.

The Chair reported that he and JPT had been looking at the scale drawings and had been experimenting with models of a “revised caravan layout”. He also pointed out that with NNDC carrying out surveys/inspections of all caravan sites in Nth Norfolk the PC should consider replacing the old obsolete licence issued by Walsingham RDC some sixty years ago. They had recently taken advice from someone in the local caravan world regarding relevant regulations and licences which will be considered when the current tenancy agreements expire. Noted.

9. To receive update re Ambulance Response Times

See also item 7. The report re Rapid Response Vehicles should be available at the next meeting.

10. To further consider the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (June 2022)

JPT reported that (a) people wanted a bonfire and JT had agreed to supervise this (b) a parishioners field had been offered for this event (c) starting to collect names of volunteers to help with the event (d) forming a group to organise detail plans (e) a street party also envisaged on the Sunday (f) more news at the next meeting (g) will be asking the PC to fund events. A parishioner stated that the Church would like to be involved; bell ringing etc...

11. To further consider the Morston Regatta in 2022.

CW had offered his apologies...nothing further to report.

12. To further consider Defibrillator training

Booked with Ambulance service for 10/5/22 (9am in village hall)

13. To receive correspondence (not included in agenda items above)

Thank you letter re donation from Norfolk CAB

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)...No further comments.

15. To confirm date of next meetingWednesday, 30th March. 2022 (7pm)

