

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 31st March, 2021 (held via Zoom Video Conferencing). (7pm).

Present: J.Burdell (Chair), J.Tibbetts, R.Hamond, C.Ward, and the Clerk. Also participating were Dr.M.Strong (NCC) and five members of the public.

1a. To receive and consider apologies

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies were received and accepted from C.Bean and S.Bean.

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 29/1/21.

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

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

No requests to speak on agenda items.

4. To consider the continuation of the Delegation Scheme.

It was agreed to suspend the Delegation Scheme for the time being.

5. To note proposed new gate in Church Lane.

The Chair stated that this was not an issue for the PC and it could not act as a go-between. The Clerk had taken advice from Norfolk County Council's Footpath & Rights of Way Officer as well as the Norfolk Parish Training & Support Services who stated that it was clearly a civil matter. This was noted and it was agreed the Chair writes to the parishioner, who had made the original enquiry, re-iterating this.

6. To note new charges on National Trust car park.

The Chair thought that this was not a matter for the PC. as the NT is a very large charity and a commercially aware organisation. JPT expressed her concerns regarding the effect on parishioners and queried whether the PC should ask them what they thought. CW stated that it was highly unlikely that the PC, or anybody else, would make the NT change their decisions. Some members were obviously disappointed with the NT's charges but it was decided to move on.

7. To note points from parishioner re NT shop & toilet

It was believed that what was a temporary planning permission, regarding the toilets etc., runs out soon and CW suggested we should enquire as to what the NT's plans are going forward. The Chair agreed to write to Victoria Egan for clarification.

8. To note situation re future village hall bookings.

The Clerk informed members that strict guidelines would have to be followed regarding the future village hall bookings. The co-ordinator/bookings secretary had been informed, and hirers would sign not only the basic booking forms, with the general terms and conditions, but an additional form accepting liability for hall users and agreeing to follow the Covid19 guidelines in force at the time. This was noted by members.

9. To consider upgrade to FTTP Broadband in the village.

The Chair summarised the position to date stating that he was waiting for the written material from OpenReach which would then be delivered to households. CW said we needed to chase this up and keep things moving. The Chair agreed and would keep contacting OpenReach. Following a question regarding the PC giving financial assistance towards this project the Chair stated that he was hopeful that the village might get enough vouchers to cover the costs. (only householders responses would give a definite answer as to the overall costings).

10 To consider the long term way forward for Morston PC.

The Clerk reported that as the PC was in a secure financial position members might like to consider this further for discussion at the annual parish meetings. The PC has been held back in the past because of restrictions regarding what it can spend money on and had to resort to using Section 137 .i.e. powers to how parish councils spend their money are tightly controlled and S.137 allowed them to use discretion on other things although it is very limited. If the PC adopted the General Power of Competence it would no longer need a specific power but could do “anything that an individual person could do” (subject to other legislation). If the PC met the criteria for the adoption of this power (two thirds of members have to have been elected and the Clerk has to be suitably qualified with the GPOC certificate) it could be adopted at the next meeting giving the PC far more choice on how it spends its money. The GPOC would be placed on the next agenda.

11. To consider the date of the next meeting and the annual parish meeting.

It was agreed to keep the Delegation Scheme in place until the next meeting which, subject to the Government guidelines, would be on 26/5/21. On that evening there would be the annual parish meeting prior to the parish council meeting.

