

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday, 26th April, 2023 at the Village Hall, Morston - 7pm

Present: J.Burdell (Chair), C.Bean, J.Tibbetts, R.Hamond, C.Ward, J.Temple, M.Harrison, and the Clerk. Also present were V.Holliday (NNDC), and two members of the public.

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received from V.Egan (NT).

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

No interests declared.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 22.3.23.

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

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

The Chair received a request to speak on 3b and 8c.

3b. To receive reports from District & County Councillors.

*** Dr.V.Holliday (NNDC) had submitted a written report which had been circulated to members. It referred to :- (a) photo ID at the forthcoming elections (b) an update on coastal maintenance works (c) NNDC is joining a joint venture to look at nutrient neutrality (d) an update on benefits (e) £150k received re the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (f) an update on bin issues (g) a full year deficit of £600k is anticipated at NNDC.

A parishioner asked for an update on Blakeney Surgery. VH summarised what was happening and stated that an official proposal to close had been submitted . D.Baker MP was carrying out an online survey and she encouraged everybody to take part. The surgery would have to produce an “options paper” but because of purdah she was unable to say much more.

Dr.V.Holliday also referred to the success of first responders and the fact that there were more in the pipeline.

Referring to item 13 she said this problem re bin collections was well known and she took the details of households who had expressed concerns. She would follow this matter up and email members with an update a.s.a.p.

3c. To receive report from NT.

V.Egan reporting via email thanked JT for his work on the car park. Referring to the new toilet project she stated that (a) the advice from Natural England had been received and was more complexed than expected (b) the external project team are moving forward with the design (c) was following up on “changing places “ funding and (d) there would be a further update next month..

Following further concerns re delays Dr.V.Holliday said she would speak with planners at NNDC.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £353.90, HMRC £88.60, Anglian Water Business £759.86, Norfolk ALC £89.79, P.Bullimore £34.92, , Countrystyle Recycling £36.00, CPRE £45.00, F.Newton £400.00, NPTS £55.00, T.T.Jones Elect £79.93, S.Meakin £23.00, P.Bullimore £516.25.

*** The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, were approved.

(Prop: RH, Sec: JPT)

5. Planning:

(a) To note decisions & information received from NNDC since last meeting.

Nothing received.

(b) To consider planning applications received since agenda was printed

None received.

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

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

JPT had sent a report to members stating that there had been two working parties since her last report, favourable comments received about the state and appearance of the pond, and that SWAMP were now looking at a 5 year plan. JPT asked members to consider some questions namely :- (a) could grass cutting around the pond be reviewed; it was agreed that a wider margin encouraging wild flowers etc could be left and JPT would need to liaise with the grass cutting contractor and the Clerk (b) is it possible to have a notice board and shelf in the bus shelter; it was agreed this was ok (c) the purchase and positioning of a storage shed for tools and equipment; following discussion JPT was asked to consider using a section of the bus shelter for this purpose (d) help with funding; numerous expenses were envisaged going forward and the Chairman suggested a donation of £1k for the year which could be reviewed annually – agreed (Prop: JB, Sec: RH) (e) a village picnic around the pond was planned possibly in conjunction with the Coronation – would the PC assist by financing wine; this was agreed with expenditure thought to be around £100. This event would be the Coronation event for the village (see item 12). JPT thanked members.

(b) To receive update re street lighting.

The Clerk was still waiting for further news from the contractor. (sub-contractors prices were still awaited as was permission to use the pole west of the pub)

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

The surface was still in a satisfactory condition.

(d) To review grass cutting.

This was dealt with at the end of the meeting in private. The Clerk was asked to speak with the contractor regarding the matters raised.

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

No further announcements.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) To receive update re purchasing of new village hall chairs.

CW updated members and he hoped the chairs would be delivered by the middle of next month.

(b) To consider a montage/collection of mementos for village events.

Following a suggestion from a parishioner it was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting when the parishioner could provide further details and costs. (Prop: JPT, Sec: CW).

(c) To consider arranging a fixed electricity supply contract.

It was agreed that the Clerk deals with a broker with a view to changing to a fixed price contract. (Prop: JPT, Sec: CW). The Clerk would report back when appropriate for members to consider electricity costs going forward.

9. To note/consider Local Government Elections in May, 2023.

Notices were now on the board and website with the District and Parish Elections being on 4th May. There are 8 nominated people for the 7 seats on the parish council.

10. Update re use of v. hall for Wells Comm.Hosp. outreach programme.

There was no further news on this item.

11. To receive report re the Morston Regatta 2023.

CW had nothing further to report.

12. To consider a Coronation event.

This was dealt with at item 6a when it was agreed that the picnic organised by SWAMP would become the parish event with the PC assisting with finance.

13. To consider concerns re NNDC garden waste collections.

This was dealt with at 3b during Dr.V.Holliday's report.

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

A thank you letter had been received regarding the donation to Age UK, Norfolk.

15. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

No further comments or questions.

16. To confirm date of next council meeting & Annual Parish Meeting.

Because it was an election year the May council meeting would have to be earlier than usual. It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May, 2023 starting at 7pm, followed by the Annual Council Meeting.