

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the annual parish council meeting held on Wednesday, 26th May, 2021 at the Village Hall, Morston - (it followed the parish meeting) **Covid 19 – The same restrictions and public health advice/guidance were in place as in the preceding parish meeting.**

Present: J.Burdell (Chair), J.Tibbetts, R.Hamond, C.Ward, and the Clerk. Also present were Dr.V.Holliday (NNDC) and nine members of the public.

1a. To elect Chairman & signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

J.Burdell was again elected Chairman and duly signed his declaration of office (Prop: CW, Sec: RH).

1b. To elect Vice-Chair & signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

R.Hamond was again elected Vice-Chair and duly signed her declaration of office (Prop: JPT, Sec: CW).

1c. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C.Bean, S.Bean, and J.Temple. Apologies were also received from M.Dalby (NCC), V.Egan (NT), and the police.

1d. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None.

1e. To terminate the “Delegation Scheme”

This was agreed (Prop: JB, Sec: JPT).

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 31.3.21.

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

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

No requests to speak on agenda items.

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

*** Dr.Holliday (NNDC) spoke on three items from the agenda which the Chair took next. These were 5(d). Dark Skies Initiative, 9. Ambulance Response Times, and 11. Superfast Fibre Broadband to Premises. See appropriate minute.

*** There was no report from the County Councillor.

*** PC.J.Pegden reported that there had been one call to the police regarding Morston in the last month but no reported crimes. With summer approaching the police will be visiting the harbours, using the police boat when necessary, and working alongside Border Force Officers. Noted by members.

*** V.Egan (NT) hoped to join members for future meetings and gave a response re extending the temporary planning permissions on the quay. Information from a parishioner indicated that a change of use application was not needed for the bookshop etc. There was no further news regarding the defibrillator.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £323.30, HMRC £80.80, Came & Co £1667.84, G.Matthews 360.00
T.Leach £20.00, P.Bullimore £54.28, Secret Gardens £290.00,
Victoria Shelley £50.00, NPTS ££108.00, Countrystyle Recycling £10.80.

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

(b) To note annual insurance

This is a three year contract with Penn (via Came & Co) and this years premium was £1667.84. (see 4a). This is an insurance policy taken by many parish councils and had been reviewed by the Clerk. Noted.

(c) To consider request for financial assistance from Nfk Accident Rescue

It was agreed to donate £100 (Prop: JB, 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.

(c) PF/21/1019; Morston Cottage, The Street; Single storey front extn

NNDC had informed the Clerk that this application had been withdrawn.

(d) Promotion of Dark Skies initiative (CB)

Cllr. C.Bean had requested this matter be put on the agenda. The Clerk informed members that the Norfolk Coast Partnership had started an initiative some two years ago and it continues to grow. Dr.Holliday (NNDC) informed members that Blakeney & Cley PCs had adopted a policy which included the consideration of lighting when looking at planning applications, using LEDs whenever possible, and the encouragement of parishioners to give more thought to lighting. It was agreed the Clerk circulates a copy of this policy with a view to adopting something similar at the next meeting.

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

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

Following discussion it was agreed to review the whole situation regarding the pond. Much money had already been spent and the lack of water during some parts of the year remained a problem. Some useful information regarding the restoration and maintenance of ponds,, received from a parishioner, would be circulated and the matter be placed on the next agenda. The Clerk agreed to approach NCC Highways regarding overflowing at certain times causing problems on the road.

Nb: R.Hamond offered her apologies and left the meeting at this point.

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

There were no new announcements.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) To further consider purchasing new chairs for the village hall

This matter would be carried forward to a future agenda when hopefully the Covid19 situation had improved and the Chair could visit other venues to look at chairs

(b) To note hiring conditions for Village Hall during Covid 19.

The Clerk informed members that an additional information sheet was to be issued to all users of the hall and the hirer would sign a statement to the effect that they would take all necessary steps to follow current rules and guidance in force at the time.

(c) To note report re V.Hall Wi-Fi Installation.

The Chair had emailed members forwarding Norfolk Connected's report and summarising the situation on 23/4/21. He had received no responses. It was noted that the systems at Wells were part of a costly refurbishment of the building with much technology at the council's disposal. It was also noted that NNDC only used Zoom for their meetings and had not expanded further. It was agreed not to proceed further with this project.

(d) To note verification of waiting list for caravan site at January, 2021

It was noted that the list had been verified with no changes to the previous year.

9. To receive update re Ambulance Response Times

Dr.Holliday (NNDC) updated members and spoke about the extra input for summer months, use of the rapid response car, more paramedics being deployed, and the search for more first responders. The statistics show that N.Nfk has some of the worst response times in the country.

10. To consider/adopt the General Power of Competence

Referring to his previous statements on the GPOC the Clerk informed members that MPC now met the criteria re adopting this power. It was agreed that Morston Parish Council meets the criteria for the GPOC as prescribed by the Secretary of State (two thirds elected members and a suitably qualified clerk) and it was agreed to adopt the GPOC (Prop: CW, Sec: JPT).

11. To receive update re Better Broadband (Superfast Fibre to Premises)

The Chair updated members on the latest numbers of properties interested in the scheme but having seen the projected costs from OpenReach it would appear that there would be a significant funding gap between the vouchers money and these costs. JB was rather surprised at the properties listed by OpenReach and therefore their figures needed further clarification. Dr.Holliday (NNDC) spoke of the scheme in Cley and stated that she would contact OpenReach and liaise with the Chair to try and progress this matter.

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

Notification of the election results had been received (The successful candidates were Dr.V.Holliday for NNDC and Michael Dalby for NCC)

13. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

No comments or questions from members of the public.

14. To confirm date of next meeting and/or future arrangements.

It was agreed that the next “face to face” meeting would be on 30th June, 2021 but the Chair would be able to revert back to the “Delegated Powers Scheme” if Government guidelines changed. The Chair would keep all members updated if the latter came into force. (Prop: CW, Sec: JPT).