

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 28th June, 2023 at the Village Hall, Morston - 7pm.

Present: J.Tibbetts (Chair), M.Harrison, C.Bean, R.Hamond, C.Ward, J.Temple, R.Reynolds, and the Clerk. Also present were four members of the public.

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received from M.Dalby (NCC), V.Holliday (NNDC), and V.Egan (NT).

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

No interests declared.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 17.5.23.

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

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

No requests to speak on agenda items.

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

V.Holliday (NNDC) had submitted a written report which had been circulated to members. The Chair read the report which covered the following :- (a) the Town & Parish Council Hub was now open on the NNDC website (b) the NNDC Youth Council was prioritising/discussing mental health (c) Nutrient Neutrality – plans held up would now be processed during late summer (d) the Household Support Fund will now run until the end of the year (e) using Govmt grants NNDC had now purchased 11 houses for refugees (f) Housing List – 64 households are in temporary accommodation (g) money being received from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (h) 3.5 tons of small electrical equipment and batteries have been collected in the first few months of the scheme.

3c. To receive report from NT.

The Chair had researched the “history of the proposed toilet block” referring to PC minutes from past years and wanted members to consider a forward plan to try and progress this matter with the NT. It was noted from a recent email that an extension to the time period of another two years was likely for this project. RH agreed with the Chair stating that it was a good idea to say what the PC would like to see developed on the quay. CB also agreed saying that the PC should be more positive. JT summarised the situation stating that during peak times it was not possible to prevent people from having to wait to use the toilets but questioned the need for other facilities being incorporated into a new building. RR spoke of the current number of toilets and questioned whether any more were needed. The Chair, referring to the beauty of the quay and the need for new toilets, asked members to get back to her so that the position of the PC could be conveyed to the NT and other interested parties.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £353.90 (clerks net salary), HMRC £88.60 (tax on salary) F.Newton £450.00 (grass cutting), P.Bullimore £47.60 (clerks exps), C.Ward £34.25 (clock T.Leach £20.00 (v.hall cleaning), Mayday Office Eqmt £23.50 (photocopying), S.Cherry £420.00 (electrical testing), EFire £127.20 (Fire Extinguisher testing)

*** The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, plus two other payments were approved (Prop: RH, Sec: JT). The other payments were as follows :- £110.00 S.Meakin – internal audit fee and T.T.Jones Electrical £8148.00 installation of new street lighting.

(b) To note Internal Audit Report for 31.3.23.

A satisfactory internal audit report was noted.

(c) To approve Governance Statement for 31.3.23.

The Governance Statement was duly approved (Prop: CW, Sec: CB) and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

(c) To approve Accounting Statement for 31.3.23

The Accounting Statement was also approved (Prop: CW, Sec: CB) and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

(d) To change mandate re cheque signatories

The following was agreed :- Delete J.Burdell and insert J.Tibbetts and R.Hamond (Prop: JPT, Sec: RH)

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.

On behalf of SWAMP the Chair thanked the council for its generous donation. Dates for working parties at the pond had been agreed on a fortnightly basis.

(b) To receive update re street lighting.

The Chair summarised the situation with two lights being installed (at the Havokey and east of the pub) and a third not being possible (adjacent to Point House). The Clerk had been informed that they should be switched on during the next 2 -4 weeks. The Chair suggested that members should review the situation following the “switch-on”. This was agreed (Prop: JPT, Sec: RH). The Clerk would inform the contractor to take no further action regarding the third light for the time being.

(c) To further consider speeding & parking in the village (ex parish meeting)

Although much had been done in the past two years members instructed the Clerk to write to the NCC Highways Engineer requesting a 20mph speed limit through the village on the A149. The Chair suggested parishioners put stickers on their wheelie bins to discourage speeding on the main road.

(d) To receive verbal report on meeting re ditch on Langham Road

The Chair reported that the NCC Highways Engineer had looked at the blocked ditch at the northern end of Langham Road and had agreed to put in extra grips, clean out the ditch, and jet clean the pipe going under the main A149.

(e) To consider sub-plate on pedestrian sign near church car park (A149)

A quotation of £75 - £125 had been received from NCC Highways for the sub-plates and members asked the Clerk to give instructions to NCC Highways to put plates on signs at both ends of the village (A149).

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

The Clerk had no new announcements.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

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

Members thanked CW for all his work in obtaining the chairs which had arrived just before the meeting.

(b) To receive update re montage/collection of mementos for village events.

No further update.

(c) To receive report re electrical testing.

A satisfactory annual report had been received with two small matters needing attention.(a wall light cover was missing on a light in the village hall and there was a problem with the external light on the toilet block). The Clerk would instruct the contractor to deal with these.

(d) Proposed trial community events at the village hall.

The Chair reported that she had received some feed back and hoped to trial coffee mornings, table tennis sessions, and a games programme. It was agreed that the PC would provide tea/coffee facilities and support these events.

9. To receive update re proposed closure of Blakeney Surgery.

The Chair summarised the situation stating that a public meeting was being arranged. RR said that everybody needed to attend to help fight the proposed closure. The Chair encouraged the public to keep writing their objections and keep active in trying to stop these proposals.

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

RH stated that it was doubtful that the Community Connectors would use Morston Village Hall. She then spoke about the PinPoint Information Scheme which was designed to identify problems in the community as well as solve them.

11. To receive report re the Morston Regatta 2023.

CW updated members stating that Gill Kay had agreed to present the trophies. He also wanted to bring back the social evening and asked the PC to support the event financially. After discussion it was agreed that the PC would finance the prizegiving (£100) and the band/refreshments etc for the social evening (£1,000) (Prop: JPT, Sec: MH)

12. Governance:- (a) To consider councillors training (b) To consider & agree ways to streamline meetings (c) Delegation of PCs regular ongoing jobs and responsibilities in particular moving flashing speed sign & defibrillator checks

(a) In an effort to reduce costs and the need to travel to Norwich the Clerk would try and organise a “group training session” and invite other councils to the event.

(b) The Chair wanted to streamline meetings and after discussion it was agreed the Clerk provides a “preliminary agenda” approx.. a fortnight after the last meeting thereby giving more notice to members and encouraging them to place matters on that agenda before finally publishing it on the normal date. This would also give more time for researching matters if required. The Chair and Clerk would update members on current matters as and when information was received. The Chair also asked members about controlling meetings and how they would like her to curtail discussion if she thought it was necessary.

(c) The following was agreed :- **Vehicle Active Sign** (charging battery and moving to agreed locations – C.Ward **Defibrillator** (maintenance and reporting stats) – Chair and RR. **Notice Board** (displaying agendas, minutes, etc...) – Chair.

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

The following had been received :-

Letter from NCC re Highways Inspection on 3/7/23.

Government Consultation on Holiday Lets (circulated to members on 27/5/23).

Letter from NNDC re Caravan Site inspection on 4/7/23 (Chair & Clerk to attend).

Note to members that all caravan tenancy agreements had been signed and returned.

Letter received from NCC re grants for village hall wi-fi (Clerk has acknowledged)

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

The following was raised :-

Chevron signage on Stiffkey Chase (damaged or hidden) – Clerk to inform Highways

Drain Cover at junction of Langham Rd/ A149 - ? damaged – Clerk “ “ “

Further discussion re pedestrian sign sub-plates.

Suggestion of Bingo as a trial event in the village hall (see 8d)

15. To confirm date of next council meeting & future agenda items.

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 26th July, 2023 (7pm)

RR requested a further defibrillator for South Close be considered.

The Chair stated that the review of Financial Regulations would be on the agenda.