

## **MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at the Village Hall, Morston - 7pm.**

**Present:** J.Tibbetts (Chair), C.Bean, R.Reynolds, R.Hamond, and the Clerk. Also present were V.Holliday (NNDC) and three members of the public.

#### **1a. To receive and consider apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C.Ward, J.Temple, and M.Harrison. Apologies were also 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 28.6.23.**

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

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

The Chair received a request from a parishioner to speak at 4c.

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

V.Holliday (NNDC) had submitted a written report which had been circulated to members. It referred to :- (a) the Youth Council was prioritising the subject of mental health (b) update re nutrient neutrality planning matters (c) a bid for a UNESCO world heritage site along the east coast (d) update re benefits (e) update re housing (f) monies received from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (g) update re the Holt, Albert Street toilets (h) 3.5 tons of batteries and small electrical equipment collected in the first few months of the scheme (i) the NNDC out-turn position is £0.78k overspend. (j) her whole hearted support regarding the opposition to closing Blakeney Surgery (k) public meeting re the surgery on 1/8/23. VH also spoke further re the Blakeney Surgery position referring to survey forms and increased publicity. As before all members strongly supported VH's stance on this matter and would continue to fight the proposed closure.

#### **3c. To receive report from NT.**

No report received at the time of the meeting. (Report circulated 27.7.23)

#### **4. Finance:**

##### **(a) To approve the following payments :-**

P.Bullimore £354.10 (clerks net salary), HMRC £88.40 (tax on salary)  
, Beeston Regis PC £63.00 (share of Microsoft fee) P.Bullimore £46.65 (clerks exp  
T.Leach £40.00 (v.hall cleaning), Countrystyle Recycling £42.00 (glass collect)  
S.Cherry £188.00 (electrical work, v.hall), NNDC £1083.95 (emptying bins)  
J.Tibbetts £81.49 (various exps re village hall site)

\*\*\* The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, plus one other payment, were approved (Prop: RH, Sec: CB). The other payment was in the sum of £295.00, payable to NPTS, for councillors training (to be part recovered from other PCs).

**(b) To re-appoint the Internal Auditor**

It was agreed to appoint Mr.S.Meakin for the year 2023/24. (Prop: JT, Sec: RH).

**(c) To consider a Financial Strategy & Forward Investment Plan**

The Chair referred to her papers circulated to members on 25/7/23 and invited a parishioner, with much experience in investments, to outline the PC's position. After discussion it was agreed to adopt the Financial Strategy and invest a sum of £55k (Prop: JT, Sec: RH). It was further agreed that the money would be invested in Government Bonds for a ten year period and delegated responsibility be given to the Clerk (assisted by the Chair) to deal with the matter. (Prop: JPT, Sec: CB).

**(c) To consider on-line banking**

This was agreed and the Chair informed members that this would be put in place as soon as the Barclays Bank signature mandate had been sorted out. She had experienced difficulties arranging the new mandate with the bank. See minute 4d of June, 2023 for agreed signatories.

**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) Street Lights – to consider a re-assessment of lighting in winter months**

The Clerk was still chasing the contractor to arrange the switching on of the two new lights. It was agreed to review the lighting situation in November, 2023.

**(b) To further consider speeding in the village**

The reply from the NCC Highways Engineer regarding a 20mph speed limit in the village had been circulated to members. Being a negative reply it was agreed that RR investigates further and reports back to the PC.

**7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)**

The Clerk had no new announcements.

**8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:**

**(a) To receive/consider report re new licence from NNDC**

A copy of the NNDC report had been circulated to members on 18.7.23 and it was agreed the Clerk gives a copy of this to all tenants (Prop: JPT, Sec: RH). The Chair and Clerk would be dealing with most of the points raised and they were hopeful of obtaining a new licence fairly soon. Officers from NNDC had agreed that some major matters could only be dealt with if and when the site was re-organised (e.g. distances of vans from boundary and concrete standings for all sites).

**(b) To receive update re wi-fi in v.hall and NCC's Connectivity Project**

The Clerk had no further news and would again be chasing NCC for an update.

**(c) To receive update re trial community events at the village hall.**

The Chair reported that there would be an "open-house" on 15.8.23 and a leaflet would be produced for circulating to parishioners.

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

This had been discussed at 3(b) when V.Holliday (NNDC) had updated members and encouraged them to attend the public meeting on 1.8.23.

**10. To consider purchase of another defibrillator for South Close**

The Chair stated that a feasibility study was required and RR offered to carry this out and report back to members.

**11. To receive report re the Morston Regatta 2023.**

CW reported via email that there was no issues or concerns.

**12. Governance:- (a) To further consider councillors training (b) To review Financial Regulations.**

(a) A Group Training Night had been arranged by the Clerk for 10.8.23. Eleven councillors from four PCs hoped to attend.

(b) Financial Regulations were approved and agreed (Prop: JPT, Sec: RH)

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

(a) An email from NNDC Democratic Servs reminding members to submit their interest forms correctly.

(b) Information re the Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan (circulated 30/6/23)

**14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)**

(a) The Chair thanked CW for his work on the flagpole, JT for his work on the new “fire-board” adjacent to the toilet block, and RR in anticipation of his research work She also thanked PT for his work on the Investment Strategy.

(b) A parishioner raised the subject of Christmas celebrations (for next agenda)

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

This was confirmed for Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 with a later time of 7.30pm.

The Clerk was given delegated power to process the August 23 payments assisted by the cheque signatories.