

## **MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at the Village Hall, Morston - 7.00pm.**

**Present:** J.Tibbetts (Chair), C.Bean, C.Ward, M.Harrison, R.Hamond, & Clerk.  
Also present were :- V.Holliday (NNDC), V.Egan (NT), and three members of the public.

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr.J.Temple. Apologies were also received from M.Dalby (NCC).

#### **1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items**

MH declared an interest in 5(e) and did not vote.

#### **1c. To note resignation & receive update from the Clerk.**

R.Reynolds had resigned and the Clerk had notified NNDC Electoral Services accordingly. The statutory procedure had started giving parishioners their right to call an election (notice on board and website) and the Clerk would update members at the next meeting.

#### **2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 27.9.23.**

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 and the Police**

\*\*\* V.Holliday (NNDC) had submitted a written report which had been circulated to members. It referred to (a) new sea defences for Cromer and Mundesley (b) the Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal was out for consultation (c) update re Housing (d) NNDC has agreed to be a “age friendly community”. (e) plans approved for public toilets in Holt (f) “Chatbot”, to answer queries, was now live on the NNDC website (g) thank you to councillors for all the support re the Blakeney Surgery situation (h) a flood warning for the River Glaven last month (i) the D.Baker MP meeting on rural speeding V.Holliday spoke further re the NNDC Budget, the recent flood warnings, and the Blakeney Surgery.

\*\*\* M.Dalby (NCC) had submitted a written report which had been circulated to members. It referred to the NCC’s “People Falling Algorithm”, an update re the NCC Budget with a savings target of £46.2m, and an update re the Wells re-use shop.

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

V.Egan (NT) reported on the proposed toilet block stating that a pre-application had been submitted to NNDC and they were waiting for their response. There would be a Project Team meeting tomorrow and surveys from the consultants were now being received. Before asking members to respond the Chair stated that, based on the plans

and other information seen, the PC was horrified at the size of the proposed building. She pointed out that it was just replacement toilets that were required and not further development. From enquiries made she also thought that this was the view of the village. RH stated that the quay was tidal and very much connected to nature and its times, and the National Trust's commercial timings were worrying and would obviously disrupt nature. CW thought the project was getting completely out of hand and stated that the toilets were now only a small percentage of the size of the building. The quay and beyond were wild and remote looking, and commercialisation was going to ruin its beauty. The Chair was concerned with the expansion of refreshments and the possibility of other projects, and that this was all "the thin end of the wedge". VE assured her this was not the case and listed her planned projects. The Chair brought the discussion to a close and V.Egan, in conclusion, said she would like the National Trust to work in with the council's Christmas arrangements.

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

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

P.Bullimore £353.90 (clerks net salary), HMRC £88.60 (tax on salary)  
S.Meakin £29.50 (photocopying paper), P.Bullimore £41.55 (clerks exp),  
T.Leach £20.00 (v.hall cleaning), Countrystyle Recycling £27.00 (glass coll)  
Westcotec Ltd £109.80 (battery for SAM2), NNDC £113.58 (election exps),  
R.C.Longley £22.50 (sample posters)

\*\*\* The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, plus two other payments, were approved (Prop: RH, Sec: CB). The other payments were R.Longley £252.99 (village maintenance work) and J.Tibbetts £143.73 (various purchases made).

##### **(b) To receive update re Barclays Bank Signature mandate**

This was now in place with JPT, CW, and JT authorised to sign cheques and other payments on behalf of the council. Noted.

##### **(c) To receive update re new Financial Strategy & Investment Plan.**

The investment in Government Bonds (£55k) would take place as soon as electronic banking had been set up. Noted.

##### **(d) To consider purchasing a new portable lifting chair (RH)**

RH spoke of the work of the ambulance services "first responders" and the need of a lifting chair. The Chair thought that the purchasing of a lifting chair would bring problems with insurance and other governance matters and suggested that further enquiries be made as to how the PC could assist financially with the first responder scheme in the local area. This was agreed and the matter would be placed on the next agenda.

#### **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) To consider Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal & Plan.**

It was agreed not to respond on this matter.

##### **(d) PF/23/2138; Extensions & Balcony at Hall Farm House.**

It was agreed "no objections" to this application (Prop: JPT, Sec: CB).

**(e) AP/23/0012; To consider appeal re Langham Rd site.**

As with the previous applications the PC objected strongly to this proposal and would write to the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol accordingly. CW and RH agreed to update the Chair's draft objections (already circulated to members) and the Clerk would submit the document by the closing date. (Prop: CW, Sec: RH). The full list of objections can be seen on the Planning Inspectorates Portal (APP/Y2620/W/23/3319567).

**6. Highways and Footpath Matters:**

**(a) Street Lights – to receive update re the new lights.**

Further apologies had been received by the Clerk from the contractors who hopefully would connect the two new lights on 17/11/23. Noted.

**(b) To receive report & consider speeding in the village**

It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the next agenda and the Clerk would contact NCC Highways regarding a possible speed survey next spring/summer. This would be following on from RR's enquiries.

**(c) To note/consider NCC Highways Partnership Scheme 2024/25.**

Members had no projects in mind. Carry forward to November's meeting.

**(d) To consider the repositioning of the village flagpole (CW)**

CW informed members that the flagpole needed moving further south as it was shrouded by the tree etc. This was agreed (Prop: CW, Sec: CB) and CW would liaise with RL with a view to dealing with this.

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

RR had attended the meeting re Rural Speeding organised by D.Baker MP.

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

**(a) To receive update re new licence from NNDC**

An application for a "Certificate of Lawfulness" was about to be submitted by the Clerk after which time it was hoped a new licence would be issued.

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

The Chair and Clerk had met with the engineer on 18/10/23 and positive comments had been received regarding this project. The scheme would be virtually cost free to the PC with only small charges for electricity being payable (Norfolk CC would cover the costs of installation etc). Further news in writing to the Clerk was expected soon.

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

The Chair informed members of a coffee morning/chat on 7/11/23 (10.30am) and of the games nights on the second Monday of the month (13/11 and 11/12). There was a brief discussion re the fixing of a dart board/surround.

**(d) To further consider montage/collection of mementos for display.**

An email had been circulated from RL who provided options re the sizes of the frames for the pictures. Members picked the A2 size. There was a discussion regarding data protection when displaying peoples pictures.

**(e) To receive update re the Inventory & Mtce Log & work going forward.**

The Chair and Clerk had met with Norfolk ProBuild representatives on 18/10/23 to consider the roof and external appearance of the village hall. A report would be submitted to the PC soon. Work marked "1" on the Maintenance Log (minor jobs) had started using local labour and the Chair would keep members updated.

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

The Clerk had received no further information. An update by V.Holliday (NNDC) had been given at 3(b).

**10. To receive further report re defibrillator for South Close**

An email from a parishioner had suggested that two defibrillators was more than adequate for a small village. Members, after discussion, agreed not to proceed with a third machine but asked the Clerk to make enquiries regarding moving the defibrillator on the village hall to a location adjacent to the pub (Prop: JPT, Sec: CW)

**11. To receive report re the Morston Regatta 2024.**

A letter of thanks had been sent to CW's successor N.Hamond. CW would continue to be the link between NH and the parish council.

**12. Governance:- To review the PC's Complaints Procedure**

This was reviewed and agreed and would be displayed on the website (Prop: JPT, Sec: CB).

**13. To further consider Village Christmas arrangements.**

The Chair updated members on the likely costs and numbers required of the Christmas Hampers. It was agreed that they be supplied only to full-time residents and a budget of up to £1,300 be put in place. (Prop: CB, Sec: RH).

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

A thank you letter had been received from Local Lynx regarding the donation. A request to consider marking the speed humps had been received (next agenda)

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

There was a brief discussion regarding calling a public meeting to consider the National Trust's toilet block proposals.

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

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 (7pm).