

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 30th July, 2025 at The Village Hall – 7pm

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

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C.Ward and M.Harrison. Apologies were also received from M.Dalby (NCC) and P.Nicholson (NT).

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

No interests declared.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 25.6.25

The minutes, as circulated, were accepted as a true record. (Prop: RH, Sec: JPT).

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) Town & Parish Council Forums to start again in the autumn. (b) NNDC looking at better ways to tackle coastal erosion. (c) Green Flag status has been awarded to Holt Country Park, Pretty Corner Woods, and Sadlers Woods. (d) Planning: Government wants to amalgamate District & County Councils to increase efficiency (e) Update on Benefits (f) Food Waste collections to start in autumn 2026 (g) Finance: Outturn for 2024/5 shows a £622k surplus (h) Update re sewerage overflows (i) Update re digital switchover with phones (j) GP out of hours report. VH also spoke about the NNDC survey on Local Gov. reorganisation, the local Plan coming out soon, and NNDC requesting a re-application for the temporary toilets on the quay. There was also a brief discussion re the Fox Hill Plantation and the possibility of airsoft games (VH hoping a planning officer will investigate).

3c. To receive report from NT.

The new general manager (Peter Nicholson) had offered his apologies and had submitted a report which had been circulated to members on 29/7/25. Towards the end of his report he stated that his new plans were (1) the new toilet building will be considerably reduced in size and will not contain any meeting or office spaces (2) Improvements to the quay car park will hopefully resolve drainage issues without altering its visual appearance in a major way (3) there will be no changes to the exterior of the look-out tower. Noted by members.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £392.90 (clerks net salary), HMRC £98.20 (tax on salary)

T.Leach £25.00 (cleaning), P.Bullimore £55.00 (clerks exp),

Countrystyle Recycling £39.00 (glass collections)

Norfolk ALC £113.86 (email fees)

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

(c) To note PC decision re PF/25/1183; Bramfield Barn, Roff Space.
The Clerk had informed NNDC Planning that the PC had concerns re light emission from the additional roof lights and gable end window following the adoption of a Dark Skies Policy in 2023.

6. Highways and Footpath Matter

(a) To receive update re bus stop problems (including signage)
The Chair was pleased to announce that the road markings work and the new sign were now in place. Concerns were expressed that vehicles were still parking on the eastern side of the green at the point where the 'H' bar finished. It was agreed to display a no parking sign and place cones on site to alleviate this problem.

(b) To receive update re posts/gateways on Langham Rd nr 30mph signs
A quotation from NCC had been received in the sum £3.8k. It was not clear whether the County Councillor's contribution for the road markings had been deducted from this amount and it was agreed the Clerk seeks clarification and carry this matter forward to the next agenda. The possibility of applying for a grant under the Highways Partnership Scheme could also be considered. (see 10c).

(c) To note/consider NCC Partnership Scheme for 2026/27
The Clerk informed members of the recent announcement of the new scheme. As usual NCC would contribute 50% towards the successful applicants scheme with the scheme closing in December 2025 and announcements made in Spring 2026.

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

There was a meeting on 23/7/25 regarding the Digital Switchover and some members had attended. This was discussed with VH at item 3b.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) Update on Maintenance Log & Work.
CW and JPT had obtained a quote for the village hall roof. This would remain confidential as a second quotation was required to meet financial regulations. This was for replacing the steel cladding with more modern materials. A structural survey may be required because of concerns re the weight of the roof. Further areas for discussion were the possibility of insulating the roof and the introduction of solar panels. A quotation was also being obtained for the cost of metal sheds in the hope of removing wooden structures from the site. The Chair had spoken with tenants on this matter. Further information would be available to members at the next meeting.

9. To receive update re Morston & Blakeney Harbour Surveys

Background information had been circulated to members on 9/7/25. The long-term objectives had been questioned and it was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting when the Chair said a further report would be available.

10. To receive update re Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation

The Clerk had no further news.

11. Governance: (a) To consider a Forward Plan for the PC.

The Chair reiterated that she was hopeful a long term plan could be drafted and asked members to consider this during the “summer break” with a view to having discussions at the September meeting. A possible layout of the caravan site was to be discussed between JPT and the previous Chairman and she asked members again to give this matter some serious thought.

(b) To note requirement for new generic email account.

The Clerk read NALC’s email requiring all PCs to have a generic email address/account. The Clerk would arrange with NALC in the coming weeks. Noted.

12. To receive update re Morston Regatta

There was no report but matters appeared to be all in hand.

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

The Clerk mentioned again the matter of airsoft games taking place at the Fox Hill Plantation. The Chair had received information on this matter and it was hoped that NNDC would investigate. The Clerk reminded members that many things could take place under the “28 day rule” without planning permission.

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

No other matters raised.

15. To confirm date of next council meeting.

This was confirmed for Wednesday 24th September, 2025 - 7pm.

The Chair and authorised bank signatories would process the August payments.