

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the parish council meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023 at the Village Hall, Morston - 7pm

Present: J.Burdell (Chair), C.Bean, R.Hamond, C.Ward, J.Temple, M.Harrison. Also present were V.Egan (NT) and two members of the public.

These minutes have been prepared from notes made by the Chairman, J.Burdell, during the meeting.

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. J.Tibbetts and the Clerk. Apologies were also received from Dr.V.Holliday (NNDC) and M.Dalby (NCC).

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

JT declared an interest in 8c.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 25.1.23.

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

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

The Chair received a request to speak on 6c.

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

Dr.V.Holliday's report had been circulated on 6/2/23 and M.Dalby's report had been circulated to members on 22/2/23.

3c. To receive report from NT.

V.Egan gave an update re the replacement toilets. The planning negotiations had been impacted by Natural England and AWA have issues with the pumping requirements. VE had appointed an external management company to help progress the project. CW was dismayed at the lack of progress. JT stated that he was frustrated with the lack of roadstone for the car park after his offer to provide his labour free.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £353.90, HMRC £88.60, Countrystyle Recycling £15.00, Information Commissioner £40.00, P.Bullimore £44.44, D.Sadler £130.00

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

(Prop: CB, Sec: CW).

(b) To consider request for financial assistance from Age UK Norfolk.

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

(c) To receive and consider tenders for grass cutting in 2023.

This matter was commercially sensitive and was dealt with as the final item on the agenda when the public were excluded. The Chair read out the five submitted

tenders. It was agreed to appoint Finlay Newton whose tender was in the sum of £150 per cut/session. The Chair would liaise with the Clerk and arrange for the new contractor to start a.s.a.p.

5. Planning:

(a) To note decisions & information received from NNDC since last meeting. PF/22/2741; The application re The Garden of Eden had been withdrawn again.

(b) To consider planning applications received since agenda was printed
None received.

(c) To consider consultation on Coastal Adaption Supp. Planning Document
It was agreed not to respond regarding this planning document (Prop: JB, Sec: CW).

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

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

No report as JPT had offered her apologies. The Chair expressed concerns re bags of unidentified bags of vegetation left near the pond. A recent EDP report requested householders to watch out for invasive species in their gardens such as had been extracted from the pond recently.

(b) To receive update re street lighting and consider quotation

It was agreed to instruct the contractors to erect a new light immediately east of the Havokey. Accepting their quotation it was also agreed to arrange for further lights on the A149 to the east and west of the Anchor. The Chair would meet again with the contractor to progress the proposed A149 lights.

(c) To further consider the parking area east of church (surface)

The surface was still in reasonable order. The Clerk had spoken with the manager of The Harper and The Anchor who had stated that he is willing to listen to any plans re expenditure on this site with a view to contributing. Members were pleased with the possibility of future co-operation. Concerns were expressed regarding the new brown Morston Hall signage and asked the Chairman to arrange for a letter to be sent to NCC Highways.

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

No new announcements.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) To further consider way forward following completion of tenancies.

No further discussion was required. The new agreements would be sent out with the coming seasons invoices. This would now be removed from the agenda.

(b) To note & consider insurers comments re letting of village hall

Following the Clerk's further enquiries re hirers the insurers email had stated "if they are doing so for their own/commercial gain, we would usually recommend against accepting responsibility for them and would expect them to have their own public liability insurance". Based on this advice members agreed that all hirers falling into this category must provide proof of P.L. insurance and the present hire agreement would be updated accordingly.

(c) To consider caravan rent for 2023 season.

It was agreed to increase the rent to £2,000 pa. As tenants had already paid to 31/3/23, and with the new agreements commencing on 1/1/23, the Clerk would send invoices for £1,500 for the new season. (£2000 x 75%).

(Prop: JB, Sec: CW).

(d) To consider purchasing new village hall chairs.

This project had been dropped a long while ago with the onset of covid. CW agreed to progress this matter and it would be considered again at the next meeting.

9. To note/consider Local Government Elections in May, 2023.

The Clerk would have nomination packs and further information at the next meeting regarding the parish council elections and because of various deadlines the next meeting would be on the 22/3/23. Posters will be supplied and displayed at all stages for the District and Parish elections in May, 2023.

10. To consider use of v. hall for Wells Comm.Hospital outreach programme.

RH reported on discussions so far and members warmly supported the inclusion of Morston in the programme.

11. To receive report re the Morston Regatta 2023.

Nothing further to report.

12. To consider feral cats in the village.

The Chair stated that the Clerk had made numerous enquiries (NNDC., Cata Lifeline Trust, Local Charity) without obtaining any positive suggestions. JB pointed out that some cats were being fed and gave pleasure to some parishioners and were not seen as a problem. He saw this matter as outside the responsibility of the parish council.

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

The Chair gave a brief update on the Langham Dome sign which had been raised under public participation at the last meeting.

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

No other comments.

15. To confirm date of next meeting and future agenda items.

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 22nd March, 2023. (7pm)