

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th June, 2025 at The Village Hall – 7pm

Present: J.Tibbetts (Chair), J.Temple, R.Hamond, C.Ward, R.Metcalf, M.Harrison, and the Clerk. Also present were V.Holliday (NNDC) and one member of the public.

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr.C.Bean. Apologies were also received from P.Nicholson and A.Higgs of the National Trust and G.Kay.

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

No interests declared.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 21.5.25

The minutes, as circulated, were accepted as a true record (Prop: JPT, 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 the following :- (a) Local Government Reform; proposals to Govmt in Sept.25 and decision in early 2026. (b) Local Plan out for public consultation in Aug/Sept (c) Norwich GP Service out of hours is to continue (d) Anglian Water Meeting: NNDC requested further information (e) Public Spaces Protection Order renewed (f) Mobile Connectivity; compiling a data base of “not spots” (g) Update re Blakeney Surgery (h) Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust Recovery College; free courses on managing well-being and mental health. (i) Consultation on revised Taxi Handbook. VH also spoke at the meeting re the digital switchover and assisting people who were “land-line dependant”.

3c. To receive report from NT.

Apologies had been received from Peter Nicholson (new General Manager) who thanked people for attending the drop-in session. He referred to the withdrawal of the planning application and his 100% commitment to improving the toilets on the quay.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £392.90 (clerks net salary), HMRC £98.20 (tax on salary)
P.Bullimore £25.00 (clerks exp), S.Cherry £680.00 (electrical checks/work),
T.Leach £40.00 (cleaning), E-Fire £121.20 (fire extinguishers check),
F.Newton £825.00 (grass cutting), NNDC £1244.00 (bin service)

The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, plus one other payment, were approved. (Prop: JPT, Sec: CW). The other payment was in the sum of £120.00 to S.Meakin for an internal audit fee.

(b) To note Internal Audit Report for year to 31.3.25

A satisfactory internal audit report was noted by members.

(c) To approve the Governance Statement - 31.3.25

This was duly approved and would be posted to the website (Prop: CW, Sec: MH)

(c) To approve the Accounting Statement - 31.3.25

This was also approved for posting to the website (Prop: CW, Sec: MH).

5. Planning:

(a) To note decisions & information received from NNDC since last meeting.
PF/24/1492; NT application re the quay; Withdrawn on 2/6/25 – Noted.

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

*** Following remarks by V.Holliday (NNDC) it would appear that a planning application (PF/25/1183) had not been sent to the Clerk by NNDC. It was agreed that members would go online and look at this application and notify the Clerk of their decision by 1/7/25.

6. Highways and Footpath Matter

(a) To receive update re bus stop problems (including signage)

The latest news from NCC Highways was that the road markings would be done by the end of June, 2025. The Clerk would send yet another reminder to the Highways Engineer.

(b) To receive update re posts/gateways on Langham Rd nr 30mph signs

NCC Highways had submitted rough costs (£2,900) for this project and the Clerk was instructed to request a formal quotation for the PC's consideration. A date for the works would also be requested.

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

The Chair and Clerk had attended briefings on Local Govmt.Reorganisation. NNDC along with four other councils preferred a three tier system (Norwich plus an east and west split). Proposals had to be submitted by Sept.25.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) Update on Maintenance Log & Work.

The Chair and CW had been looking at all the PC assets. Following a brief discussion members agreed that the village hall floor would be repaired as necessary. Further investigation would take place re the village hall roof etc. The Chair spoke of the need to have replacement sheds on the caravan site in metal and CW would investigate. This and other matters followed a meeting with NNDC and the Chair regarding the caravan site, and the Chair hoped a working group could be formed to forward plans for the site and the village hall in the future.

9. To further consider Village History Records

It was agreed to carry this matter forward to the September, 25 agenda. Members agreed in principle to progress this matter.

10. To receive update re Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation

See item 7 re recent briefings.

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

See final paragraph of item 8.

12. To receive update re Morston Regatta

CW thought plans were all in hand and Blakeney Sailing Club had not raised any problems. The question of insurance of the trophies was discussed (CW to make enquiries) as was prompt payment for the band performing at the evening social. (Clerk to liaise with JT).

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

A thank you letter from the British Red Cross had been received re the donation. The Chair had received an email from J.Cowan of the Blakeney Harbour Association providing information from their Sedimentation Committee and asking whether MPC had an interest in gathering data and providing further funding. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to reply requesting further information and asking what are the long term objectives of the project.

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

A parishioner remarked on the view and absence of advertising boards approaching the village from the east.

15. To confirm date of next council meeting.

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 30th July, 2025. – 7pm.