Morton Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Morton Parish Council held on **Wednesday 20 January 2016** at 7.30 pm at the Rectory Rooms, Church Lane, Morton, DE55 6GU

PRESENT
Cllr R Austin, Cllr J Browne, Cllr A Coates (Chair), Cllr J Funnell, Cllr R Martin, Cllr S Pleming, Cllr C Lawton.

IN ATTENDANCE
Cllr A Cooper, Cllr G Butler - N E Derbyshire District Councillors
Cllr K Gillott - Derbyshire County Councillor
G Green – PSCO
Tina Frost Morris – Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
Member of the public

6/01/16 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Cllr S Cashin, Cllr B Roe.

7/01/16 - COUNCILLORS ABSENT
None

8/01/16 - DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST
Cllr C Lawton declared an interest with regard to the appointment of a solicitor to deal with the transfer of land for the village hall.

09/01/16 - RECORDING AND FILMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS
The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council was noted.

10/01/16 - PUBLIC SPEAKING
Matters raised by members of the public and by councillors: A letter had been received from a member of the public who had raised concerns regarding a new solar farm proposal at Padley Wood Lane, Pilsley. No planning proposals had been submitted as yet and Councillors had not been made aware of the development.

11/01/16 - COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE
Cllr Gillott gave an update on the devolution plans for Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire and he also detailed the significant budget cuts faced by Derbyshire County Council over the next three years. Derbyshire County Council are proposing a 4% council tax increase for 2016/17 which includes a specific levy of 2% for Adult Social Care.

12/01/16 - DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE
Cllr Butler and Cllr Cooper updated the meeting. Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) were called to a house fire in Morton but had difficultly accessing the

property due to inconsiderate parking. A leaflet drop by DFRS would follow in the area to highlight the issue.

13/01/16 - POLICE UPDATE

The written report was noted which showed two crimes during December 2015 both of which were burglaries to properties on Evershill Lane and Main Road, Morton.

One incidence of ASB (anti-social behaviour) occurred on Christmas Day when an aggressive, drunken male refused to leave a public house in Morton.

14/01/16 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2015 and 6 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 November 2015 and 6 January 2016 be approved as a true record.

15/01/16 - TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY AGENDA ITEM SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

An item to discuss administration and wages would be dealt with following the exclusion of the public and press.

RESOLVED – that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public would be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1, in order to discuss the item at the end of the meeting.

16/01/16 - MATTERS TO REPORT

a) Fitness for All Grant funding – Cllr Coates had prepared the end of grant report.
b) Solar Farm, Averill Farm – The solar farm is now in operation and a grant of £4,997 is due to be received by the Parish Council within the next few days. This amount will be received annually thereafter.
c) Pit Lane – The footpaths will be upgraded to bridalways.
d) Big Lottery – The funding application for the village hall is being reviewed prior to submission.
e) School gates – Concerns had been raised regarding the school gates being left open during the evening and at weekends where unauthorised vehicular access could easily be gained to the school playing fields. Cllr Lawson agreed to raise this at the next School Governors meeting.

17/01/16 MATTERS FOR DECISION

a) Appointment of new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer – the position was advertised locally, followed by a formal interview process. Tina Frost Morris was chosen as the successful candidate and was offered the position.

RESOLVED – that Tina Frost Morris be appointed as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

b) Community Grants Policy – Discussed the proposed policy to establish the application process and eligibility criteria for Community Grants.

RESOLVED - that the Community Grants Policy be approved and advertised widely throughout the village.

c) Village Hall Improvements – Agreement has been reached for a small parcel of land adjacent to the village hall to be transferred to the Parish Council. Legal services would be required to deal with the transaction and quotes had been obtained from two solicitors.

RESOLVED – to appoint Clayton Mott & Lawton solicitors at a cost of £383 (incl VAT) to provide legal services in relation to the transfer of land to the Council.

RESOLVED – to approve the legal costs, up to a value of £800, in relation to the transfer of land to the Council, including the Council's legal costs of £383 and those of the Transferor.

d) Maintenance Work to car park adjacent to village hall - The owner of Morton Manor had granted permission for the Council to have access to, and use of, the car park whilst he is still the owner. In return the Council would tidy up the car park. Two quotations were obtained for grounds maintenance for the car park.

RESOLVED – to appoint Angels Garden Maintenance at a cost of £650 to tidy up the Morton Manor car park.

e) Senior Citizens Christmas Party 2015 – A request had been received from the Village Hall Committee to fund the Senior Citizens Christmas Party held in December 2015.

RESOLVED – to approve £393.46 to fund the Senior Citizens Christmas Party 2015

f) Performing Arts/Film Club – Cllr Roe would present the item at the next meeting.

g) Fireworks Event 2016 – to confirm the booking and agree the funding of the Fireworks Event for November 2016.

RESOLVED – to approve up to £2,300 (incl VAT) to fund the Fireworks Event for November 2016.

h) Village Planting – A number of bulbs would be purchased to plant in the village planters and quotes from suppliers providing hanging baskets and a watering/maintenance service would be obtained.

RESOLVED – to approve up to £37.00 (incl VAT) to fund the bulbs for the planters

RESOLVED – to approve up to £1,500 (plus VAT) to fund the hanging baskets and watering/maintenance service for 2016.

RESOLVED – to apply to Derbyshire County Council for a permit to place hanging baskets on the lamp posts.

The current planters were in need of replacement and Cllr Martin agreed to source new planters for the Clerk to order.

i) Marking out of Football Pitch

RESOLVED – to write to the Morton Colliery Cricket Club asking if they would be willing to mark out the football pitch twice each month and if so what they would charge for this service.

If the cricket club is not able to provide this service then consideration may be given to buying the equipment necessary for the parish council to carry out the marking themselves.

j) Bank Mandate – The mandate required updating following the appointment of a new Clerk, plus it was felt that additional signatories were required.

RESOLVED – to add Tina Frost Morris to the bank mandate and add Cllrs Martin and Roe as additional signatories. To remove signatories of former councillors and clerk.

k) Bus Shelters – This item would be presented at a future meeting.

18/01/16 - FINANCE

a) Payments (including those approved later in the meeting)

Chq no.	Supplier	Description	Net £	Gross £
1455	St John's Ambulance	Fireworks Event	£88.00	£105.60
1456	Morton Village Hall	Senior Citizen's Christmas Party	£393.46	£393.46

RESOLVED - to approve the above items for payment and these are to be signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllrs Coates and Lawton.

b) Bank reconciliation – the bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2015 was noted and approved.

19/01/16 PLANNING

a) Back Lane – planning submitted for a bungalow on Back Lane.

20/01/16 DALC CIRCULARS
Noted

21/01/16 CORRESPONDENCE
Noted at item 10/01/16.

22/01/16 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES
Cllr Lawton reported on activities at church and the school. Cllr Funnell reported on the activities for the village hall.

23/01/16 ANY ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2016

a) Village hall lease.
b) Seat for the top of the pit tip. (JF)
c) Order new planters
d) Meeting Dates - It was agreed to move the next meeting of the Council to Tuesday 15 March 2016. Proposed future meetings dates are:
    17 May 2016
    19 July 2016
    20 September 2016
    15 November 2016

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 15 March 2016 at 7.30 pm at the Rectory Rooms, Church Lane, Morton, DE55 6GU

Chairman ……. Date 15th March 2016