

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 29th May 2024 at All Saints Church, Morston.

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

1a. To elect Chairman & signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

J.Tibbetts was elected as Chairman and duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Prop: CW, Sec: RH)

1b. To elect Vice-Chair and Declaration.

R.Hamond was elected as Vice-Chair and duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Prop: JPT, Sec: CW).

1c. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. C.Bean and J.Temple. Apologies were also received from M.Dalby (NCC).

1d. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

RM declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5(c).

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 24.4.24.

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

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

Requests received to speak on items 5c and 8b.

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) a planning biodiversity gain of 10% to be implemented for small scale developments (b) update on benefits (c) the Housing Allocation Policy will be out for consultation shortly (d) a new Economic Growth Strategy has been adopted (e) six beaches have been awarded the blue flag status (f) update re the Blakeney Surgery closure (g) updates re the digital switchover and Broadband Connectivity.

3c. To receive report from NT.

An email had been received from G.Brown (Consultancy Manager) which had been circulated and was read to the meeting. It was agreed the Clerk writes to the NT requesting to be kept up to date on the toilet project and asking to see the planning application before it was submitted to NNDC.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £378.10 (clerks net salary), HMRC £94.40 (tax on salary)

J.Tibbetts £526.30 (various exps), P.Bullimore £48.23 (clerks exp),

F.Newton £300.00 (grass cuts), S.Cherry £2990.00 (electrical testing/work),

Gallagher Insurance £2655.58 (annual premium)

C.Ward Traditional Boats Ltd £30.76 (tool set for village hall)

*** The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, plus three other payments, were approved (Prop: RH, Sec: JPT). The other payments were as follows :-
R.Longley £67.50 (v.hall shelf), C.Bean £22.16, (v.hall sundries) and M.Mears £59.10 (reimbursement re neutering cats)

(b) To receive further update re the Investment Plan

The Chair reported that the £50k had now been invested in Treasury Gilts (4.5%). RM requested reports on the investment on a six monthly basis.

5. Planning:

(a) To note decisions & information received from NNDC since last meeting.

Nothing to report.

(b) To consider planning applications received since agenda was printed

None received.

(c) PF/24/0810; Extension etc. at Low Barn, The Street, Morston.

The applicant was in attendance and answered questions from the Chair re the proposed roof line and the use of glass. The Conservation & Design Manager at NNDC Planning Dept. had been consulted on these matters. After a brief discussion it was agreed to support the application (Prop: MH, Sec: CW).

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

(a) To receive report re future traffic survey

The three areas for the survey (all three approaches to the village) had been agreed with a cost of £720. The Clerk was instructed to arrange this with the contractor and clarify the best position for the siting of the cables to record speed etc..

(b) To consider cutting hedges etc. to make road signs more visible.

The Clerk was instructed to approach the grass cutting contractor with a view to dealing with all signage in the village on a regular basis. (Prop: JPT, Sec: CW).

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

Another Planning Roadshow is being organised by NNDC for 17/7/24.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) To receive update re kitchen improvements

The Chair reported that all the major equipment was in place with some minor items such as cutlery still to be dealt with.

(b) To consider a mirror to assist vehicles leaving the site.

Following a request from a caravan tenant, and a short discussion, it was agreed that CW makes enquiries and obtains costs before reporting back to the next meeting.

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

No further news.

(d) Update on Maintenance Log & Work.

The Chair stated that the flagpole work would be carried out as soon as weather permitted. Similarly the marking of the speed humps in Quay Lane was now becoming an urgent job with the holiday season fast approaching. JT said he would liaise with the Chair and RL on the latter. A contractor had been asked to look at the village hall window catches/locks. It was agreed that the internal notice board should be fixed near the entrance door.

(e) To note Electrical Safety Reports

It was noted that the village hall and site had received a satisfactory report with minor work already carried out.

9. To receive update re Blakeney Surgery.

A discussion had taken place at 3b with disappointment being expressed at the closure decision.

10. To receive update on feral cats in the village

The Chair updated members after liaising with the people concerned and after discussion it was agreed to finance the neutering of three or more cats. (Prop: RH, Sec: JPT). Members were concerned with the possibility of future costs if more feral cats needed to be caught and treated.

11. Governance:- (a) To further consider Action Plan (2024/25)

This matter was carried forward with the document being recirculated by the Clerk.

To consider & re-adopt the General Power of Competence

With the PC meeting the criteria as laid down by the Secretary of State it was agreed to re-adopt the GPOC (Prop: RH, Sec: JPT).

(c) To consider further councillors training (2nd phase)

It was agreed the Clerk arranges a second training evening in the autumn.

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

Nothing received.

13. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

A parishioner reminded the meeting of the “Morston Meander” – open gardens on 22/6/24.

14. To confirm date of next council meeting and new agenda items

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 26th June, 2024 at 7pm.

CW requested that the Morston Regatta be returned to the agenda.

Repairing the surface of the car park east of the church would also be considered.