

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 31st July, 2024 at The Village Hall – commencing at 7pm

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

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr.M.Harrison.

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

No interests declared.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 26.6.24.

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)

Two parishioners requested to speak on 6(b).

3b. To receive reports from District/County Councillors and the Police

V.Holliday (NNDC) ad submitted a written report which had been circulated to members. It referred to the following :- (a) hoping to appoint a lawyer re the coastwise initiative on coastal erosion (b) planning update (c) benefits update (d) update on housing waiting lists (e) predicted out-turn for last year was a deficit of £0.9m. (f) working on alternative collection venue for prescriptions following closure of Blakeney Surgery. VH also spoke further on the Blakeney Surgery and the dentistry problems in the area.

3c. To receive report from NT.

No report received.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £378.10 (clerks net salary), HMRC £94.40 (tax on salary)
SWAMP £1000.00 (donation), P.Bullimore £25.00 (clerks exp),
F.Newton £300.00 (grass cuts), NNDC £1218.80 (bin emptying 2024/25),
Countrystyle Recycling £63.00 (glass collectn), T.Leach £20.00 (cleaning)
Graphic Edge £125.40 (5mph signs), E.N.Raison £1000.00 (regatta band).
Charlie Ward Traditional Boats £349.80 (mirror and paint – Quay Lane)

The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, were approved (Prop: RH, Sec: CB)

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) PF/24/ 1492; National Trust Toilet Project

The Chair had written a letter to V.Egan (NT) recording the disappointment felt by members in the lack of consultation and engagement prior to the submission of this application. She also requested a meeting with the NT before the public meeting on 26/7/24. RM had drafted a PC response, which listed all the objections to this application, and this was circulated to members for approval and comments. A local lawyer had offered assistance to the PC in fighting this application which appeared to be a new visitor centre rather than replacement toilets. The actual size of the proposed building and its impact on the beautiful natural surroundings was not acceptable to the parish council and local residents. Following a suggestion by the Chair it was agreed to call a public meeting and V.Holliday (NNDC) would ask NNDC to refer this matter to the Development Committee and also request an extension to the consultation expiry date. RH confirmed the PC's views by referring to the damage to the environment and the strong public opposition. It was agreed the Chair and RM be given delegated approval to deal with the response to NNDC subject to any minor amendments to the circulated draft given to members.

(d) PF/23/1501; To note/consider appeal re timber structure (Morston Hall)

It was agreed to write to the Planning Inspectorate (Bristol) stating that a verbal complaint had been received regarding noise and the closeness of the structure to a neighbouring boundary. This had been received since the PC's original submission to NNDC.

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

(a) To receive update re future traffic surveys

The Clerk stated that the first survey would be carried out next week.

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

The Chair had a site meeting with the NCC Highways Engineer and a representative from Sanders Buses. It had been agreed that, subject to PC approval, (a) the bus stop adjacent to the green would remain in the same position (b) NCC Highways would arrange for an elongated "H" line be painted on the eastern side of the green adjacent to Sunnyside (c) JT would move the anchor to assist drivers (d) NCC Highways would paint a "stop box" on the northern side of the green in primrose yellow (e) more "no parking" signs would be displayed in the area. Members approved these arrangements and the Clerk was instructed to confirm them in writing with NCC.

(c) To receive update re repairs to car park surface (east of church)

Carried forward to the next agenda.

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

The Clerk had no new announcements.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) Update on Maintenance Log & Work.

The Chair stated that the kitchen improvements were complete and also thanked CW and JT for their work on the speed humps and the flag-pole. The window catches in the village hall were still to be fixed as was the repair to the outside toilet floor.

9. To note/consider NCC Partnership Scheme (Highways) for 2025/26.

The Clerk stated that the scheme was similar to previous years and would circulate more details so this could be considered at a future meeting..

10. To receive further update on feral cats in the village

A leaflet giving an update to parishioners would be circulated to all households. It would also remind them not to feed feral cats as the PC had concerns re public health and safety matters.

11. Governance:- To further consider meetings being streamed

Following discussions at last month's meeting, and after giving this matter further consideration, it was agreed not to record or stream meetings.

12. To receive update & consider the Morston Regatta

CW gave N.Hamond's apologies and reported on his behalf. Planning for the event had gone very well and the Blakeney Sailing Club had been very supportive. Posters advertising the event had gone up, the tide was right, and they were hoping for a good turnout. CW said that the "new team" were working well.

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

(a) NNDC had stated that the village hall was still the designated polling station and there would be a review later in the year.

(b) A thank you letter had been received regarding the new mirror in Quay Lane.

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

The Chair spoke of (a) the Compass Clinic opening soon (b) better Broadband deals and (c) First-Aid training – to go in Local Lynx.

A parishioner informed members of the new Priest-in- Charge (Ian Whittle)

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

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 25th September, 2024 – 7pm.