

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th Sept., 2024 at The Village Hall – commencing at 7pm

Present: J.Tibbetts (Chair), C.Bean, R.Hamond, C.Ward, J.Temple, R.Metcalf, M.Harrison, and the Clerk. Also present were two members of the public.

1a. To receive and consider apologies

Apologies were received from V.Holliday (NNDC) and V.Egan (NT),

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

RH declared an interest in 4(b).

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 31.7.24.

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

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

A parishioner requested to speak on 6(a) and 4(c).

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) consultation on the Local Plan (b) update on benefits (c) roundabout on Fakenham bypass starts in October (d) NNDC given award by RSPCA for animal services (e) Finance deficit of £1.3m showing for 2024/25 (f) Holt Surgery working constructively on a medicine collection service (g) update on ambulance response times and dementia care.

M.Dalby (NCC) had submitted a written report which had been circulated to members. It referred to (a) the celebration of success by GCSE students and (b) planning application now available for the Norwich Western Link.

3c. To receive report from NT.

An email had been received stating that the NT “are considering objections”. The Chair summarised the situation stating that the PC had put in a strong objection to the planning application and must wait to hear from NNDC. RH stated that we must not forget we still need the toilets although the beautiful environment must be protected. RM gave a report on the responses to the planning application. Of 406 responses received 98.2% were objections. 69% of the objections were local with the remainder coming from people with a personal connection to Morston. Strong objections and concerns had also been received from consultees such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and CPRE. Norfolk.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

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

T.Leach £60.00 (cleaning), P.Bullimore £25.00 (clerks exp),

Graphic Edge £40.05 (signs), PKF.Littlejohn £252.00 (Ext audit fee),

Mayday Office Eqmt £33.14 (photocopying), NPTS £295.00 (cllrs training),

R.Hamond £66.62 (website renewal), Victoria Shelley £25.00 (website exp)
The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, were approved (Prop: JPT Sec: CW)

(b) To consider request for donation from Local Lynx.

Following a letter received from Local Lynx it was agreed to donate £250 as in the previous financial year. (Prop: JT, Sec: CB).

(c) To consider management of PC funds.

The Chair outlined the current balances and suggested that with little interest being received at present it would be sensible to review the investment of PC funds going forward. She had investigated the Unity Bank, which looked suitable, but suggested members give this matter further thought before the next meeting. The Clerk and Chair would produce a report for the next meeting.

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; To consider & receive update re NT planning application

The Clerk had been informed by the Planning Officer that there was “no further news”. RM produced statistics on the responses to this application (see item 3c)

(d) To note PC decision re PF/24/1664; Hope Cottage.

The PC had submitted “no objections” to this application – Noted.

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

(a) To receive update re traffic surveys

A parishioner gave his response to the statistics collected during the traffic survey carried out in August. There were concerns at the number of vehicles still speeding particularly in the west of the village. After discussion it was agreed to have the second survey in November.

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

Agreement by the PC to works to be carried out had been forwarded to NCC Highways Dept. (see July 24 minutes for details)

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

Repairs had been carried out by JT who was thanked by members.

(d) To consider NCC Highways Partnership Scheme 2025/26.

Carried forward to next meeting.

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

No new announcements.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) Update on Maintenance Log & Work.

The Chair referred to the following :- 1. Window catches in village hall to be repaired next Tuesday 2. Roof repairs etc.. agreed the Clerk arranges a site visit with an appropriate contractor 3. Refurb. of v.hall floor, agreed to leave this 4. Toilet floor damage, agreed to arrange a repair 5. Painting sheds, looking for a suitable contractor. Other work :- Posts east of pub near bus stop – Clerk to arrange contractor for repairs. Notice Board – CW to provide materials for RL.

Water Leak (Quay Lane) – Clerk to contact AWA for site visit.

(b) To further consider the caravan waiting list.

Following a brief report by the Chair it was agreed to re-instate two names on the January 2024 waiting list. (delay because of postal problems).

9. To consider NNDC Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places

Information from NNDC Electoral Services had been circulated on 10.9.24. Members were pleased to see and noted that there were no proposed changes at Morston.

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

A leaflet had been produced and a copy delivered to each household asking people not to feed feral cats etc. This matter can now be removed from the agenda.

11. Governance (a) To note further councillors training

This had been arranged for Tues.8th October (7pm) – Other PCs had been invited.

(b) To consider talk by the “First Responders”

After discussion it was agreed to get further details about FRs and also First-Aid training. Carried Forward to next agenda.

12. To receive report re the Morston Regatta

N.Hamond had offered his apologies and had submitted a written report. It had been a very successful Morston Regatta and he thanked Charlie and Helen Ward for a seamless hand-over. He will liaise with Jane Temple around Christmas time when tide times become available to establish a date for the 2025 events. The report was noted by members who instructed the Clerk to write and thank the land owners for the use of their site for the party. The Chair would also thank Jane Temple for organising another good party.

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

Nothing received.

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

The Chair asked people to note the following :- (a) Games nights would be returning soon (b) Morston Mardle on 26th October and (c) SWAMP activities coming soon.

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

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 30th October, 2024 (7pm).

Delegated authority was agreed by members for RM to represent the PC at the NNDC Planning Committee meeting re PF/24/1492, with a member of the public to be selected (Prop: JPT. Sec: CB).