

MORSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 26th June, 2024 at The Village Hall – commencing at 7pm

Present: J.Tibbetts (Chair), C.Bean, R.Hamond, C.Ward, J.Temple, M.Harrison, 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 from M.Dalby (NCC).

1b. To receive Declarations of Interest on agenda items

JPT declared an interest in 6e.

2. To approve the minutes of meeting held 29.5.24.

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

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

Requests were received to speak on 6c and 6e.

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) closure of Blakeney Surgery (b) update on a mobile surgery (c) update on dentistry in the area (d) report re 2nd homes council tax (e) free decarbonisation plan for small/medium businesses. VH also gave a verbal update on the dentistry situation.

3c. To receive report from NT.

A very late email (from Ben Smyth) was read to members by the Clerk from his phone. It read as follows :- “We are very nearly ready to submit the planning application for adapting the toilet block, the new build, the accessible path between the buildings and the car park. We are working with the various consultants to finalise the c20 documents that will form the application. Once they are submitted and validated we will be able to share with you the reference number for the portal. We also have a date whereby we will have some of the project team on site with visualisation boards and be on hand to answer any questions you may have. We have also been repairing the handrails of the viewing platform and will move south to repair the two main bridges over the next month”.

Members expressed concern that they would not be able to see the planning application and associated papers prior to submission to NNDC. The PC was unhappy with the lack of communication and consultation over recent months and that what was originally hoped would be a replacement toilet block appeared to be a major building project for Morston Quay.

4. Finance:

(a) To approve the following payments :-

P.Bullimore £377.90 (clerks net salary), HMRC £94.60 (tax on salary)

J.Tibbetts £43.95 (various exps), P.Bullimore £39.20 (clerks exp),

F.Newton £300.00 (grass cuts), E-Fire £127.20 (fire extinguisher testing)
Gallagher Insurance £347.14 (additional premium), T.Leach £60.00 (cleaning)
Glaven Landscapes £1148.00 (fencing/boundary repairs), Charge Surveys £864.00
The above payments, as scheduled on the agenda, plus one other payment, were approved (Prop: CB, Sec: RM). The other payment was in the sum £120.00 payable to S.Meakin for the internal audit fee.

(b) To note Internal Audit Report for year to 31.3.24.

A satisfactory report was noted by members.

(c) To approve the Governance Statement “ “

The Gov. Statement was approved (Prop: JPT, Sec: CB)

(d) To approve the Accounting Statement “ “

The Accounting Statement was approved (Prop: JPT, Sec: CB)

*** The Chair and Clerk/RFO duly signed the statements at 4c and 4d.

*** The appropriate returns and papers would be displayed on the notice board and website and also submitted to the external auditors (PKF.Littlejohn)

5. Planning:

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

PF/24/0810; Low Barn The Street had been approved.

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

None received.

6. Highways and Footpath Matters:

(a) To receive update re future traffic surveys

The best position for the siting of the cables was at the actual start of the 30mph zones (as per the contractor) and the first survey would be carried out in August. A payment of £864 had been approved at 4a representing 50% of the cost of the surveys.

(b) To receive update re cutting hedges etc. to make road signs more visible.

The grass cutting contractor had agreed to deal with this matter.

(c) To consider bus stop problems (including signage)

After much discussion, which included members of the public, it was agreed to arrange a site visit. Representatives of the PC would meet with reps from Saunders Coaches and Norfolk CC. Highways Department.

(d) To consider repairs to car park surface (east of church)

JT agreed to carry out the necessary repairs to the car park surface.

(e) To receive update and request for donation from SWAMP

It was reported that SWAMP had received an award and their work recognised at the pond. The PC congratulated SWAMP on their success and noted that Anglia TV had expressed an interest in covering the project. Following on from their report SWAMP had requested a further donation from the PC and it was agreed to donate £1,000. The members again thanked SWAMP for all their good work. (Prop: CB, Sec: RH)

7. Meetings & Conferences (announcements & reports)

The Clerk again reminded members of the NNDC Planning Roadshow on 17th July.

8. Caravan Site and Village Hall:

(a) To receive update re kitchen improvements

The Chair reported that she was still dealing with the cutlery and small items.

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

CW reported to members regarding the options available and siting of the mirror. It was agreed to purchase the smaller mirror at a cost of approx. £244 and members accepted CW's kind offer to purchase and install the mirror for the PC. (Prop: CB, Sec: JT). CW would deal with this a.s.a.p.

(c) Update on Maintenance Log & Work.

The following was noted and agreed:-

Village Hall window catches/locks – the Chair was meeting a contractor.

Flagpole – RL to carry out work in two weeks time.

Painting Speed Humps – JT to deal with a.s.a.p.

Creosote Fencing – JPT & CW to progress

5 mph signs for Quay Lane – Clerk to purchase for JT to install.

9. To receive update re Blakeney Surgery.

Following a report at 3b, referring to the closure, members reluctantly agreed to remove this matter from the agenda.

10. To receive update on feral cats in the village

The Chair gave a brief update stating that arrangements had put in place with the vets (Summerhill) who would contact the Chair when cats were brought in. A leaflet, for delivery to all households in the village, would be published asking people not to feed feral cats.

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

The Action Plan, as circulated to members, was adopted and would be posted to the website (Prop: JPT, Sec: RH).

(c) To consider “E-democracy” – PC meetings streamed online

A parishioner spoke on this item stating that it would be useful for people who could not attend meetings. Members had many concerns regarding this and agreed to record the meeting and review the matter next month.

12. To receive update & consider the Morston Regatta

CW gave a complete report on arrangements for the regatta and requested financial assistance from the PC as in previous years. It was agreed to fund the cost of the band up to £1,000 and for “other expenses” £250 (Prop: JPT, Sec: JT).

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

Nothing received.

14. Public Participation (comments/other matters)

The Chair and members congratulated the organisers of the “Morston Meander” which had attracted large numbers of people to the village and proved to be a great success. An additional thank you was also made to SWAMP (see 6e) for their continued efforts at the pond.

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

This was confirmed for Wednesday, 31st July, 2024 at 7pm