

MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2005/2006

CHAIRMAN	Councillor David Creasey	22 Stainfield Road	Tel 570553
COUNCILLORS	Bryan Hyde	10 Haconby Lane	Tel 570621
	John Richardson	32 High Street	Tel 570233
	Walter Lawrance	19 Station Road	Tel 570333
	Arthur Bates	19 High Street	Tel 570203
	Nancy Needham	5 Bourne House	Tel 423182
	Jean Lees	91 Millfield Road	Tel 570558
	Peter Chubbuck	15 The Crescent	Tel 570506
	David Ward	3 East Lane	Tel 570661
	Richard Wells	41 Station Road	Tel 570370
	Gordon Lack	6 Edenham Road	Tel 571689

CLERK & R.F.O. Terry Barnatt.37 Edenham Rd,Hanthorpe, PE10 0RB.Tel 570366

As in past years there have been concerns raised about the speed of traffic along the A15 through the village, and the dangers of the cross-roads, both for vehicles and pedestrians. The County Council maintains that the number, and severity, of accidents at the cross-roads are within acceptable limits and do not merit any changes to the speed limit.

Morton and Hanthorpe again won a prize in the DEFRA Calor Village of the Year Competition 2005. The village won the Lincolnshire Community Life category and was awarded a cheque for £350. The entry came very close to winning the overall competition and an entry has already been made for 2006.

Dog fouling became an issue towards the end of 2005, with several complaints coming from the Station Road area. South Kesteven District Council were alerted to the problem, extra warning notices were erected and the council dispatched one of their officers to inspect the area. She began regular visits, two or three times a week, and in addition enforcement rangers began motor cycle patrols at regular intervals. One person was issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice and the area is still being monitored. During the year there was concern about the possibility of reductions in ambulance cover for Bourne and the surrounding district. Following a letter of concern from the Parish Clerk assurances were forthcoming from the Lincolnshire Ambulance Service that full benefits and services will be retained in the area.

The Council has been informed that, unfortunately, an Amenity Freighter will no longer be available in the village. The dyke along Hanthorpe Road was finally cleared out and, eventually, the resulting rubbish was removed.

The Council continues to deal with a variety of items and problems on an ongoing basis as well as dealing with the District or County Council regarding such things as potholes and road surface repairs, grass-cutting, overgrown hedges, missing signs, street lights not working, together with its own duties such as managing the Cemetery and the Playing Field.

END OF AN ERA

After 29 years as Parish Clerk David Thomas decided to retire at the end of the Council year, 31st March 2006. The Chairman, Councillor David Creasey, said that both he and the other councillors were very sad to hear of David's decision as the Council had come to rely on him to carry out the duties of Clerk with diligence and quiet efficiency. During his time as Clerk the workload had increased considerably.

His services were duly recognised with a retirement reception in the village hall with various friends, colleagues, village representatives and parishioners present.

Terry Barnatt was appointed as the new Clerk & R.F.O. and began work at the beginning of January. David stayed on as Assistant Clerk and handed over duties gradually during the three months remaining.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

A copy of the Council's income and expenditure account for 2005/6 is attached to this report.

T. Barnatt Clerk & R.F.O. 18th April 2006

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

The retirement of David Thomas as Clerk has been cause for regret but also gratitude for the 29 years of devoted and conscientious service he has given to the village. During that period Morton and Hanthorpe have grown enormously and so have the duties of the council and the responsibilities of the Clerk. Not only has David taken this in his stride but has also guided the Council to achieve Quality Status.

His efforts have been rewarded during the year as we received grant aid of almost £4000 to provide the new fence at the cemetery and upgraded computer equipment for the Council. This was only money available to Quality Councils and we were the only village in Lincolnshire to receive a grant.

We are fortunate that Terry Barnatt has taken the post of Clerk. His knowledge of the village and his past experience as a company secretary make him admirably suited to the task.

The winning of the Community Life class in the Village of the Year Competition was particularly satisfying – we were also highly commended for our website. Coming so soon after winning the Best Kept Large Village award it does reflect very well on our village life. It should be stressed, though, that success in these competitions rests almost entirely with the individual inhabitants of the village. The Parish Council can organise the applications but at the end of the day the village is what we all make of it. There is a strong core of community minded people who make things happen and it is good that their efforts are recognised but it would be even better if more people became involved.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, on March 28th, it was noted from the minute book that 100 years before (actually 29th March 1906) the meeting had been chaired by my grandfather, Fred Creasey. The minutes simply record that "There was no business of interest". I would like to think that the record of our activities in 2006 would extend beyond that! The Council's agendas are always filled with a wide variety of business, some on-going problems and some simply mundane, but I wish to thank all the councillors, and the Clerk, for the hard work and effort they put in on behalf of the village.

David Creasey April 2006