

MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL.
ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

CHAIRMAN	Councillor David Creasey.	22 Stainfield Road, Hanthorpe.	Tel 570553
COUNCILLORS	Brian Hyde.	29a Edenham Road, Hanthorpe	570621
	John Richardson	32 High Street	570233
	Walter Lawrance	19 Station Road	570333
	Arthur Bates	19 High Street	571822
	Peter Chubbuck	15 The Crescent	570506
	Richard Wells	41 Station Road	570370
	Gordon Lack	6 Edenham Road, Hanthorpe.	571689
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	Lucy Taylor	12 High Street	571767
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CLERK & R.F.O. Terry Barnatt, 37 Edenham Rd, Hanthorpe. 570366

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT

During the year repairs have been carried out on the cemetery path and the High Street bus shelters, and a new seat has been purchased and will very soon replace the damaged metal seat outside the cemetery. A new public notice board is to be erected outside the school.

The man who resided in caravans on the A15 layby has finally been moved with help from a multi-agency team.

The Parish Council is still trying to obtain land, for use as allotments, from the County Council but up to now a suitable piece has not been found. At the beginning of proceedings the Parish Council suggested a suitable area within the village. After long deliberation by the County Council committee offered an alternative area just outside the village. Councillors Creasey and Hyde, both farmers, inspected the land and found that it was unsuitable for allotment purposes, being stony and without water supply anywhere near. Savills, the county agents, were informed of this. As yet the matter remains unresolved and we still await the offer of any more suitable land.

In June the South Kesteven Local Development Framework, requesting suggestions and opinions from local councils, was considered by the Council and it was agreed that the parish was sadly short of general employment opportunities, had little provision for youth activities, and lacked suitable accommodation for the elderly. It was resolved to suggest that land to the NE of the village, beside the A15 would be a suitable site for light industry in the future but that no other development should be considered in the parish unless it had suitable access to the A15, in order to avoid adding to the traffic problems at the A15 crossroads.

There has been concern about parking on grass verges, in particular around the churchyard, and the number of vehicles parked near the District Council bungalows. Councillors met Mr Brumfield and Mr Lucas of the District on site recently in an effort to resolve the matter. The District Council is to give further consideration to the matter.

Along with other items which the Council has to pursue with the District or County Councils on an ongoing basis, such as tree trimming, overgrown hedges, grass cutting, salt supply, street light faults and pothole reports, together with its own duties, such as managing the cemetery and playing field there have been a variety of problems and contentious matters arising throughout the year, as follows -

A15 CROSSROADS

Over many years there has been discussion about safety improvements at the crossroads. Councillors and other volunteers carried out a survey of activity at the crossroads in June. Total movements of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists were recorded. The results were passed on to Lincolnshire Highways Area Manager, Kevin Brumfield. In August, councillors met Mr Brumfield and a representative of the Lincs Road Safety Partnership to discuss the matter again, at the crossroads. Mr

Brumfield said that various options had been considered for the crossroads such as refuge islands, but the road width and accesses made most ideas unfeasible. Some form of crossing or lights could be provided but would require part financing by the parish.

A set of 40mph reactive signs were later erected beside the A15, at either end of the village.

LARKFLEET AFFORDABLE HOUSES APPLICATION & HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

In September the Council considered a letter from Larkfleet Homes announcing the intent to submit a planning application to build 30 affordable homes on land beside the A15 to the South of the village. A public meeting was arranged to gauge the feelings of residents about the matter. Directors of Larkfleet Homes put their proposals to the meeting and a number of concerns were put forward by those attending. The villagers present were, in general, against the development going ahead, despite reassurances from the Larkfleet representatives.

A planning application was subsequently submitted to the SKDC and considered by the Parish Council which resolved that the application was not supported by a housing survey, all village amenities were on the opposite side of the A15 and the additional number of vehicles accessing the busy A15 would only add to the village's traffic problem.

Subsequently a Housing Needs Survey was arranged by Community Lincs and with the help of the clerk and councillors survey forms were delivered to every property in the parish and a report was drawn up. The District Council is now considering the report in relation to the Larkfleet Homes application along with the objections of the Council and local residents.

LINCOLN CO-OP PURCHASE OF KINGS HEAD

During March the parish learned, through a press report, that Lincoln Co-op had purchased the derelict Kings Head and intended to convert the building into a convenience store. The reaction of many residents was to show concern about the effect such a store would have on the established businesses in the village and even the possible loss of the Post Office. At the request of a large group of concerned parishioners the Parish Council has contacted the Lincoln Co-op management and requested a meeting. A response has been received assuring the Council that, when plans have been worked out, they would be happy to visit the village. No planning application has yet been submitted to the District Council.

Terry Barnatt.

Clerk & R.F.O. April 2010

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW 2009/2010

The Clerk's report (overleaf) is an indication of the wide ranging nature of the Parish Council's work. It also gives an idea of the workload of our clerk, who is only employed for a few hours per week. The village owes him a debt of gratitude for ensuring that the Council's business is conducted properly and efficiently. I can assure you that he puts in far more time than that for which he is paid.

Much of what the Parish Council does goes unnoticed but from time to time issues of a more contentious nature do give cause for wide concern.

The problems surrounding the A15 crossroads are a continuing frustration but the Parish Council has been consistent in voicing its concerns to the highways authority. Unfortunately, as with many areas of life, there is no easy solution, but the placing of reactive signs at the approaches to the village has been welcomed.

Road safety was a key issue in the consideration of the proposal to build affordable housing on the Bourne Road. Having organised a Housing Needs Survey throughout the parish and a public meeting with the developers, the Parish Council objected to the proposal, and the re-submission, and we await the outcome.

At the close of the year the possible development of the King's Head aroused much feeling. To date (June) no planning application has been lodged. The Parish Council is bound by its Code of Conduct and cannot therefore enter into any discussion in advance of any application which may subsequently be deemed prejudicial to such an application. We therefore have to await further developments but, as always, the safety of the crossroads will be an important consideration.

Finally I wish to place on record my thanks to all the councillors for their hard work during the year. They are unpaid volunteers who give freely of their time in ways which are not always noticed. The parish would be poorer without them.

David Creasey. June 2010