

MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

CHAIRMAN: Councillor David Creasey, 22 Stainfield Road. Tel: 570553

COUNCILLOR: Bryan Hyde, 10 Haconby Lane. Tel: 570621

COUNCILLOR: John Richardson, 32 High Street. Tel: 570233

COUNCILLOR: Walter Lawrance, 19 Station Road. Tel: 570333

COUNCILLOR: Arthur Bates, 19 High Street. Tel: 570203

COUNCILLOR: Nancy Needham, 9 St John's Close. Tel: 570171

COUNCILLOR: Jean Lees, 91 Millfield Rd. Tel: 570558

COUNCILLOR: Peter Chubbuck, 15 The Crescent. Tel: 570506

COUNCILLOR: David Ward, 3 East Lane, Tel: 570661

COUNCILLOR: Richard Wells 41 Station Road Tel 570370

COUNCILLOR: Gordon Lack, 6 Edenham Road. Tel: 571689

CLERK & R.F.O. David Thomas, 8 Hawthorn Road. Bourne. PE10 9SN

This has been an exceptionally busy year for the Council. In May 2004 the Council decided to submit an application to obtain Quality Council Status, this was duly submitted to the "Office of the Deputy Prime Minister" for approval, but the decision was delayed due to there being more than one parish in Lincolnshire with the name of Morton.

The Council then went through the necessary procedure to change its name from "Morton" to "Morton & Hanthorpe", this was authorised by the South Kesteven District Council in September, and following this the Council was granted "Quality Status" and became one of only two local councils in Lincolnshire to achieve this award, which lasts for four years.

With a grant from the District Council, a community cleaner has been employed to collect litter a couple of times a week in High St. and around the Church.

In September it was confirmed that Morton with Hanthorpe had won the 'Best Kept Large Village' in Lincolnshire award, and it is planned to have signs to this effect erected at the entrances to Morton on the A15.

At the end of February a new Community Web site was launched, this has been sponsored by the Parish Council, and several local businesses. It was built by Councillor Gordon Lack, and can be viewed at www.morton-hanthorpe.org.uk

Additional bases for 'ashes' plots at the cemetery have been installed at a cost of £1,900 plus vat.

Along with other items which the Council has to pursue with the District or County Council on an ongoing basis, such as blocked drains, potholes, flood damage to road surfaces, grass-cutting, overgrown hedges, missing street signs, street lights not working, together with its own duties such as managing the Cemetery and the Playing Field, there have been certain other specific items which the Council has taken action on over the year as follows:-

POWER CUTS.

Council has continued to press "Central Networks" for an explanation of why certain areas of the Parish are experiencing so many disruptions to the power supply. Central Networks has apologised for this and the inconvenience caused, and says that investigations have found a variety of problems which they are working on to put right.

They say that they have now replaced most of the old switches which were the cause of some of the power cuts, and have also carried out work to sectionalise the circuit which will limit the number of houses being affected at any one time, and that they are also carrying out further work to install automated equipment which will make it possible to re-route supplies by remote control.

PATH & PARKING AT BUNGALOWS IN THE CRESCENT.

After years of repeatedly chasing the District Council to carry out maintenance and to make repairs to the path to the bungalows at the Crescent, the District and County Council, who have been arguing over which of them is responsible for the path, have now agreed to a jointly funded scheme which will replace the existing slabs with tarmac, and also provide parking spaces for some vehicles.

QUALITY COUNCIL INVESTMENT FUND.

An application was made for a grant from this fund in January, and the Council was awarded £3,875 to spend on three projects:-

1. A computer, printer copier scanner fax, and associated software.
2. New anti-wrap swing supports for the junior swings at the Playing Field.
3. Railings, and repairs to the gates at the Cemetery.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE.

A copy of the Council's income and expenditure account for 2004/05 is attached to this report.

D.J.Thomas Clerk & R.F.O. 10th April 2005

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

It is human nature to concentrate on current problems which are as yet unresolved, rather than those which have been rectified or improved, and therefore some people are very quick to criticise the performance of the Council, saying things such as "The Parish Council never does anything" or "Complaining to the Parish Council is a waste of time", but I hope that after reading this year's Annual Report, such people will be disabused of their opinions.

I wish to place on record my thanks to all of my fellow councillors, who are all dedicated to serving the community, give freely of their time, and whose efforts and hard work goes largely unnoticed.

I should also like to thank our clerk yet again for his efforts, which have been above and beyond the call of duty. He is one of the first six people in the Country to become AQA qualified, under the government's initiative, to raise the standard of local councils, and this made it possible for Morton & Hanthorpe to obtain "Quality Status" in September 2004, being one of only two local councils in the whole of Lincolnshire to achieve this, and at the end of the year, there were still only 161 "Quality" councils in the whole of the Country. We were also the only local council in

Lincolnshire to obtain a grant from the "Quality Council Investment Fund ", details of which are in the clerk's report.

In addition to the Council's achievements, Morton with Hanthorpe also won the "Best Kept Large Village in Lincolnshire" competition, this is a benefit to the community as a whole, and is a tribute to you all.

The Council has had a good year, but this does not mean that I, my fellow councillors, or the clerk can be complacent, we will all continue to do all that we can to ensure that Morton & Hanthorpe continues to have a high profile with both the County and District Councils, and we will continue to press for action on all outstanding issues.

I should also like to point out that our efforts to obtain a further reduction of the speed limit on the A15 through the parish are continuing, but that our stance on this matter is not being helped by some residents who are ignoring the 30 m.p.h. limit within the village itself, and I would ask everyone to make an extra effort to observe this limit at all times.

Finally may I remind you that we have an open forum session before the start of every Council meeting, everyone is welcome to attend, either to just observe, or to raise any matters of concern.

David J. Creasey 12th April 2005

INCOME AND for YEAR ENDING 31st March 2005

Year Ended			Year Ended
31st March 2004			31st March 2005
	INCOME		
£ 9,500.00	Precept		£ 10,000.00
	- Agency Services Reimbursed		£ 520.00
	- Loans Taken Out		
	Capital Receipts		£ 3,875.00
£ 17.79	Miscellaneous		£ 242.95
£ 139.00	Interest on Investments		£ 261.21
£ 2,205.00	Burial Fees		£ 1,840.00
	Playing Field		£ 14.00
£ 168.00	Parish Land Rents		£ 278.00
£ 12,029.79	TOTAL INCOME		£ 17,031.16
	EXPENDITURE		
£ 5,304.72	General Administration		£ 5,806.99
	- Agency Services		£ 470.00
£ 250.00	S.137 Payments		
nil	Capital Spending		£ 3,875.00
£ 1,682.84	Loan Interest & Loan Repayments		£ 1,681.52
	- Loans Made		
	Running Costs:		
£ 319.28	Cemetery		£ 1,962.31
£ 2,889.61	Playing Field		£ 1,532.22
nil	Parish Land		
£ 1,163.38	Miscellaneous		£ 1,300.90
£ 11,609.83	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£ 16,628.94
	General Fund		
£ 2,039.38	Balance at 1st April		£ 1,459.34
£ 12,029.79	Add Total Income		£ 17,031.16
£ 14,069.17			£ 18,490.50
£ 11,609.83	Deduct Expenditure		£ 16,628.94
£ 2,459.34	Surplus for year		£ 1,861.56
£ 1,000.00	Transfers to reserves		£ 1,000.00
£ 1,459.34	Balance at 31st March		£ 861.56