

MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Church Hall Morton

Tuesday 8th November 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D. Creasey (Chairman) G. Lack, J. Lees, P. Chubbuck, B. Hyde, D Ward, R.J. Wells & J.F. Richardson.

Also in attendance: District Councillor F. Cartwright, & Mr D.J. Thomas (Clerk & R.F.O.)

Members of the public present: two (who left shortly after the start of the meeting, having made their comments on agenda items 7 & 9, during the Public Forum)

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillors C.A. Bates & W. Lawrance.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillor Creasey declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 9.

3. MINUTES: The clerk's notes of the meeting of Tuesday 27th September 2005 were approved as the Minutes and were signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING & CLERK'S REPORT:

Jubilee Close/Stock cars: These have now been moved to the Broadway.

Dyke to south of Hanthorpe Road: This has now been cleared out and the rubbish removed.

Cemetery Maintenance: No bill has yet been received for the work to cut back the hedge Village of the Year The Chairman, accompanied by Councillor Lack & the clerk had attended the presentation evening at Leadenham Village Hall, where Morton & Hanthorpe was presented with a cheque for £350 by DEFRA for winning the "Building Community Life" section of this competition. The Chairman said that he would like to thank all organisations, clubs, committees and individuals who had made it possible for Morton & Hanthorpe to win this prestigious award.

Blocked Gully East Lane: This has been reported to the County Council and it has now been cleared out and jetted through.

Litterbin Station Rd./Paddington Way: The District Council is to send an inspector to the site, who will decide whether or not there is a need for a litter bin in this area.

Drinking Water Quality Report: This is now available from Anglian Water.

East Midlands Regional Assembly: Comments on the long term plan to 2026 are required by 16th January 2006.

Environment Agency: There will be an exhibition on 24th November at their depot at Woodhall Spa from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00. p.m.

Central Networks/Christmas Lights: It was proposed by Councillor B Hyde that the Council should not apply for a possible grant from this company due to the problems involved in the siting, powering, erection and maintenance of such lights. This was seconded by Councillor J Lees, and all were in favour.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership: A 5 day survey of traffic speeds in High Street has now been completed. A total of 17,319 vehicles travelled through the survey area with a fairly even flow in each direction. There was some evidence of non-compliance, but the current speed threshold does not allow for additional enforcement. The clerk was asked to try to obtain a more detailed breakdown of the Partnership's survey, and report back to the December meeting.

UNISON/Lincs Ambulance Service: A letter from UNISON had been received by the clerk regarding the possible reduction of the numbers of Ambulances & front line workers in the three year plan about to be discussed by the Ambulance Trust. As a response was required by the 10th November, the clerk had discussed the matter with the Chairman and using his executive powers had written to the Ambulance Trust on behalf of the Council, objecting to any reduction. A reply has been received saying that the concerns in the Council's letter will be included on the Agenda for the Trusts next meeting.

Planning Matters: The following planning applications have been approved by the District Council:-

A Mason & V Newton	Extra velux window	22 Bourne Rd	Full Planning
Mr & Mrs R Barwell	Extensions	1 St John's Close	Full Planning
David Hughes	New access	Baptist Church	Full Planning

The application by Mr C A Paris for the erection of a bungalow at 25 Bourne Road has been refused,

Cemetery: Since the September meeting, there has been one burial, one interment of ashes and one memorial erected, fees received £190.

5. S.K.D.C. ISSUES & OPTIONS: It was agreed to accept the Chairman's response to this document as that of the full Council.

6. S.K.D.C LEISURE TRUST: It was agreed to accept the District Council's consultant's recommendation that a Trust should be set up to run its Leisure Services.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Council is to object to the proposed extension & garage at Church Farm, Station Road, as it feels that the planned extension and garage would not be in keeping with the conservation area, and that the proposed new access to this site in Station Road would result in traffic exiting the site being in conflict with traffic from the East of Station Road.

8. STANDING ORDERS FOR SIGNATURES ON CHEQUES:

It was proposed by Councillor R.J. Wells that the number of signatures required on cheques should be reduced from three to two; this was seconded by Councillor J. Lees
And all were in favour.

It was also resolved to cancel the existing bank mandate and to replace this with a new customer agreement and mandate as provided by Barclays Bank P.L.C., also taking the opportunity to increase the number of Councillors authorised to sign, and to arrange for

The clerk to be able to transfer arrangements for telephone banking to the new clerk in January 2006.

The clerk was asked to make the necessary changes to standing order 13 (b). and to complete the new mandate for action by Barclays Bank.

THE CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR D. CREASEY LEFT THE ROOM AND COUNCILLOR B. HYDE TOOK THE CHAIR.

9. MORTON CHURCH HALL:

A request for a grant towards the costs of improving the disabled access to the church hall was received from the Churchwardens, pointing out that the Parish Council are one of the main users of the hall.

The overall cost of the scheme is estimated to be in the region of £10,000.

It was proposed by Councillor R.J. Wells that the Council should make a donation of £1000 Towards the cost of these alterations, this was seconded by Councillor P. Chubbuck.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor J.F. Richardson that this should be raised to £1,500 this was seconded by Councillor J. Lees. A vote was called for, and the original motion was carried by four votes to three.

COUNCILLOR CREASEY RETURNED TO THE MEETING AND TOOK THE CHAIR

10. BUDGET FOR 2006/07:

The clerk told the meeting that £1000 would need to be added to the total expenditure forecast in his budget figures in view of the donation approved in agenda item 9, which would raise his suggested precept figure to £9,500. He pointed out that he had also included around £1000 to take into account any unexpected expenditure or shortfall in his income forecast.

After some discussion it was proposed by Councillor R.J. Wells, that the budget figures should be accepted, that £1000 should be added to the total expenditure for to take into account the donation approved in Agenda item 9, and that the precept for 2006/07 should be set at £11000, this was seconded by Councillor B. Hyde. And all were in favour.

The clerk pointed out that this might result in a fairly large amount of money in the reserves at the end of 2006/07 and that it might be necessary to put some of these funds in the Capital reserve.

11. ACCOUNTS:

Paid since last meeting: -	D.J. Thomas	£59.82	expenses to 30th September
	FOVIA	£18.38	copying and stationery
	N. Wilkie	£40.40	litter collection to 18th October

12. NEXT MEETING & MEETING DATES FOR 2006:

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for Tuesday 13th December 2005, and the following dates were set for the first half of 2006.

January 24th February 21st March 28th (plus Annual Parish Meeting)
9th May (Annual Meeting of the Council) 27th June

13. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: Councillor Cartwright advised the Council that she had seen a planning application for a dwelling between 49 and 55 Station Road.

14. RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION:

It was proposed by Councillor G. Lack , seconded by Councillor B. Hyde that due to the confidentiality of the next item on the agenda the Council should move into closed session, And all were in favour.

15. STAFFING MATTERS: The full Council ratified the decision made by the interview panel on the appointment of the new clerk, and other staffing matters were discussed.

There being no other business the meeting then closed.