

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Church Hall, Morton on Tuesday 18th September 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Councillors D. Creasey (Chairman) B. Hyde (Vice Chairman) G. Lack, W. Lawrance P. Chubbuck, C. Friend, A. Bates, L. Taylor, J.F. Richardson, S. Reynolds & R.J. Wells.

Also in attendance: Mr. T. Barnatt (Clerk & R.F.O) & District Councillor F. Cartwright.

Members of the public present Three

Public Forum. The Hanthorpe residents present asked the council for permission to clear out the pond at Hanthorpe, which had become badly silted up and overgrown. The council agreed that the clearance could be carried out this autumn and that the matter would be dealt with officially in the council's agenda, later in the evening.

1. APOLOGIES. County Councillor Horn apologised for not being able to attend.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Councillors Lack and Chubbuck both declared a personal interest in agenda item 7, regarding the village hall. Councillor Lawrance declared a personal interest in item 6, regarding cemetery maintenance.

3. MINUTES. The clerk's notes of the meetings held on Tuesday 7th August were approved as Minutes and were signed by the Chairman.

4. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE.

Litter Bin A replacement litter bin had been ordered from Plantscape Ltd at a cost of £125 + VAT and £40 delivery.

Calor Best Kept Village Competition The parish had come third in class III of the competition and the marking sheets had been received. The Chairman read through some of the judges comments which, in general, were very complimentary. The marks on each of the first two judgings were very high but the final judge was slightly more critical and this obviously resulted in the third placing of the three finallists.

Caravan dweller on the A15 lay-by The Clerk had contacted both the SKDC and Lincolnshire County Council about this matter. The rubbish had been collected by SKDC. The Lincolnshire County Council had passed on the council's concerns to their liaison officer who would consider what needed to be done.

Internal Audit The Chairman has carried out the half-yearly inspection of the account books and records to ensure that all money is being paid into the Council's bank account, that the accounts are being kept up to date and that total cash at the bank corresponds with the day book.

Cemetery Memorials Safety Check The Clerk has carried out the annual safety check of the memorials in the cemetery.

ROSPA Annual Play Equipment Safety Check. This was carried out on 8th August by Playsafety Ltd. Several comments had been made about the condition of the safe surfacing, which had been extensively repaired only months ago, in October 2006. The Clerk had already contacted the repairers Woodland Engineering to ask for them to meet him and discuss this unsatisfactory situation. Other inspection comments referred to the grass left on the surface which could lead to the build-up of algae. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Kind and ask for this to be remedied by the grass-cutting contractors.

Planning matters

Due to time constraints the following application had been dealt with by consultation and there were no objections–

J.K. Peat. Dwelling & detached garage (amended). 39 Edenham Road, Hanthorpe. Full Planning. The SKDC has granted planning permission for –

V. Kerr. Demolition of cottage & erect dwelling. 11 Haconby Lane.

Alston Country Homes. Erection of dwelling (substitute house type) Plot 5, East Lane.

S. Hall. Demolition of pre-fabricated building & replace with sectional building. Halls Garage.

Appeal to Secretary of State Mrs B. Cox has appealed against a planning application refusal re Erection of dwelling adj. 45 Stainfield Road, Hanthorpe.

Footpath diversion An application has been made to divert footpath 29, Hanthorpe around a recent development. Concerns had been made known to the planning officer at the time of the original application for this development. The two houses are now complete and the Council are concerned at the belated application for the diversion also that the footpath is very narrow and will be difficult to maintain. The Clerk was asked to convey the Council's reservations to the planning department and request that at least part of the path should cross the paddock part of the property, as it did before development.

Mobile Police Station This will be in the village on 2nd November. Details are in the noticeboard.

Hanthorpe Pond Hanthorpe residents have requested permission to clear out and maintain the pond. This had been discussed at the earlier public forum and the Council was pleased to give its consent to the request.

The LALC Annual Report has been received and is available from the Clerk.

LCR Journal, Clerks & Councils Direct & Voluntary News are available from the Clerk.

Cemetery Since the last meeting there have been 3 Ashes interments, 3 Exclusive rights applications and 2 memorial applications. Total receipts £473.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A.D. Williamson. Erection of dwelling. Adj. 19 Bourne Road. Morton. No objections.

Alston Country Homes. Demolition of existing barn & rebuild single dwelling (using existing materials) East Lane, Morton. The Clerk was asked to express the Council's concern that other new properties on this development had already had changes made after original approvals and the barn concerned in this application had been approved for conversion.

The following application was received too late to be included on the agenda and was introduced for discussion only-

Peter Taylor Homes. Erection of chalet bungalow. Plot 2 The Grove, Hanthorpe. Full Planning. Councillors saw no reason to object to the application. The Clerk was asked to use his executive powers to respond to the planning officer.

6. CEMETERY GRAVES

A letter had been received regarding the use of weed killer around a grave. The Clerk was asked to write to the family and explain that the alternative to this method of control was to trim around the headstones, and other items, which would be more likely to cause damage. The rules, brought in a few years ago regarding vases and other items on graves, were intended to help to improve both the appearance and maintenance of the cemetery.

7. VILLAGE HALL

The Council has been asked, by the Morton Village Hall Committee to consider becoming the Custodian Trustee of the village hall.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would be prepared, in principal, to become Custodian Trustee subject to clarification regarding ownership of the hall, some details of the proposed Trust Deed and also any legal points that may need to be taken into consideration.

The Chairman said that, on behalf of the Council, he would contact Mrs Hammond to discuss the matter.

8. ACCOUNTS. The following payments were approved in accordance with the budget.

Lincs Assn of Local Councils.	Councillors Training Eve.	10. 00
T. Barnatt	August Salary	366. 15
N. Wilkie	Litter coll. To 30.8.07	48. 00
Viking Direct	Office supplies	76. 54
Morton PCC	Hire of Church Hall 18.9.07	6. 00
Playsafety Ltd	Annual Play Equip. Inspection	88. 13
T. Barnatt	September Salary	366.15
Anglian Water	Cemetery Water Rates	32. 22

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the council will be held at the Church hall on Tuesday 30th October, commencing with a public forum at 7.15pm.

10. OUTSIDE REPORTS

District Councillor Cartwright reported several matters from the SKDC amongst these being planned arrangements for wider roll-out of green bins in the district.

She would also look into the future supply of pink refuse bags for the church yard.

11. RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

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

12. AUDITORS OPINION

The matter was discussed and resolved upon.

OTHER MATTERS

The clerk was asked to look into or deal with the following matters -

A supply of pink refuse bags required for the cemetery.

Report street light not working, Haconby Lane.

Clearance of straw from gutters along Station Road.

Contact owners of overhanging yew hedge, Stainfield Road, Hanthorpe

Contact SKDC regarding possible removal/trimming of large ash tree at end of the Crescent.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....