



MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

MHPC

Summer
2008

MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2008 CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Morton & Hanthorpe Parish Council remains one of the handful of councils in Lincolnshire to hold Quality Status. That status is maintained because the clerk has succeeded, in his own time, to become CiLCA accredited. We owe him a debt of thanks.

Having said that, we continue to monitor whether the Quality Status actually confers any benefit on the village. In the past we have been recipients of a grant of £4000, the only money ever to come into Lincolnshire under this legislation, but subsequent money has not been forthcoming. What is more important is the quality of village life and that depends as much on the actions of those who live here as it does the Parish Council. The issues of litter and dog fouling, for example, are of our own making and the most effective solutions are of our own making too. It is about accepting responsibility for the state of the village, and not expecting others to tidy up after us.

As I write, the future of the Kings Head still lies in the balance. The Parish Council have, for months, been trying to find out what the situation is. The brewery are now actively exploring options. For the village we can only wait and see, but the Parish Council remains concerned over the scaffolding and its impairment of visibility at the crossroads.

A new problem has arisen at the cemetery. The South Kesteven District Council no longer collect the rubbish, being unprepared to supply either pink bags or wheelie bins. There has been a marked lack of communication over the situation and we remain unhappy and concerned. What contact we have had with the District Council on this matter has been very often contradictory and unhelpful. We continue to seek clarity over the situation but in the meantime we accept that compostable material should somehow be dealt with on site. In this day and age it is unreasonable to expect that to be transported to landfill.

However we appeal for help in dealing with other materials of an artificial nature – cellophane, wire, plastic etc. The easiest way of keeping the cemetery tidy is for people to take those items home with them. Of course, one option would be to ban the placing of artificial flowers in the first place. We do not wish to be so heavy-handed but would appreciate everyone's understanding in this matter. We recognise the particular problem with the number of wreaths following an interment and we are currently looking at the introduction of specific measures to deal with that. The cemetery is a credit to those maintain it and to those who tend graves – we wish it to remain so and we appeal for everyone's continuing co-operation.

Finally I wish to express my thanks to all councillors and everyone else who contributed, in so many ways, to making Morton & Hanthorpe a great parish to live in.

David Creasey

Chairman. April 2008

CHAIRMAN

D.J.Creasey
22,Stainfield Rd
Tel. 570553

VICE CHAIRMAN

B. Hyde
10 Haconby Lane
Tel. 570621

CLERK & R.F.O.

T.Barnatt
37 Edenham Road
Hanthorpe
Tel. 570366

MEMBERS

J.F.Richardson
Tel. 570233

W.Lawrance
Tel. 570333

A.Bates
Tel. 570203

L.Taylor
Tel. 571767

S Reynolds
079515281138

P.Chubbuck
Tel. 570506

C.Friend
Tel. 570557

R.J.Wells
Tel. 570370

G. Lack
Tel. 571689



MORTON & HANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

The Council year began with an election. Prior to the election three long standing councillors retired. The remaining standing councillors were returned and Charles Friend, Lucy Taylor and Shaun Reynolds were newly elected.

As last year's report was being prepared the Kings Head was very very badly damaged by fire and a year later the remains are still supported by scaffolding. The Council eventually managed to contact a spokesperson at the owners, brewers Charles Wells, and the initial information was that no proper future plans could be made because the matter is in the hands of insurers. However, more recently, prompted no doubt by the Council's approach, the owners have been in touch with the local press and now intend to publicise more possible ideas for the property's future. During the last year the spate of vandalism, which had affected many parts of Morton, hopefully, appears to have died down. The High Street seat was destroyed last year and a replacement has been purchased by the Council and put in place by volunteers.

In the 2007 the Parish entered the Lincolnshire Best Kept Village Competition and eventually came third in Class III (Large villages/ small towns), with very few adverse comments. An entry has already been made for 2008.

During the year the clerk attained his Certificate in Local Council Administration. South Kesteven District Council, without prior warning or planning, ceased collection of waste bags from the village cemetery. Mick Hare of East Lane had been very helpfully attending to the dustbins at the cemetery and putting out the 'pink' bags for regular collection. However SKDC decided that no further supplies of these special bags would be available and no further collections would be made. The waste is now classed as trade waste. The Parish Council had no option other than to ask users of the cemetery to take away any waste. At the present time some waste is still being left at the cemetery but it is hoped that the problem will, in time, be solved. It was decided that repairs were necessary to the play area safe surface and it was arranged that these would be carried out in spring and the cemetery hedge, along Haconby Lane, has been cut down by contractors to a more manageable size. Hanthorpe pond has been cleaned out by volunteers during the winter.

The council continues to receive complaints about the anti social, and illegal, dog-fouling in the village. In addition to regular visits by District Council rangers the Council have also displayed notices on the notice boards and highlighted the matter in newsletters. However some dog owners continue to be irresponsible.

Terry Barnatt.

Clerk & R.F.O. April 2008

EXTRACT FROM ACCOUNTS 2007/08

1st April 2007	Balance b. fwd.	£4881
	Add Income	<u>£15775</u>
	Total	£20656
	Less Expenditure	<u>£12043</u>
	Surplus	£8613
	Transfer to Reserves	<u>£141</u>
	BALANCE at 31st March 2008	£8472



The Saga of the Mobile Library

Our story begins in spring when the Mobile Library, run by the Lincolnshire County Council Library Service, still visited the parish once a fortnight and stopped at three venues. Customers were told, by library staff, that changes were afoot but that other than that no details, or information, were available. On 12 May mystified customers, through local contacts, 'discovered' the mobile library lurking in a cul-de-sac in Longmeadows off Hanthorpe Road. They were informed that the mobile would now only visit once a month and have only one stopping point.

Concerned customers, and the parish clerk, contacted the Library Service about the new arrangement and pointed out that a more central point in the parish might be more convenient. 'We'll take note of your comments' was the response. And they did.

BUT they did not tell anyone.

On the next monthly visit, whilst people waited with expectancy in Longmeadows, the library vehicle was stationed in the High Street, near the Post Office. After a long wait and with a dearth of visitors the staff took the initiative and went to Longmeadows. At last library and customers were re-united! Let's hope they all live happily ever after. Or is this some cunning plan.....?

The fact that only half an hour will be spent in Morton, as opposed to one hour in both Rippingale and Billingborough, is still being queried.

An official list of dates has now been extracted from the County Library Service.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICES—TIMETABLE JULY - DEC 2008

Morton High Street, Post Office.

Mondays 10.15 to 10.45am

7th July,

4th August,

1st September,

27th October,

24th November,

22nd December.

For latest news on routes please contact - customer service centre 01522 782010

Or website - www.lincolnshire.gov.uk



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Published by MORTON & HANTHORPE
PARISH COUNCIL
37 Edenham Road
Hanthorpe, Bourne
Lincs.
PE10 0RB

01778 570366
clerk@morton-hanthorpe.org.uk

A QUALITY COUNCIL

We are on the Web
morton-hanthorpe.org.uk

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2008

Do you realise?

The Council has a fifteen minute Public Forum before the start of every meeting to give anyone a chance to have their say.

The following meeting dates have been fixed by the Council for the rest of 2008

Tuesdays

**5th AUGUST. 16th SEPTEMBER
28th OCTOBER. 9th DECEMBER**

The meetings will be held in the Church Hall, Morton, and the **PUBLIC FORUM** will start at 7.15pm.

How to contact South Kesteven District Council

General Enquiries - 01476 40 60 80

Main Office - Council Offices, St Peter's Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ Mon. Tues. Thurs. 8.45am-5.15pm. Wed. 8.45am-4pm Friday 8.45am-4.45pm

Bourne - Town Hall, North Street, Bourne. PE10 9EA Mon-Wed 9am-5pm. Thurs 9am-3.30pm. Fri 9am-4.30pm

Some helpful numbers -

Anti Social Behaviour - 0800 18 30 2 79 Freephone

asb@southkesteven.gov.uk

Building Control - 01476 40 64 44

bcontrol@southkesteven.gov.uk

Council Tax - 01476 40 62 62

revenues@southkesteven.gov.uk

Development Control 01476 40 63 06

planning@southkesteven.gov.uk

Dogs—Fouling 01476 40 62 79

customerservices@southkesteven.gov.uk

Flytipping 01476 40 62 79

customerservices@southkesteven.gov.uk

Rubbish 01476 40 62 79

customerservices@southkesteven.gov.uk

Street Lights 01476 40 60 80

asset@southkesteven.gov.uk