

# MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

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To members of the Morcott Parish Council - White Horse Inn Committee:

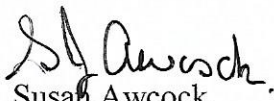
Cllr's Pritchard, Johnson & Whitfield

Reserve member Cllr Harding as stand in if not quorate. Other Morcott Parish Councillors for information.

24<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Your presence is requested at a meeting of the Morcott Parish Council - White Horse Inn Committee at 9.a.m Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Morcott Village Hall. Below is the agenda of items for discussion:

Yours faithfully

  
Susan Awcock  
Clerk to the council

1. Election of Chair
2. Election of deputy Chair
3. Apologies for absence
4. Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation
5. Committee Terms of reference (ref: 61/16 s4/iii & s5 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016)
6. To consider inclusion of a democratic ten minutes at meetings of the Committee and include this if resolved
7. Update on recent contact with Burghley Estates including the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (ref 46/16, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016)
8. To consider nominations for non-voting residents of Morcott with supporting skills to join this committee. (Ref 61/16 s3/iii 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016)
9. To consider a response to the recent ".....before the Horse has bolted!" questionnaire independently originated & circulated by a group of residents
10. Responses to questions put by Cllr Joyce relating to White Horse working party (originally addressed directly to Cllr Johnson rather than the Clerk):
  1. At the meeting last week, when I suggested that I was not overly comfortable with the Chairman of MPC also being the Chairman of the White Horse

Committee I was told it was a legal necessity. I have looked into this and I accept that where there is a full meeting of the Parish Council the Chairman, if present, must preside, but I cannot see that this applies to a committee. To satisfy my curiosity please can you supply me with chapter and verse, and then explain why if the Chairman legally has to Chair any committee, Nick is supposedly the Planning (sub-)committee Chairman and not you. I put 'sub' in brackets because notwithstanding what MPC has chosen to call it the planning 'team' has been chosen from the full Council and therefore clearly is a committee because a sub-committee is formed from a committee.

2. At the same time, I think that I should mention that intrigued by Mike Debar's question and your reply I chose to look up the details of the pub at Old. From the accounts filed at Companies House it seems the Company is insolvent and made a loss in the financial year 2015. Can you clarify why you accepted advice from them, and whether the WHWP undertook proper investigations into their background before accepting their offer of help? I note that the pub at Old apparently has no experience of letting rooms and therefore question who decided to introduce them into the equation
3. I am concerned by the following WHWP statement (or was it a Burghley statement adopted by the WHWP?)  
'In order for The White Horse to be viable and sustainable it must be renovated to a high standard and provide a unique proposition in the local area.'

Because the statement is not supported by the proposal displayed at the exhibition, which contrary to being unique is so similar to the formula used by a large number of pubs in the locality, some of which are on the market/closed and for sale, it may explain why Burghley is seemingly unwillingly to invest any of its own money in the venture. The fact that Burghley will (retain the freehold, take a market rental, but will) not invest money in what it and the WHWP 'sold' the proposal to the village as viable venture does not rest easily with me.

4. I also would question the following statement made at the exhibition....

'It is the view of the White Horse Working Party that Development of this site could reasonably be argued to satisfy Morcott's housing needs for years to come & any further development could be successfully resisted'.

At the last meeting it was again stated that 'any planning application will be treated on its merits' therefore can any member of the WHWP provide substantive written evidence to support that statement and if not explain why it was deemed appropriate to use such an evocative statement in a public display?

11. Date of next meeting.