

MINUTES of the MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Wednesday 1st March 2017 in Morcott Village Hall.

89/16 Attendance Register: Cllr Johnson (Chair) Cllr's Harding, Joyce, Pritchard, Traylen, Whitfield and Williams.

County Councillor Edward Baines, 12 members of the public.

90/16 Apologies for absence: All present

91/16 Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation: None

92/16 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 7th December 2016:
Approved by members being a true record of the meeting

93/16 White Horse Inn proposed development update:

Verbal Report: **White Horse Committee Update – February 2017**

"Since the last Parish Council Meeting on 7th December 2016 the activities of the White Horse Committee have been as follows:

- An informal consultation meeting between members of the White Horse Committee and a group representing the Concerned Residents (a local pressure group) took place on 13th December 2016.
- A meeting between Burghley Estates, RCC, and members of the White Horse Committee was arranged for 20th January 2017 but was cancelled at short notice.
- Following this cancellation an informal update meeting between two members of the White Horse Committee and David Pennell of Burghley Estates took place on 14th February 2017.

Further information available since the last Parish Council Meeting is as follows:

- A new local pressure group in favour of the Burghley Estates proposals to redevelop The White Horse and to build houses on the paddock was established in January.
- Feedback from David Pennell about the public meeting held in Morcott Village Hall in early December was that he was very pleased with the positive outcome of the meeting. At the meeting, David fielded questions from residents concerning the Burghley Estates' proposals for the redevelopment of The White Horse and building houses on the paddock. Many questions were asked of David with views & questions from both those opposing and those supporting the proposals.
- The Consultation documents for the Preferred Options Stage of RCC's current Local Plan Review were originally intended to be published in the summer/autumn of 2016. However, that apparently

- will not now happen before May/June 2017. In the meantime, it is thought that RCC will not be ready to engage in any discussion.
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- It is now expected that Burghley Estates will not progress a planning application for the redevelopment of The White Horse and for building houses on the paddock before the autumn of this year. Burghley Estates have stated that this will only happen if they believe that they have sufficient support from the residents of Morcott.
- Should sufficient support not be forthcoming from residents for the proposals for redevelopment of The White Horse then Burghley Estates have stated that they will instead progress their alternative plan: initially converting The White Horse and its outbuildings to residential use, with new houses on the rear (High Street) car park, followed at a future date by an application to build houses on the paddock." (End of verbal update).

Cllr Edward Baines was asked if he knew when the preferred options will appear. He stated that he was not able to add anymore to the verbal update. He did not know but has been told by RCC that there is an embargo on information concerning the White Horse Inn and he has been unable to obtain any information.

Cllr Joyce stated for clarity that the informal meeting on 13th December was attended by councillors acting as individuals not as councillors. He also questioned some of the statements made in the verbal update and raised the possibility of The White Horse being declared a community asset. He was informed by the chairman that the statements made in the verbal update were factual. He was also reminded that Burghley Estates are the owners of the buildings and land in question. Should Cllr Joyce wish to propose formally that The White Horse be defined as a community asset then he should bring the proposal to council.

Cllr Joyce also raised the issue of minutes of the White Horse Working Party; He was reminded that as it was a working party with no agenda, no resolutions were made so minutes were not necessary although records had been kept. He was reminded by the chairman and other councillors that the White Horse Working Party had produced a generous amount of documentation of its work. He also suggested that questions put to the chairman were not answered, the chairman disagreed and stated that he had answered all questions fully.

Cllr Pritchard put to council an article on the importance of a local pub as featured in the national press and based on research at Leeds University and others (as attached).

94/16 Democratic 10 minutes. An opportunity for members of the electorate to speak on any subject in the agenda:

A resident representing some residents of Willoughby Road requested consideration be given to allowing them to rent the allotment field as a village amenity.

It was also suggested by another resident that the allotment field be allowed to be village amenity (not a resident of Willoughby Road).

Questions were raised by a resident about the Neighbourhood Plan as follows:

1. What is the process for encouraging residents of Morcott to take part in progressing a Neighbourhood Plan?

2. It has been suggested in discussion that between 7 – 10 residents are required to put together a Neighbourhood Plan not as previously stated 10 residents;
3. Who will chair the meeting?
4. Who from Morcott Parish Council will be on the committee progressing a N.P?

95/16 Clerk's Report and actions since the last meeting:

Tree in the lower part of the cemetery

An arboriculturist has surveyed all trees on the estate and tree no 2323 (Sycamore) within the field adjacent to the cemetery is due to have works carried out by a tree surgeon to cut the tree back away from the wall. The tree surgeon has been instructed to carry out these works however as the tree is within the conservation area, he is waiting for Rutland County Council to assess the tree and give consent for such works. Hopefully these works will be carried out in March.

Street Scene

A request has been raised for a street light on Wing Rd at/opposite Tylers Row almshouses. *Agenda item next Parish Council meeting.*

Road surface & worn give-way markings at Fydell Row/Wing Rd junction. *Clerk to advise RCC's Highways department.*

There are concerns about the speed of vehicles entering the village from Wing. *This will be addressed if there are sufficient volunteers to mount a speed watch campaign.*

Mobile Phone signal quality:

Concern has been raised about the poor signal quality & reliability of mobile phone reception in Morcott. Inspection of several different mobile phone network signal strength maps confirms that most of Morcott suffers from poor signal strength due to the distance and location of local masts. Signal boost systems are available for multi-network applications but these are expensive to buy & install if alternative funding is not available. A typical system with sufficient range to cover the village would cost £2000+. There are funding alternatives: for example Vodafone will install a system for no charge under its "Rural Sure Signal" programme if the village makes an application which is successful. This system provides a booster with a range of 500 metres and costs £30/year to run.

If residents have a signal problem with the strength or reliability of their mobile phone signal, please email the clerk with the name of the network provider. This will be an agenda item for the June Parish Council meeting.

To ensure there is not a right of way across the allotments and allotment field:

Relevant papers are with Rutland County Council. As soon as the papers are accepted the right of way across the allotments and allotment field will take effect. This does not affect the permissive path, that as council has agreed the permissive path remains in place from the stile on the allotment boundary to the stile on the far side of the allotment field. Council has the right to withdraw permission at any time.

Trees:

There has been a challenge to the way Rutland County Council deals with the felling of trees in a conservation area details of which will be posted on Morcott Parish Council's website.

96/16 To consider various options for use of the Allotment Field within guidelines:

Cllrs Pritchard & Williams produced a paper on this topic, (copy attached to these minutes.)

Recommendations suggested in the paper:

1. Agree vision for Allotment Field
2. Accurately record size of land and associated value
3. Establish current cost to maintain land and access
4. Understand & document Allotment Field covenants
5. Canvas local opinion regarding use of land
6. Agree preferred Allotment Field option
7. Should Community option be agreed, then:
 - a. Identify potential local interest and support groups
 - b. Establish a village allotment user group
 - c. Identify funding and maintenance sources, including Grants, Charitable funding, Crowd funding, Member subscription, Community and local business donations

An in-depth discussion took place taking into consideration the request for the field to be rented as a village amenity and interest from a local farmer.

Resolution: That Cllr Joyce draws up draft guidelines for letting the field to cover, rent, public liability insurance and maintenance criteria within the next ten days. Length of tenure to be agreed.

To proceed with a tender process by placing an advert (drawn up by Cllr Joyce) for a period of two weeks in the local paper, on the Parish Council website and notice board. Tenders to be received by 5.p.m 21st April 2017.

An extra-ordinary meeting to consider the tenders and related issues regarding the field to be held on Tuesday 2nd May 2017. Unanimously agreed.

97/16 To consider and approve the revised Risk Assessment:

A copy of a draft risk assessment had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Suggested amendments were made. Members agreed and approved the revised risk assessment.

98/16 To consider the criteria required and action for a speed control campaign in 2017:

Members agreed that Cllr Williams and the clerk draw up a plan of action and report back at the next meeting.

99/16 Report and action, Tin Bridge:

Correspondence is currently with NALC's legal team.

100/16 Neighbourhood Plan:

Confirmation from dedicated Neighbourhood Plan Officer Rutland County Council agreeing support. Colin Dunigan is Rutland County Council's dedicated Neighbourhood Plan officer and will support Morcott through the process.

Residents who have registered a commitment to progress a Neighbourhood Plan: Residents and three councillors attended the seminar in February, however to date commitment to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has only been made by two members of the community.

Agreement to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan: Providing there is enough public interest and sufficient volunteers from the community to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Nomination of councillors to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Cllr's Harding, Joyce & Whitfield agreed to join the steering group.

Date of inaugural meeting: Members agreed to hold a public meeting, to establish a steering group. Colin Dunigan will be invited to attend, Cllr's Harding, Joyce and Whitfield to suggest advertising and date etc.

Cllr Williams will design a leaflet for distribution to residents.

Village survey: On hold.

101/16 Accounts to date:

Approved by members

102/16 Applications received in time for the meeting:

None received.

103/16 To consider nominations for a councillor to join the RCC Local Strategic Partnership (LSP):

No nominations.

104/16 Correspondence:

RCC briefing.

105/16 Response to questions put during the Democratic 10 minutes:

Many of the questions were answered during the relevant agenda item.

Chairing the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be for the decision of that group.

Meeting closed at 9.10. pm

Signed..... Dated