

MINUTES of Morcott Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2016 in Morcott Village Hall.

26/16 MEMBERS REGISTER:

Cllr Johnson (Chair), Cllr's Joyce, Harding, Pritchard, Traylen, Whitfield, Williams,

6 members of the public

27/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: All present

28/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION: Cllr Joyce declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 being the tenant of the allotment field. Cllr Joyce will leave the room during the discussion and decision of the declared item.

Members agreed to discuss agenda item 10 immediately after item 7 to allow Cllr Whitfield to leave the meeting.

29/16 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2016: Proposed by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Traylen, that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

30/16 DEMOCRATIC 10 MINUTES: Prior to the meeting an informal meeting had taken place between Councillors and the public during which various issues had been raised and responded to.

Mike Debar asked why all of the reports of the White Horse Working Party had not been posted on Line. Also raised a concern that there are now four councillors on the White Horse Working party as previously there had been three. Would there now be bias within council making decisions on the White Horse?

Marilyn Clayton is concerned that no progress had been made in formulating Neighbourhood Plan for Morcott.

31/16 CLERK'S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING:

DOG FOULING

Regardless of leaflets being distributed to every house in the village some dog owners continue to disregard the notice in particular a large dog fouling the area near the stile in Pingle Lane. No particular offender has been reported.

PRIDE OF MORCOTT

Many thanks to all who took part in the litter pick, weeding, moss clearing and tidying up of the church yard wall. There are still some issues with overhanging bushes and trees which hopefully will be addressed in the near future.

CEMETERY

Photographs have been taken of the sheep in the cemetery and sent to Strutt and Parker in the hope that the wall will be repaired.

COUNCILLOR TRAINING DATE

Monday 27th June 2016 6 p.m. in the Village Hall

32/16 WHITE HORSE PUBLIC CONSULTATION: TO CONSIDER THE DATE AND FORMAT FOR BURGHLEY ESTATES TO PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHITE HORSE INN AND PADDOCK:

Cllrs Johnson, Williams and Mr. Hutchison attended a meeting with David Pennell, Burghley Estates on 25th May during which an arrangement was made, subject to approval by council, for an exhibition showing a proposal for the development of the White Horse Inn and paddock. The suggested date is 12th July between 2.p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Village Hall. The cost will be covered by Burghley Estates. Councillors will hold a briefing session about two weeks before the exhibition to consider: exhibition content, comment sheets, councillor rota, refreshments and context.

Leaflets advertising the event will be distributed to every house in Morcott drawn up by Cllr Williams.

Resolution: That Burghley Estates put on an exhibition of their proposed development of the White Horse Inn and paddock on 12th July 2016. To hold a councillors briefing session approximately two weeks prior to the event. Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Joyce raised concerns about the proposed development and will prepare an alternative proposal. Cllr Joyce had also submitted a letter relating to the lateness of the White Horse working party report. He had been unable to find it on the Parish Council's website. (A copy was posted on the meetings calendar with the agenda and a hard copy delivered personally to him). Other issues raised had been addressed in the democratic 10 minutes.

33/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM CLLR BAINES REGARDING SUPPORT FROM RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL AND CONSIDER THE WAY FORWARD:

To date no report had been received from Cllr Edward Baines. Until support is confirmed by Rutland County Council and site option approval a decision to proceed will not take place.

Cllr Harding commented upon what appeared to be a public misunderstanding about the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan as quoted from a document produced by the Rural Community Council Neighbourhood Planning (process overview and guide) quote from page 3:

“What can and cannot a Neighbourhood Plan achieve.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot.

Prevent any development from ever taking place in an area.

Block specific development.

Conflict with local, national or EU policies.

Reduce allocated development. “

The RCC Neighbourhood Planning document makes it quite clear that:

The purpose of a NP is to “Shape direct and encourage more development” (again a quote from the document).

Cllr Whitfield gave his apologies and left the meeting as he had an appointment elsewhere.

34/16 TO CONSIDER VARIOUS OPTIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE ALLOTMENTS AND ALLOTMENT FIELD:

As his right under the code of conduct, Cllr Joyce read out a letter he had prepared relating to the allotments and allotment field. He then withdrew from the meeting.

The following is a summary of that letter:

A personal apology had been received from the person who had mowed around the allotment field. He was under the impression that it was for recreational use having not realised it was rented.

It appears having spoken with several allotment holders that a minority of dog walkers are effectively causing a nuisance in the allotments and whilst using the allotment field.

1. Locking the gate means that some elderly less able villagers are unable to use the permissive path.
2. One of the allotments has encroached significantly across the access gateway. Others allotment holders have encroached on the access track.
3. The road entrance is dangerous for vehicles.
4. If the present gateway was closed and MPC got all the necessary permissions and agreed funding, I would be happy to move the existing vehicle access to the point where the present hand gate is situated.
5. Discussions would now be needed about the present permissive path and whether it is satisfactory.

In response to the recent email, I now propose that the permissive path is withdrawn and people wishing to use the allotments, they do so by taking the access from Willoughby Road.

Various options were discussed:

- a. Proposed by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Traylen to reinstate vehicular access from North Luffenham Road across the bottom of the allotments to the tenanted field. The clerk to obtain a quotation. Unanimously agreed,
- b. Proposed by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Traylen to investigate the condition of the stile and replacement cost if necessary. Unanimously agreed.
- c. Proposed by Cllr Harding, seconded by Cllr Traylen investigate the cost for suitable a sign for permitted use. Unanimously agreed.

Three of the councillors suggested the article in the Parish News was inappropriate. The chair reminded council that they have a duty of care to protect both the tenant of the allotment field and allotment holders. Failure to do so may result in a compensation claim against council.

35/16 TO CONSIDER CARRYING OUT A RISK ASSESSMENT: Members agreed, that an

39/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN TIME FOR THE MEETING: None received

40/16 CORRESPONDENCE: An email had been received regarding the allotment field. The clerk will acknowledge receipt.

41/16 ITEMS RAISED DURING THE DEMOCRATIC 10 MINUTES:

Raised by Mike Debar: Re The White Horse Working Party:

The chair responded by stating that in his view The White Horse Working Party is and has been compliant in its activities since being formed in May 2015. The evidence for this is as follows:

The working party was set up to have a core of three members of council. The terms of reference approved by council at the May meeting were: "The working party will be able to call on members of the village who are able to offer help and advice for the report. (No more than six at any one time on the working party). The working party does not have any delegated powers and will report to council at the appropriate meeting. This will be a continuing agenda item until an agreed solution is made." The working party has complied with this resolution and has consisted of six members from its second meeting with relevant skills being provided by the three members of the village nominated.

These terms of reference were further supplemented by a document provided to the council by the working party which was discussed at the July 2015 meeting of council. The relevant minute from this meeting states: "Members agreed to all the objectives as laid down in the very precise reports as attached to the agenda from the working party". The report referred to included a slide on "White Horse Working Party: Goals, Objectives and Milestones". The working party has been compliant with these approved terms of reference.

The approved terms of reference of the working party are silent on the issue of there being more than three members of council on the working party but it is notable when investigating the terms of reference for other similar working parties set up by other parish councils that the main concern is that there are sufficient members of council on a working party rather than the converse.

On the point of bias the members of council who are on the working party have maintained their independence and continue to do so. This is encouraged as part of the culture of the working party and has resulted in an open style of debate which is beneficial to the process. (Councillor Williams spoke up in support of this statement).

On the subject of minutes of the working party meetings: these were kept initially but are not required by standing orders nor by the terms of reference and were viewed as over complex. The regular updates to council (made in December & May) were viewed as sufficiently comprehensive.

Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.