**Annual Parish Meeting of**

**MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft Minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2015 at 7pm**

**Morley Village Hall**

Present: Chairman Councillor Cordey, Vice Chairman Councillor Allison Councillors, Jon Blake, David Hastings, David Eckles, Craig McLeod, District Councillor Michael Edney, (County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury arrived 7.10pm) In Attendance: (Clerk) Jo Rayner, & 3 members of the public. 4th member of the public arrived at 7.14pm

 **Meeting Opened 7. 06pm**

1. **Apologies.** Councillor Brian Clarke who is in Ireland
2. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2014**

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2014. The previous minutes were signed as a true record. Proposed by Councillor McLeod seconded by Councillor Hastings, Signed by the Chairman Councillor Cordey

1. **Matters arising.** None
2. **Annual reports from Local Organisations:** Previously circulated to all Councillors via email
* **Parish Council.**

**Morley Parish Council**

**Chairman’s report for 2014-2015**

Good evening everyone.

Over the past year Morley Parish Council have been active in pursuing a number of initiatives, some held over from the past and some new ones and as Chairman it has been my pleasure to chair these activities.

Just prior to last years Annual Parish Meeting our new Clerk took the reigns of the Parish Council. Jo has worked tirelessly to organise, record and create a healthy and prudent working environment.

During the past year the Parish Council have been active in working with the Youth Football Club with negotiations to secure their long term future by way of a formal lease agreement. This agreement will not only secure the longevity of football for all ages, but will also provide a working platform for the football club to secure financial backing for many innovative ideas. The final draft lease is now available and will be signed off very shortly.

Over the past years financial support for the maintenance of our two beautiful church grounds has needed updating in line with modern costs. I am pleased to report that an increase in allowances have been set aside to aid the upkeep of our church grounds.

Again over the past year the Parish Council have been active in continuing work on the Morley Pathways Working Group. This work has been looking at the viability to provide a pathway for pedestrians walking to Wymondham College. In consultation with a local land owner Morley Parish Council have taken the best offer to use of a parcel of land on the opposite side of Golf Links Road. A project study has been produced and in consultation with Highways Division work will soon be undertaken to provide a walkway along Golf Links Road. From the college to joining the pavement area. We are indebted to private land owners who are supporting this initiative

Other works undertaken on a regular basis include periodic inspection of the playground equipment. Grants have been secured to fund additional play equipment and the equipment is now installed for the childrens pleasure

The Parish Council have not secured the Anglia Water site much to the disappointment of those involved over the past 2 years.

On a general note your Parish council has met on a regular basis and have conducted itself in a transparent and efficient manner supported by all members of the Parish Council to whom I extend a very sincere vote of thanks for all their support and work over the past year.

On a personal note this will be my final report as Chairman and councillor of Morley Parish Council as I intend to stand down from Parish Council duties to undertake a new role.

 *Proposed by Councillor Blake seconded by Councillor Eckles*

* **District Councillor Michael Edney**

This year has been the seventh time in eight years that South Norfolk Council has frozen council tax in each of our 119 parishes.  It represents a 25pc cut in real terms over the period.

We all know that the Government has reduced the financial support it gives Councils but we’ve made-up the difference by increasing trading income by selling our services to other councils, giving small firms the same opportunities to recycle at work to what they’re used to doing at home and helping more people recycle garden waste with a brown bin.

We’re adding value to land the Council owns by developing new offices-for-rent and homes at Poringland and Long Stratton.  We’ve also worked with our neighbours on infrastructure improvements closer to Norwich that have supported new house-building.

So the combination of running a cost-effective Council together with additional income from trading and the extra council tax paid by the owners of new homes means we have achieved the freeze in such a way that the economies we’ve had to make haven’t resulted in ‘cuts’ that the public would notice.  And we haven’t jacked-up fees or charges either.

We’re proud that service levels have actually improved and public satisfaction with South Norfolk is now a remarkable 94% according to MORI and the Halifax Bank ranks our quality of life the best in East Anglia.

So I just want to highlight a few areas where South Norfolk has made a difference this year as
•    We grow the economy with practical measures to support business, planning & housing
•    We look after those who need the council’s help the most
•    We maximise the Quality of Life for local residents and businesses

Starting with quality of life:

This year we’re upgrading the public loos in our market towns. Clean loos are an essential part of a modern shopping centre and we are treating our larger towns as the shopping centres they are, which can only help shopkeepers compete against the Internet.  And parking is still free at least for the first hour.

I’m pleased that South Norfolk is one of the few councils still to award community grants.  With £500,000 being available to support community projects over the next four years across South Norfolk.

South Norfolk has played a leading role in driving recycling forward.  You can now recycle envelopes, yogourt pots, glass, envelopes & food-trays in the green bin.  As a result, recycling is up 32% in just 6 months and best of all we worked with our neighbouring councils to form a company where the profits from the sale of the valuable things that are thrown away in the green bin will be retained by our local Councils to keep council tax down.

We have just taken delivery of £1.8m of new refuse and street cleansing vehicles to keep South Norfolk clean and tidy and to have equipment that’s more reliable and cheaper to run.

We don’t forget that the Council is there to look after those who need help the most.

Building affordable housing is an important element that helps keep local families together and close to family and friends rather than see people forced to move to the city.  We have completed over 950 new affordable homes in just four years so that most people in need on the housing register get housed within a few months.  So we’re encouraging families, especially in villages where we have a ‘local connection’ requirement, to register on the housing list because there’s never been a better time for those in need to benefit from a new ‘affordable’ home that’s rented a social landlord.

We have eliminated the backlog for adapting homes with a wheelchair ramp, installing a walk-in shower or even just fixing grab-handles helps keep people independent in their homes for longer and reduces the burden on the health service.

Our new Gypsy and Traveller “Transit Site” near the Showground has opened and the result is illegal roadside encampments have been eliminated because The Police will have the key to the site and can direct travellers to the site in a way that has not been possible before.

Growing the Economy is another important activity of the council.

But it’s not something we can do alone.  That’s why we are pleased that, working with the New Anglia LEP, which replaced EEDA, South Norfolk firms have received more grants and loans to local businesses to create jobs than any other area in Norfolk & Suffolk.   Firms like Frank Dale Foods at Bunwell or Tas Valley Mushrooms near Newton Flotman have all received help to expand and grow their businesses.

Our Pub of the Year competition is still regarded as the leading such contest by independent charity The Pub Is The Hub.  For six years we have selected local winners from the different parts of South Norfolk.  The competition promotes our country pubs and also helps drive up standards of customer service helping pubs to remain viable for longer.   And, where plans exist to close a pub, we’ve helped local residents place the building on the Community Asset Register to give local people the first option to buy the premises.

We’re prepared to invest reserves and borrow to build infrastructure alongside housing growth.  That’s good news in Wymondham, where the railway bridge will be widened and flooding issues sorted.  And at Long Stratton, where funding for the bypass is being put into place.

Meanwhile we’re in active dialog with local GPs to ensure that new surgeries are built in tandem with housing growth.

Finally, a key priority for the Council is to make sure that ALL local homes and business can access the faster Broadband that’s an essential part of modern life.   The Council has committed over £1.25m to ensure that super-fast Broadband will be delivered much more quickly to neighbourhoods throughout the district, which would otherwise have had to wait for years to be connected and a new special fund will help even the most isolated communities get access to faster speeds to boost the economy and help people keep in touch more easily.  We’ll be able to give more details of how this will happen when BT updates its plan for South Norfolk in early June.

The Council has 86 separate business elements from building control to dog-catching, paying benefits to fly-tipping.  In each of these separate activities we aim to be amongst the best in the country.  We have a well-trained and loyal staff who deliver all this for an average of £2.50 per week per house.

Michael Edney
SNC Councillor - Wicklewood Ward

* **County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury**

**2015 Annual County Council Report**

**Council Tax**

The Council has frozen the Council Tax for the coming year but will have to reduce expenditure to balance the budget. Some services will be reduced or changed as a consequence. Expenditure will be monitored and proposals to meet a budget shortfall of £88millionfor 2016-17 and 2017-18 will be discussed in June.

Roll out of Broadband

The Council is continuing to use matched funding from Government to roll out Broadband across the county using matched funding from Government.

South Norfolk Council is also proposing to add some funding to help cover the ‘not’ spots in the district.

**Mobile phones**

The governments Mobile Infrastructure Project is making £150million available to improve mobile coverage. There should soon be increased reception in the county due to the newly available 800MHz frequency which allows signals to travel further.

Environment and transport

129 Parish Partnership schemes have been agreed for the coming year. These are mainly for signage, trods etc.

**Recycling**

When trying to agree a budget it was decided to open some recycling centres for just four days instead of seven and to charge an entry fee of £2. Due to a large number of objections these two proposals have been dropped.

**Education and care of children**

Although Ofsted found NCC inadequate during the last inspection great improvements have been made. The proportion of schools judged by Ofsted to be ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ has risen from 59% in Autumn 2012 to 73% in February 2015.

Due to high levels of take up for the government funded, free childcare places for two year olds, Norfolk is in the top 15 highest performing authorities for this type of provision.

The Government Minister for Children and Families has written to Norfolk County Council to acknowledge that the recent review of children’s social care has shown clear signs of improvement. Additional social workers have been recruited and the number of children in care has started to fall.

The county’s first Early Help Hub was set up in South Norfolk Council offices last year. Here a multi-agency team provide support for families to try to prevent their problems escalating. This preventative work will gradually be extended to provide six hubs across the whole county.

**Adult Education**

Unfortunately a recent Ofsted inspection considered NCC Adult Education to be ‘inadequate’ so a Rapid Improvement Team has been formed and they are currently working on an Action Plan to remedy this. The many apprenticeships and courses for 16 -19 year olds will have to be transferred to the colleges if the service does not improve.

**Museums Service**

Both Gressenhall and Castle Museum have received large Lottery grants to extend their service and make it more interesting.

Gressenhall Museum is turning some of its rooms into a ‘Workhouse’ so that people can see what people experienced years ago when the building was a workhouse and what life was like in those times.

The museum also houses most pieces of a large Steppe Mammouth found on the coast and is currently making casts of those pieces so that it can display a life-sized replica. The mammouth was larger than the dinosaurs at that time.

Castle Museum is changing it’s Keep to make it look as it did in Norman times. This 12th Century Royal Palace should be very splendid when it is finished and it is anticipated that it will greatly increase the number of visitors to the museum and surrounding area.

**Attendance**

I endeavor to attend all Parish Council meetings, but occasionally I have to miss one due to another meeting elsewhere. Local parish clerks know that they can contact me anytime if there is a problem in the area that I can help resolve.

**Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury**

**Hingham Division**

* **Village Hall Committee**

**VHMC REPORT TO FOLLOW**

* **Morley Youth Football Club**

2014/15 – MORLEY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club carries on growing with an additional 2 teams last season, U5’s and an adult ladies team all benefiting on the success of the Club to date.

Over the last 12 months we have seen an increase in members rising from 167 to 205 through all age groups.

A further 6 volunteers have come on board assisting in the U5’s, U7’s and ladies groups.

There has been a further increase in the numbers of children of the Club who are attending the Norwich and Cambridge football academies, a credit to all the hard work carried out by the coach’s.

The Club has maintained a high level of participation in the South Norfolk Youth Football League (SNYFL), Norfolk Youth Football Combination (NYFC) & Norfolk’s Woman’s & Girls Football League (NWGF).

Achievements in the SNYFL this season has seen the U8’s, U9’s, U12’s, U13’s & U15’s all coming top in their age groups with either cup’s, trophy’s for the season. Players have also been awarded goal scores of the season, player of the season, sportsmen of the season or have become runners up in their age group.

The Club plans to keep up this level of commitment to football in the Morley community for the foreseeable future and hope the Parish Council will continue to help & support us in doing this.

Regards

Tim Chenery – Morley Youth Football Club - Manager / Chairman

* **Churches of Morley St Peter & St Botolph**

**CHURCHES REPORT 2015**

The village of Morley is fortunate to have two churches. Morley St Botolph and Morley St Peter. They were both built in and around the 14th Century and have many distinctive features. They are part of the High Oak benefice which comprises churches from Morley (2)., Hackford, Deopham and Deopham.

Having been built some 500 years ago they both need constant and loving care. Morley St Peter has just had a major electrical rewire notwithstanding that there are always other building jobs to focus on and work on churches doesn’t come cheap, primarily for major works through various grant aid schemes. Morley St Botolph has many major work problems that need to be undertaken ranging from a new roof section over the north side of the vestry and a complete rewire. On a positive note one of the stained glass window sections needed to be removed and completely rebuilt and replaced. This work was funded through Norfolk Churches Trust. In addition to this the grounds and burial areas need to be regularly maintained, this work is financially supported by the Morley Parish Council to whom we extend a very appreciative vote of thanks

The churches themselves have been used for a variety of special events over the years ranging from the Jubilee celebrations to last years special memorial commemorating the end to the first world war. The latter managed to raise several hundred pounds, half of the proceeds were donated to Royal British Legion.

The Rector continues his close work with Morley School, taking regular assemblies, and supporting the Christian Ethos of the school. We were all delighted that the School has been graded as good by Ofsted.

The Church continues to be involved with Methodist Church in Christians together in Morley and sharing in Christmas and Harvest Festivals.

Over the past year both churches have seen a number of weddings, baptisms and burials, however congregation numbers are diminishing year by year so we are always glad to new congregational members.

* **Morley CofE Primary School.** They key thing is entered into a federation with Taclonestion 1 governing body covering both schools.
* **Wymondham College.** No Report
* **PCSO Hodge – Norfolk Community Police.** No Report
* **Brown’s Charity & Morley Fuel Allotment Trust**

History: These two charities were set up many years ago. Both used income from land. Browne’s provided shoe leather so that children could go to school and Morley Fuel Allotment Trust was set up to help the retired agricultural workers in the village of which there are only one left. All the land was later sold and the money invested with the Charity Commission. The Browne’s Committee meets every year to decide how the income should be used to benefit the villagers.

1. **Parishioners’, members of the public and press**

There were 4 members of the public & no press present.

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| SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2014/2015 RECEIPTS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Precept |  | 6806.00 |
| SN Grant |  | 215.00 |
| NALC Bursary |  | 0.00 |
| VAT Refund  |  | 2119.81 |
| Rents |  | 618.75 |
| SNC Recycling  |  | 250.00 |
| Insurances & annual subs contribution VHC |  |  528.48 |
| Interest |  | 0.91 |
| Other |  | 6937.46 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS |  | £17,476.41 |
|  |  |  |
| PAYMENTS |  |  |
| VAT  |  | 2071.50 |
| Audit |  | 30.00 |
| Expenses  |  | 385.73 |
| Wages  |  | 2570.10 |
| HMRC |  | 92.40 |
| Dog bins |  | 0.00 |
| Insurance  |  | 893.93 |
| Subscriptions  |  | 225.40 |
| Training |  | 20.00 |
| Pest Control  |  | 280.00 |
| Donations (s.137) |  | 217.00 |
| Grass Cutting |  | 0.00 |
| Ground Maintence |  | 955.00 |
| Hedge cutting |  | 145.00 |
| Turner Field Rental |  | 266.66 |
| Repairs |  | 273.61 |
| ROSPA Play Area Inspection |  | 59.95 |
| Other Projects |  | 8609.55 |
| TOTAL PAYMENTS |  | £17,095.83  |
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Meeting closed 07.36pm

Mrs Joanne Rayner Signed by the chairman

Clerk to the Parish Council \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18th May 2015

 Date:

**Contact Details**

<http://morley-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

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