**Morley Parish Council**

Draft Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at Morley Village Hallat 7.30 pm on 20 March 2017

**Present:** Craig McLeod (Chairman) (CM), David Eckles (Vice-Chairman)(DE), Jon Blake (JB), David Hastings (DH), Brian Clarke (BC)

**In attendance:** Gareth Roderick-Jones (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury

1 **To receive any apologies** District Councillor Michael Edney

2 **To accept and sign the minutes from 20 February 2017**

The minutes were accepted unanimously and signed.

3 **To accept any declaration(s) of interests**

none

4 **Adjournment for Public Participation**

traffic issues on Golf Links Road were raised by members of the public – this will be dealt with under item 8.

**5 Report from District and County Councillors**

**County Councillor Dewsbury** informed us about Highways England initiatives including the dualling of the A47 and improvements to Thickthorn Interchange on the A11, which mean that traffic travelling east towards Norwich will bypass the roundabout. The consultation period is about to start and Cllr Dewsbury will keep us informed.

**6 Planning matters**

**2017/0001** proposed anaerobic digestion renewable energy unit: CM summarised the current situation as follows:

* 341 objections have been made by organisations and individuals;
* the application will be heard at the Planning Committee meeting on 26 April and representatives of the Parish Council, residents of Morley and the District Councillor will have the opportunity to voice their opinions;
* CM thanked the residents who have invested time and effort into researching the issues and making objections;
* the most forceful objections focus on:
  + environmental issues, which the applicant has not so far addressed
  + Highways issues, given the unsuitability of the infrastructure in this area, and the inaccurate figures which were quoted in the original application;
  + odour – while the plant can, in theory, be claimed to be hermetically sealed, the vehicles travelling to and fro through the village would not be
  + heritage issues including proximity, in a prominent position in open countryside, to important listed buildings
  + wildlife issues – surveys have yet to be concluded but are likely to include potential threats to water voles, bats, badgers, great crested newts and birds of prey, especially peregrine falcons

**7 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

none

**8** **Highways Issues:**

a There was a near miss on Golf Links Road recently. JB’s wife and also Corinna Pharoah, a member of the public who was present at the meeting were both witnesses and have made statements to the police. A vehicle, being driven at speed and apparently out of control, mounted the footway and narrowly avoided hitting two schoolchildren. Within days a second, similar incident happened in the same place.

JB has had a meeting with South Norfolk Engagement Officer PC Jim Squires. He agreed that the current signs do not give adequate warning of the road narrowing and the beginning of the footway. He suggested that this could be improved, and also the footway could be extended a short distance and a wooden post be installed to force drivers to slow and give way.

JB also has a meeting tomorrow (21 March) with Paul Sellick of NCC Highways and will discuss these ideas with him, and also possible measures such as speed bumps, a priority system (as they have in Spooner Row) and also the placing of SAM2 electronic signage (see below). Mr Sellick will visit Golf Links Road at the busy period in the afternoon to witness the volume and behaviour of the traffic.

b Morley PC has the go-ahead to purchase a SAM2 electronic sign system with a 50% grant from Norfolk County Council. It is proposed that we set aside the 50% Parish Council contribution from funds so that the SAM2 (preferably with data-gathering capability) can be researched and purchased.

proposed CM, seconded DE and agreed unanimously

c a member of the public asked when the last traffic survey was carried out on Golf Links Road; JB will discuss with Paul Sellick.

**9 Financial Matters**

**a** The following payments were approved (proposed DE , seconded BC and agreed unanimously):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **payee** | **description** | **cheque** | **amount** |
| Gareth Roderick-Jones | salary March | 101348 | £194.86 |
| Abate Ltd | pest control | 101349 | £84.00 |

b Balances as follows as at 28 February 2017 were noted:

current account £3597.55

savings 1 £1746.91

savings 2 £100.24

less outstanding cheques £529.60

Balance £4915.10

c Annual payment to Morley St Peters: we have already made a payment of £200 during the current financial year, so the next payment will be made in April 2017.

**10 Village Sign: repair of storm damage**

CM has received quotes from Freddy West for the repair of the village sign, including cleaning and refurbishment:

£250 with anodised metal post

£220 with oak post

It was proposed that we accept the quote for £220 with a hardwood post: proposed DE, seconded DH and all agreed – GRJ will confirm with Mr West and CM will make detailed arrangements with him.

**11 Community Governance Review**

There has been an approach from Wicklewood PC to discuss a possible merger. A letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission (with links to online information) has been circulated and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

**12 Year 7 places at Wymondham College**

Only 12 places were made available for local pupils, all living within just 0.6 miles of the College. CM has discussed this with the Principal, Jonathan Taylor, who has explained funding difficulties and lack of classroom space – he has approached George Freeman MP about this. He has however been able to make a further 9 local places available. He has agreed to re-examine the current admissions policy (the Parish Council is a consultee on the College’s admissions policy).

**13 Correspondence:** the following were noted

emails regarding road safety on Golf Links Road (various)

emails regarding Year 7 places at Wymondham College

Local Government Boundary Review recommendations

emails regarding annual payment to PCC

SAM2 funding confirmation

invitation to open evening at Police HQ

police newsletter

request for feedback on CAF project (WigWags)

**14 Items for the Next Agenda/AOB**

For information – Morley Village and Sports Hall will hold the annual Beer Festival with overnight camping on 9-10 June 2017

There is some evidence of non-human digging on the field – JB/DE will monitor

**15** **Date of Next Meeting**

April meeting will be held earlier to avoid Easter Monday: Monday 10 April 2017 at 7.30pm