Morley Parish

**Draft minutes of Annual Parish Meeting**

**held at 7.30 pm 21 May 2018**

Chair: Cllr Craig McLeod, Chairman of the Parish Council

Councillors present: Jon Blake, David Hastings, Brian Clarke

Also present: Clerk Gareth Roderick-Jones, members of the public

Apologies: none

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and then presented his report on the activities and priorities of the Parish Council for the year past and aspirations for the year to come. His report is to be published on the Parish Council’s website in full.

There was a brief report from Wymondham College which had been sent in by email before the meeting. The report included information from the College on its recent site developments, excellent exam results and outstanding sporting achievements. It also mentioned the new primary school which is expected to open in September 2020, and the expanding intake to cater for a considerable demand for places.

A representative of Morley Primary School reported on developments and issues at the school. Morley Primary has gained an excellent reputation for its advances in the field of Maths teaching. They have a Maths specialist who also advises other schools, and has visited Shanghai for training in the Shanghai Method. The school do not yet have high speed broadband. They are waiting for action from Norfolk County Council to enable the connection to take place. The school are looking to extend the staff areas of the school to cater for an increased number of staff. Unfortunately they have suffered two break-ins recently.

A report from the Football Club described a considerable increase in membership in the 2016-17 season, which caused practical difficulties such as having to use four different venues for fixtures – as the immediate area is short of pitches with floodlighting, they have had to look further afield. In the 2017-18 season numbers became more manageable. The club became a registered charity and now have a fundraising member. The worst weather in years played havoc with everyone’s fixture lists, and fixtures have only recently caught up. The 2018-19 season will see restructuring of the club. The FA have carried out a ground inspection and report, and some issues (such as a hard crust under the surface of the field) will be dealt with to improve drainage. The club expressed an interest in reopening negotiations for a lease with the Parish Council now that they have charitable status.

The Village Hall Committee’s report described a busy and successful year. Broadband is now available at the Hall as a result of a collaboration with funding partners. Last year’s Beer Festival attracted well over 1,000 people; the first wedding was held at the Hall, and the first Christmas Market. Income from regular user groups and private hires has increased, and fundraising (including the Beer Festival) netted over £5k. There is now an online calendar on the Facebook page – the use of social media for marketing purposes has been a success. The Hall Committee are seeking match funding to help with improvements including window and door replacements this year, and redecorating is also planned. This year they also plan a review of the Climbing Club’s operations to enable the facility to be used more widely. New volunteers and trustees will be needed to help with the running of the Hall.