Morley Parish

**Draft minutes of Annual Parish Meeting**

**held at 7.30 pm 22 May 2017**

Chair: Cllr Craig McLeod, Chairman of the Parish Council

Councillors present: Jon Blake, David Hastings, Brian Clarke

Also present: County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, District Councillor Michael Edney, Clerk Gareth Roderick-Jones, members of the public

Apologies: Cllr David Eckles

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and then discussed the main priorities for the Parish Council:

* Road safety and especially the safety of children. There are limited resources, but with the support of County and District Councils, the PC intended to take all possible safety measures, including the purchase of an electronic road speed sign. Discussions with County Highways to improve safety are ongoing.
* The upkeep of the two churchyards, as community assets.
* Maintaining the playing fields and play equipment.
* Working with the Village and Sports Hall Committee (for example in regard to the new climbing wall).
* Monitoring planning applications – for example, the proposed anaerobic digestion plant. Opposition to this proposal has galvanised the community, and Cllr McLeod praised the way that people from different parts of the community have worked together.
* Cllr McLeod thanked all those who had contributed the work of the Parish Council in the last year – Cllr Desbury, Cllr Edney, parish councillors and clerk.

Laura Green, the new Head at Morley Primary School discussed the following issues:

* Road safety at and around the primary school is a serious issue.
* The school has very poor broadband provision, and she is currently discussing this with Norfolk County Council. She queried whether the school is excluded from plans to provide 95% of the area with high speed broadband – Cllr Edney assured her that no distinction was made between different types of premises (residential, industrial, hospitals, schools etc).
* Budget issues are a difficulty.
* The primary school await more information on the proposed new free school at Wymondham College.

Cllr Michael Edney gave a report as District Councillor:

* South Norfolk DC has been voted in the top six councils in the UK – only two District Councils achieved this, the other being Sevenoaks, which went on to become the eventual winner.
* Wards within the district have been reorganised, and there have been some changes to parish boundaries, with councils having the opportunity to work with neighbouring parishes.
* Much of Cllr Edney’s time in recent months has been occupied with matters to do with the proposed anaerobic digestion plant.
* Cllr Edney has been elected Deputy Leader of SNDC, and has taken on broadband provision as part of his new portfolio.
* Many of the District’s plans have had to be amended because of the unexpected General Election.

Cllr Margaret Dewsbury gave a report as County Councillor:

* The County are starting with a balanced budget which will have to be adhered to.
* The Parish Partnership Scheme is due to continue.
* The County are working with BT to achieve 95% high speed broadband coverage by 2020.
* The Library Service has been improved, with libraries being more active, offering a range of activities for different age groups, for example maths-based activities aimed at involving young people.
* There are funds to upgrade museums in the county, to help them to become financially viable.

Corinna Pharoah reported on behalf of the Village and Sports Hall Committee:

* The hall is a charity, managed by a committee which consists of elected trustees with a brief to run the hall, raise funds and provide community activities.
* The climbing wall which was installed in the 2016-17 financial year was made possible by a series of grants and by working with the parish council. The wall is operated in conjuction with South Norfolk Climbing Club.
* The Village Hall now has WiFi which has been provided and installed in exchange for reasonable promotion of the sponsors.
* The last Beer Festival was a great success, thanks very much to the team effort behind it. The next Beer Festival and family fun day is on 9-10 June 2017. It will raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA), Village and Sports Hall funds, and the 1st Attleborough Scout Group.
* During the last financial year, there were a number of changes in the Committee.
* As a registered charity, the Hall need to have the books examined, and are looking for a suitable volunteer.
* Improvements and upgrades continue to be made to the hall and its facilities; more private hires and funding are needed to finance these improvements.