

MORLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Morley Village and Sports Hall
on Monday 20 January 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs C McLeod (CM) (Chair), D Eckles (DE) (Vice Chair), D Hastings (DH), B Clarke (BC), I Chapman (IC)

In Attendance:, Parish Clerk G Roderick-Jones, District Cllr R Elliott

1. **To receive any apologies:** County Cllr M Dewsbury
2. **To accept and sign the minutes from 18 November 2024:** the minutes were agreed and signed
3. **To accept any declarations of interest:** none
4. **Adjournment for public participation:** none
5. **To receive reports from the County and District Councillors:** County Cllr Dewsbury had submitted a report by email and this had been circulated to the council.

District Cllr Elliott presented a report on the following:

- Local government devolution – government white paper was published in December 2024 re the creation of strategic authorities on a large scale (1.5 million + population); Norfolk and Suffolk opted to take up the option of belonging to a Priority Programme for the setting up of a series of unitary authorities (0.5 million population each) to replace the current two-stage County and District councils. Membership of the Priority Programme would entitle the current councils to government support to reach the next stage of devolution which would entail the cancellation of scheduled elections and the holding of mayoral elections in May 2026 and unitary elections in 2027 or 2028.
 - Finances – in response to a reduction of funding from central government, there will be an increase to the District Council portion of the Council Tax amounting to £5.00 per household per annum at Band D.
 - There will be recycling events at Taverham and Diss which will be advertised.
 - A Women's Safety Charter aimed at reducing violence against women and girls has been launched by the District Council.
 - The Help Hub is visiting various locations – these will be advertised.
 - The mitigation payment system to offset Nutrition Neutrality has begun and has seen the re-start of building programmes.
6. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:** clerk will follow up obtaining information regarding verge and hedge cutting by local contractors.
 7. **Planning matters previously circulated to the councillors:**
late applications - none
 8. **Financial matters:**

- a APPROVED payments (proposed by DE, seconded by IC)

payee	description	amount
Gareth Roderick-Jones	January salary	£265.60
TTSR Ltd	Grounds maintenance (final pay't 2024)	£1011.18
Brian Clarke Farming	Hedge & grounds work	£336.00
The Play Inspection Company	Annual RoSPA safety inspection	£108.30

- b NOTED bank balances as at 14 January 2025
- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| current | £8,174.76 |
| savings 1 | £103.34 |
| savings 2 | £2,643.26 |
| Balance | £10,921.36 |

- c Precept Demand for 2025-26: The council chose to increase the precept by 3.2% which results in a total precept of £11,378. This entails an increase in the Parish portion of the Band D Council Tax charge of £1.99 per household per annum to £55.77 per annum.

(proposed by CM and seconded by DH, all agreed)

9. Highways and road safety issues:

- CM has asked County Cllr Dewsbury for support in following up current requests with Highways
- Anglian Water have completed the installation of the new water meter

10. Flooding on Permissive Path: no issues recently reported

11. Playground: no current issues

12. Insurance claim for water leak: DE will follow up once the contractors have had an opportunity to submit their portion of the paperwork to the insurers.

13. Renewal of Insurance for 2025/26: ongoing; for next agenda.

14. Wymondham College bus service provision: District Cllr will follow up regarding the school travel plan via Planning and Enforcement.

15. Re-registering The Buck as an Asset of Value to the Community: SNDC have asked for more information about current and future events at the Buck before they can process the application. Councillors will send the clerk ideas/information asap.

16. Vacancies on the parish council: CM will use social media to invite interested parties to attend the next meeting to consider co-option.

17. Correspondence:

18. Any other business (for information only)/items for next agenda: VAT reclaim

19. Date & Time of Next Meeting: Monday 17 February 2025 at 7.30pm