



WEBSITE

# Morton-On-Swale

## Parish Council



FACEBOOK

Contact: [Clerk@mortononswale-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@mortononswale-pc.gov.uk)

Website: [www.mortononswale-pc.gov.uk](http://www.mortononswale-pc.gov.uk)

### Newsletter - May 2026

#### Annual Parish Meeting

The Council has organised an Annual Parish Meeting officiated by the Chair and Clerk at **6.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> May** before the next full PC meeting (which starts at 7.30pm on the same evening). This meeting is a mandatory community-focused meeting and enables residents to hear reports on the past year's activities, ask questions and suggest ideas to their Parish Council. If you intend to participate, kindly inform us ahead of time to assist with our preparations; however, attendance without prior notice is also welcomed.

#### Finances And Audit

For the year ending 31st March 2027, the Annual Council Tax charge from North Yorkshire Council for a Band C property in Morton-on-Swale is £2,254.85. Of this, the Parish Council accounts for just £42.59 (slightly under 0.02% of the total bill). This was an increase of just 22p compared with the previous year.

The Council's finances for the year ending 31st March 2026 were subject to an annual internal audit, conducted by an independent Chartered Public Finance Accountant. The outcome was completely satisfactory, and the report is available to view on the Parish Council website. Members of the public can (with reasonable notice) view and inspect financial transaction documents relating to the 2025/26 financial year during a 6-week period commencing 22nd June 2026 (Monday-Friday only). Details on how to request this access will be published on the Parish Council's website and also on Parish notice boards at the end of May.

#### Community Survey – Your Voice Matters

Earlier this year, Morton-on-Swale Parish Council carried out a community survey to try to get a better understanding as to what matters most to residents. The aim was simple: to ensure your priorities shape the Council's work - from how funding is allocated and how donations are made, to how we engage with key partners such as Highways and the Police. We received 89 responses representing a 30% return rate which provides a robust and valuable insight into the views of our community. The survey highlighted several clear key priorities from the community:

- Road safety and traffic-calming emerged as the most significant concern. Residents consistently raised issues around traffic speed, volume, and unsafe road conditions.
- Strong support for improvements to footpaths, walking and cycling routes
- Increased focus on biodiversity and green spaces
- Ongoing concerns around crime and community safety

The results present a strong and consistent case for action. The most frequently raised issue was the need for improved pedestrian crossings, alongside wider concerns about infrastructure and future development. These findings give the Parish Council a clear mandate to:

- Work with partners to push for improved traffic management and road safety.
- Advocate for better pedestrian infrastructure.
- Seek improvements to drainage, transport, and wider infrastructure.
- Dedicate resources effectively such as community donations and infrastructure investments.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey. Your input is vital in helping the Council represent the community effectively and strengthen our voice when working with key stakeholders.



The full results of the survey can be found on the Council website.

## Speeding And Road Safety Update

Following the recent community survey, it is clear that road safety, speeding, drainage, signage, and general highways maintenance remain the top concerns for residents of Morton-on-Swale. While these issues are a priority for the Parish Council, responsibility for such matters largely sit with external organisations, including North Yorkshire Council and the Police. This means the Parish Council's role is to report issues, liaise with partners, and strongly advocate on behalf of residents.

The Council has already been actively trying to make a difference such as:

- Engagement with Highways: Feedback from the 2026 community survey has been shared, alongside key questions and requests for action.
- Police & Highways Meeting: We have requested a dedicated and open meeting with North Yorkshire Council and the police. In the meantime, the Police have confirmed their attendance at the next Parish Council meeting (N.B. we recommend checking beforehand in case this changes).
- Mayor's Office Discussions: The Council is arranging to meet the North Yorkshire Mayor's Office to explore potential support.

The Council is keen to understand if there is interest in forming a dedicated road safety group. The aim would be to:

- Build additional momentum behind these issues
- Strengthen engagement with relevant authorities
- Ensure residents' concerns are clearly and effectively represented

If you are interested in getting involved, or if you would like an update on any of the actions/meetings outlined above, then please get in touch and keep an eye on our website.

## Community Donations Policy And Budget

Morton-on-Swale Parish Council has introduced a new mechanism to support community donation requests. From April 2026, a Section 137 budget has been established, with £500 allocated for the 2026/27 financial year. This provision, under

the Local Government Act 1972, enables parish councils to spend a limited amount of money for the direct benefit of the community.

A new Community Donations Policy has also been developed to ensure funding is distributed fairly and transparently. The policy clearly sets out the objectives of the fund, the application process and eligibility criteria.

Donations are to support projects that enhance community well-being, social cohesion, and quality of life for residents of the village through supporting activity to support community facilities, community events and community-led interventions to address the key priorities from the community survey.

Applications will be assessed through an open and transparent process, although funding cannot be guaranteed. A group can apply once a year for a maximum of £250. Further details will be available on the Council website from the end of May. If you think your group or project could benefit, please contact the Council to register your interest.

### Fundraising & Events Committee

In September 2025, the former *Friends of Morton* group was formally established as the Parish Council's Fundraising & Events Committee. The Committee's purpose, as set out in its Terms of Reference (available on the Council website), is to plan, organise, and deliver events on behalf of the Parish Council to promote social cohesion and raise funds to support the community.

The Committee operates under the authority of the Parish Council. If you are interested in the work of the Committee or would like to get involved, please get in touch with the Council - we would be delighted to hear from you. The next meeting of the Fundraising & Events Committee will be on **19<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

### Speed Awareness Bin Stickers

Previous community events organised by Friends of Morton were a great success, generating a profit of just over £500. A big thank you to everyone who supported these events and helped make them such a success. At its September meeting, the Parish Council agreed to allocate these funds towards:

- 30mph bin stickers for homes on main roads. Bin stickers have been used successfully in other similar areas to promote safe driving.
- Play Park maintenance, recognising it as a valued community asset and a key venue for many fundraising activities.

The Council currently has some spare stickers. If you would like one - or already have some that you don't require which could be rehomed - then please do get in touch.

### Yorkshire Day Family Fair

Following the success of previous village events, the Fundraising & Events Committee is planning a Yorkshire Day Family Fair on **Saturday 1st August** at the Play Park. It's shaping up to be a great village day out, with something for everyone, including children's activities (including a bouncy castle), food and refreshments,

village fair games supported by Friends of Ainderby School, tombola, raffle, crafts, sports day fun and a plant sale.

We'd love as many people as possible to get involved and help make it a day to remember. Every bit of help makes a difference so please get in touch if you can:

- Lend a hand with planning
- Help out on the day running stalls or activities
- Donate any raffle prizes or tombola items
- Run your own stall or activity if you're a local group or business
- Have a vintage vehicle you would like to display

## Community Emergency Plan

The Parish Council is developing a Community Emergency Plan - a practical, local resource to help residents support each other during emergencies and recovery. The draft plan will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting in May, with adoption planned for July.

To make the plan as useful as possible, we'd welcome your feedback on local risks (e.g. flooding or other known issues), vulnerable locations, community support (ways neighbours can help each other in emergencies), local resources (equipment or skills that could be useful in an emergency) and key contacts (such as local services, utilities or networks).

Please get in touch to share your thoughts or register your interest in a dedicated meeting to cover the plan.

## Community Events Calendar

From 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Parish Council will fully launch a Community Events Calendar to help improve communication and coordination of events and activities within Morton-on-Swale. The aim is to provide a single, accessible place where residents and local groups can view and upload upcoming activities to avoid clashes and promote wider participation in village life. The calendar will be hosted on the Parish Council website and can be found under 'quick links'. If you need assistance finding or accessing it, or if you have something you'd like added, please contact us.

Important Information:

- Events are submitted by local groups, organisations, and individuals and, unless stated otherwise, are not organised or endorsed by the Council.
- While we aim to keep information accurate, details may change. The Council cannot guarantee accuracy and accepts no responsibility for cancellations, errors, or updates—please contact event organisers directly to confirm details.
- Bookings for venues (such as the Village Hall) must be made directly with the facility provider. The Calendar is not a booking system. Any amendments or cancellations of bookings must also be made directly with the venue.
- The Parish Council accepts no liability for any loss, damage, or issues arising from events or third-party services listed.

**Thank you! Community-led initiatives, including litter-picking and other volunteer efforts continue to make a positive contribution to the village environment and sense of community. The Council would like to thank all those who give their time to help keep the village a great place for everyone.**