



# Morton-On-Swale

## Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Wednesday 25 March 2026 commencing at 7.30 pm  
At Morton-on-Swale Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: A Poulter (Chair), K Weston, P Weighell, H Rees Jones  
 Clerk / RFO: A W Lambert, R Dale  
 NY Councillor: A Wilkinson  
 Public: 9 Members of the Public

Agenda Item	Detail	Action
<b>26 / 16 Welcome / Apologies for Absence</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Councillor J Sanderson.	
<b>26 / 17 Declarations of Business Interests</b>	There were no declarations of business interests / dispensations.	
<b>26 / 18 Minutes</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2026 had been circulated prior to the meeting.  <b>Resolved: The minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</b>	
<b>26 / 19 Matters Arising</b>	<b>Shared: The Action Tracker:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Park Signage</b> – work in progress.</li> <li>➤ <b>Hedge-cutting</b> – Snicket has been cut with other hedges to be checked.</li> <li>➤ <b>Weed Killer</b> – Funding received from NYC Locality Budget – work commencing is subject to suitable weather conditions.</li> <li>➤ <b>Litterbin Replacement</b> – The litterbin has not yet been resolved. To resend email and copy in Cllr Wilkinson who will help get it actioned.</li> <li>➤ <b>Snicket Report</b> – Quotation received – Synergy Outdoors to be instructed to do the work.</li> <li>➤ <b>Tree Inspection</b> – Tree report received and works are subject to funding availability. Action 9 closed. To get quote for works.</li> <li>➤ <b>Community Resilience Plan</b> – Second draft of the CRP circulated to Councillors for their consideration. The Clerk asked for comments before the end of April. Clerk to then amend accordingly and set up meeting with resilience team once in full draft.</li> <li>➤ <b>Wording for Call for Sites Consultation</b> – wording has been received from NYC. Action 15 closed.</li> <li>➤ <b>Highways</b> – Work on the cobbles discussed. The Parish Council would need permission from North Yorkshire Council</li> </ul>	

	<p>to work on the highway however this has not been responded to in writing – highways to chase on behalf of PC. At this point in the meeting North Yorkshire Councillor Wilkinson and Jayne Charlton (Highways) talked to the meeting about speeding and highways issues within the Parish. The Parish Council had been given little notice of highways attendance. It was noted that following information received the average speed over a period was 29.9 mph. One of the issues is around the amount of traffic going through the Village. There was no funding available for any major works to help alleviate the issues. It was suggested that the Parish Council contacts the North Yorkshire Community Safety Hub and look at planning for the future. It was agreed to plan a community meeting with highways and the police to discuss speeding and road safety concerns as identified in the recent community survey. Highways were also asked to provide data on speeding and traffic volumes. Council to also write to highways with findings of community survey and ask for formal response to concerns calls for action. Regarding the school visibility on exiting the car park, the Highways Authority had informed the school that the onus is on them to resolve the issue with their preferred way forward of swapping the entrance and exit for the school. Highways will write to the school regarding this issue and have offered to fund the swapping of signage and remarking the entrance/exit accordingly. The Yorkshire Water works were explained at this point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>FAQ</b> – Consideration to be given to informing parishioners of work undertaken so far to contact other agencies.</li> <li>➤ <b>Community Survey</b> – Community Survey results had been circulated and is covered later on agenda. . Action 24 closed.</li> <li>➤ <b>Park Maintenance</b> – The Willow Tunnel had been cut. Action 26 closed; To update noticeboards in park.</li> <li>➤ <b>Community Events</b> – The FEC had written to other groups, businesses, and clubs to see if there was an appetite to do a weekend community festival. The FEC had also written to groups, businesses, and clubs to share the new community calendar which has now been embedded on the PC website with clear disclaimer. Actions 27 and 28 closed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>26 / 20 Public Forum</b></p>	<p><b>Allotments</b> It was noted that Local Councils have a statutory duty under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 (Section 23) to provide sufficient allotments if it believes there is a demand. If six or more registered electors request allotments, the Council must consider it. Councils can buy or lease land if it decides to do so. Councils must use its best endeavours to acquire suitable land.</p> <p><b>Public Footpath / Styles</b> It was noted that there is an issue with one of the styles near the bridge. The Clerk to report this to the NYC Public Footpaths Officers.</p>	
<p><b>26 / 21 Clerk's Report</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Parish Meeting (as opposed to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)</b> The Clerk explained the difference in the two meetings stating that Morton on Swale would need to organise an Annual Parish Meeting officiated by the Chair and Clerk only. This meeting is a</p>	

	<p>mandatory community-focused meeting held between 1 March and 1 June each year. It enables residents to hear reports on the past year's activities, ask questions and suggest ideas to their Parish Council.</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 27 May 2026 prior to the Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm.</b></p>	
<b>26 / 22 Police Report</b>	The Police report had been received and was noted.	
<b>26 / 23 NY Councillor Report</b>	This had been covered earlier in the meeting.	
<b>26 / 24 Fund-raising &amp; Events Committee</b>	<p><b>Fund-Raising &amp; Events Committee</b> A Fun Day is being provisionally planned for Saturday 1 August 2026. Volunteers and donations required. The next formal meeting of the Committee will take place in May 2026 before the next PC meeting</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> FEC to start booking things for the Fun Day such as porta loo within set budget and put through usual Council sign off process.</p>	<b>FEC</b>
<b>26 / 25 Policies</b>	<p><b>To Consider and Agree Policies</b> <b>Shared:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Community Donations Policy – final draft for consideration</b></li> <li>➤ <b>CIL Investment Strategy – final draft for consideration</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Vexatious Correspondence Policy – new policy</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Standing Orders – draft for consideration at the Annual Meeting (May)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved: That the above policies/strategies be agreed with no amendment.</b></p>	
<b>26 / 26 Community Survey</b>	<p><b>To Consider the Results of the Community Survey</b> It was noted that the return from the Community Survey was 32%. Councillor Weston outlined the results with traffic and speeding being the main topic of concern for parishioners.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Community survey results to be added to website.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Community survey results to be taken to key stakeholders (such as highways) for feedback and input in terms of what can be done to address key areas of concern. Responses to be collated and also put onto website as part of FAQ section.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Pories from Survey agreed and to be added to CIL investment strategy and Community Donations Policy as priorities for investment.</p>	
<b>26 / 27 Finance</b>	<p><b>The following financial information had been circulated:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>RFO Report – March 2026</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Accounts Summary – March 2026</b></li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Bank Reconciliation – March 2026</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Expenditure Transactions – March 2026</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Receipts – Year ending 31 March 2026</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Anticipated Outgoings for April – May 2026</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Budgetary Update</b> The current budgetary information had been circulated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Current A/C Balance – £197.47</li> <li>➤ BMM A/C Balance - £15,936.19</li> <li>➤ Cash in hand to be banked - £0.00</li> <li>➤ Payments pending - £0.00</li> <li>➤ Receipts pending - £0.00</li> <li>➤ Balance C/F - £16,133.66</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved:</b> <b>(a) That payment to staff should be made monthly instead if bi-monthly.</b> <b>(b) Council-owned email accounts be upgraded to enable better functionality.</b></p> <p>It was noted that the internal audit would take place on 14 April 2026 by Ian Smithson.</p>	
<b>26 / 28 Correspondence</b>	<b>Our Morton</b> A letter had been received from Our Morton which had been responded to within the twenty working days.	
<b>26 / 29 Planning</b>	There had been no planning applications to consider.	
<b>26 / 30 Member Reports</b>	There were no Member reports.	
<b>26 / 31 Future Meeting Dates</b>	Wednesday 27 May 2026: 6.30 pm Annual Parish Meeting 7.30 pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.	<b>Parish Council</b>

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

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