Morton-On-Swale Parish Council

WEBSITE

FACEBOOK

Contact: clerk@mortononswale-pc.gov.uk

Newsletter - November 2026

Parish Council Meetings – everyone welcome!

Did you know that Morton-on-Swale Parish Council (PC) meetings are open to everyone? We encourage residents to come along, find out what's happening in our village and have their say on matters affecting our community. Parish Council meetings are generally held every two months at 7.30pm in Morton-on-Swale Village Hall. Upcoming meetings are **25th November 2026**, 27th January 2027 and 31st March 2027.

Every PC meeting includes a Public Forum which gives residents an opportunity to raise questions, share concerns or make suggestions directly to the Council. If you would like to speak during the Public Forum, please register in advance by emailing the Parish Clerk outlining the matter you wish to raise. Requests should normally be submitted by 5pm on the Monday before the meeting - although residents should check the published agenda for the confirmed deadline. You don't need to register simply to attend and listen, everyone is welcome.

Parish Council Elections - May 2027

Elections for the PC are scheduled to take place in May 2027. Being a Parish Councillor is an opportunity to make a real difference to your local community. Councillors represent residents' views and support projects that improve community life. You don't need any special qualifications or previous experience. The formal election process will begin next spring and further details will be published on the PC website and Facebook page as they become available. If you are interested, why not come along to a Parish Council meeting to see what we do or get in touch to find out more.

Dog Owners - Please Do Your Part

Thank you to the many responsible dog owners who help keep Morton-on-Swale clean and tidy by always picking up after their pets. The PC would like to remind all dog owners to carry dog waste bags whenever walking their dogs and to pick up dog poo and dispose of it responsibly. While bag dispensers were previously provided by the Council these were being emptied on an almost daily basis by a small number of residents, making them unsustainable for the Council to maintain. We therefore ask dog owners to bring their own bags and continue playing their part in keeping our village clean, safe and welcoming for all. Please remember that failing to clean up after your dog is an offence and may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued (up to £1,000) and instances can be reported to North Yorkshire Council.

Play Park Opening Hours

The PC is delighted that local families enjoy the play park. Please help keep it welcoming for everyone by using the facilities responsibly and treating nearby residents with consideration and respect. Now that the clocks have gone back, please remember that the park should not be used after dark.

Community Events Calendar

The Community Events Calendar is in place to help improve communication and coordination of events and activities within the village so that there is a single, accessible place where residents and groups can view and upload activities to promote participation whilst avoiding potential clashes.

Pumpkin Carving Fun

Things got a little spooky at Morton-on-Swale Village Hall on Friday 30th October as residents came together for a fun filled pumpkin carving social which was organised by our Fundraising & Events Committee. Armed with pumpkins, carving tools and plenty of imagination, our participants got creative and produced a fantastic selection of wonderfully imaginative designs. Thank you to everyone who came along.

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop – Join Us for a Festive Evening!

Get into the Christmas spirit and join us for a relaxed and creative evening at Morton-on-Swale Village Hall on Friday 11 December 2026, from 6.30pm. Led by an experienced florist, you'll be guided through making your very own beautiful Christmas wreath to take home. The workshop costs £40 which includes all materials, expert tuition, village hall hire, hot refreshments, mince pies and a glass of mulled wine. You are also welcome to bring your own drinks and nibbles. This is a social event organised by the Fundraising & Events Committee.

Community Fund

The Council has allocated £500 this year to help support local projects and community initiatives through a Community Fund which is administered through our Donations Policy. The fund is to support projects that make a positive difference to village life by improving community wellbeing, bringing people together, supporting local facilities and enabling community events to happen. If you have an idea, project or community activity that could benefit from some financial support, we'd love to hear from you.

Yorkshire Day Family Fair – A Fantastic Community Success!

What a fantastic day we had celebrating Yorkshire Day. On 1st August, Morton-on-Swale Parish Council's Fundraising & Events Committee hosted a Yorkshire Day Family Fair, bringing together residents, families and visitors for a wonderful day of fun and laughter. **Thanks to the incredible generosity and support of our community, the event raised an amazing £1,513.02 (after costs)**.

However, the success of the day wasn't just about the money raised. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together, catching up with neighbours and making new friends. A big thank you goes to everyone who gave their time, resources and support to make the event possible including our fantastic volunteers, local businesses, sponsors, stallholders and raffle prize donors. You are amazing!

Spread a Little Christmas Cheer

The PC will use some proceeds from Yorkshire Day to bring a smile to anyone in the village this Christmas that is going through a difficult time, feeling lonely, facing health challenges or simply deserve a reminder that their community is thinking of them (N.B. nominations will be handled confidentially and personal details will only be used to arrange delivery and will be securely deleted afterwards). Please send any nominations by **18th December** to cllr.kirsty.weston@mortononswale-pc.gov.uk.

Reinvesting in our community

Funding raised by the Council's Fundraising & Events Committee will help fund future events and improvements to our village including:

- Play park improvements such as contributing towards a replacement basket swing seat (one of the park's most popular features!) and refreshing sensory planters.
- Community bulb planting to brighten up areas of the village with seasonal flowers during the next suitable planting season (subject to the necessary permissions).
- Yorkshire Day 2027 – plans are already being made for 1st August 2027 so pencil it in the diary and get in touch if you would like to get involved.
- Refreshments for this year's December Luncheon Club at the Village Hall.
- Gifts from Father Christmas for the children at Ainderby Steeple School.

Let us know if you have any other ideas of how we can utilise these funds for the benefit of the village.

Speeding and road safety update

The PC is exploring the establishment of a dedicated Road Safety Working Group, bringing together interested residents and Councillors to help identify local priorities, strengthen engagement with North Yorkshire Council and other relevant authorities and push for change. An initial meeting is being considered for the new year, with further details to follow. Please contact the PC to register your interest and keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for further details.

Speed Awareness Bin Stickers

As part of ongoing efforts to improve road safety and encourage drivers to slow down through our village, the PC has a few speed awareness stickers available for residents to display on their wheelie bins. These stickers provide a simple but visible reminder to motorists to be mindful of their speed. If you would like one, then please get in touch. Thank you to everyone who is already displaying one – they look very effective when driving through the village.

Be Ready – Simple Steps to Prepare for Emergencies

The Government has launched its **'Be Ready'** campaign, encouraging households to take simple, practical steps to prepare for emergencies such as severe weather, flooding, power cuts and interruptions to water supplies. For rural communities like Morton-on-Swale, disruption to services can present additional challenges. Being prepared can make a real difference.

The campaign encourages residents to think about how they would manage for up to three days without normal services, including having essential supplies, medication, torches and important contact details readily available. A key part of the campaign is the Priority Services Register (PSR), a free service provided by utility companies to support customers who may need additional help during interruptions to electricity, gas or water supplies.

Registering helps utility providers identify residents who may need extra assistance during an emergency. Please take a few minutes to consider your own emergency preparations and check whether you or someone you know could benefit from the PSR. A little preparation now can make a big difference when unexpected disruption occurs.

Community Emergency Plan

The PC is developing a Community Emergency Plan to help residents support one another during emergencies and recovery. The aim is to create a practical local resource, shaped by community knowledge, experience and available resources. We are currently considering the best way to gather residents' views, ideas and local knowledge, which may include a community questionnaire and/or a public drop-in event. This will help ensure any plan reflects the needs, strengths and resources of our community. As part of this work, we will also be looking for volunteers who may be willing to assist if the plan is ever activated, for example by checking on vulnerable residents, helping at a rest centre, or supporting local communications. If you have ideas, local knowledge or would be interested in getting involved, please get in touch.

Have your say on North Yorkshire's budget

North Yorkshire Council (NYC) is inviting people to take part in their annual budget consultation, Let's Talk Money. NYC delivers a wide range of local services, including social care, education, housing, leisure, roads and waste collection The Let's Talk Money survey asks what services and priorities are most important to you and how you think the council's budget should be spent. You are also invited to tell NYC what level of council tax increase feels right and give feedback on the second homes premium. The survey is open until **26th November 2026**. Feedback received will help inform future budget decisions and priorities.

Have Your Say - Transport in Our Area

The York and North Yorkshire Mayor is asking residents for their views on the new Local Transport Plan, which will help shape transport investment and priorities across the region for years to come. This is an opportunity for local people to highlight issues that matter to our community, including road safety and speeding, safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists, better public transport connections between rural communities and market towns, improved access to rail services, sustainable transport links that reduce reliance on private cars and better connectivity to schools, employment, healthcare and local services. The consultation closes on **18th November 2026** and your views can help influence future improvements to road safety, transport connectivity and sustainable travel across North Yorkshire.

Have Your Say – North Yorkshire Local Plan Consultation

North Yorkshire Council is preparing a new Local Plan, which will help shape how our communities develop up to 2045. A Local Plan sets out where new homes, businesses and other developments should be located, what infrastructure is needed and how the environment and countryside should be protected. It will guide future planning decisions across the County. Future development can affect our roads, schools, local services, green spaces and the character of our village. This is an important opportunity to ensure local needs and issues, alongside the wider needs of rural communities, are considered when planning future growth. The consultation closes on **7th December 2026**.

Thank you to everyone who continues to work hard to make our village great.
As this is our last newsletter of the year, the Parish Council wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for a happy and healthy 2027