

Morton

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Church Hall at 7.30p.m. on the

5th May 1998

Members of the Parish Council present were;
Mr A T Jones (Chairman)
Mr C W Haynes (Vice-chairman)
Mesdames Cowell, Deam, Nurse, Stone & Tiwari
Messrs Batey, Bartleet & Phipps.
An apology for absence was received from Mrs Cox.
The Clerk Mr L.M. Garner was in attendance.
Some sixty electors were also present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th May 1997 were confirmed and signed.

Chairman's Report

There were no major occurrences during the year for comment, discussion continued concerning the Mill Lane allotments as did other routine items of the maintenance of the Council's assets.

The Chairman expressed regret at the death of Steph Spencer, a City Councillor who represented the Ward and of George Hine, a member of the Council for many years. Mr Yeoward, whom he welcomed to the meeting, had been elected to fill the City Council vacancy. A casual vacancy on the Council had been filled during the year by the co-option of Mrs J. Cowell. Mr B. Carrington had resigned during the year and the vacancy filled in April 1998 by the co-option of Mr J. Batey.

A vigorous campaign against the proposed closure of the local library was partly successful as the outcome was the reduction in opening hours of two and a half hours.

The Parish Council's efforts had not been successful to form a Millennium Committee. The Vicar's initiative had formed a Committee which was now making plans to mark the event.

The loss of the bus service serving the Arlington and Rippington estates, due to loss of subsidy, was regretted but the main road service had improved.

A watching brief had been maintained on planning applications, some 29 applications being considered during the year. The most noteworthy was for the development of land at the rear of Colthorns Farm which was proceeding. On highway matters he said that the lack of repairs continued to be a problem. An elderly local resident had had a serious fall due to the poor condition of the footpath, between the Three Horseshoes and Elsfield Road, previously reported to the Highway Engineer.

The proposed water tap in the Burial Ground had not been ordered due to the cost being estimated at £1,300.

Mortimer Hall

A.T.J.

The Clerk reported that the Management Committee had requested an extension of the site lease to 2033. This required the consent of the Parish Meeting which was agreed, there being one vote against. The action was necessary because such an organisation could only obtain grants if it had a long secure period of occupation.

Allotments

A formal resolution was received to transfer management of the Mill Lane allotments to the Allotment Association for a trial period of five years. The meeting favoured the principle but as no details of structure or finances were given in the proposal a reasoned decision was not possible. The Chairman offered to arrange a meeting of Members of the Council and the Association to further the proposal with a target date of the 30 September 1998.

Accounts

In accordance with new requirements a summary of the Council's finances for 1997/8 was circulated.

Conclusion

The Chairman, following a note from the Clerk, said that he and Mrs Stone had served the Council for thirty and twenty-five years respectively. He thanked his fellow members for their continued support and the Clerk for his continued support.

Alvin T. Jones
20 April 1999