



Minutes of 26th AGM and Newsletter

No 57 - 2007

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26th Annual Meeting, held in the Memorial Institute on Tuesday, 17th July, 2007 at 8.15pm.

The Chairman, David Miller, began by welcoming everyone to the meeting, and introducing the newly elected Keighley Town Council representative for our area, Ian Wilson. He offered his full congratulations to the Gala Committee who, despite the rain, had carried on and a splendid Gala was enjoyed by all who had attended.

1. Apologies

Were received from Jean & Milton Duckworth and Stephanie Holt.

2. The minutes of the 25th Annual Meeting

Had been circulated in the newsletter following that meeting and were accepted as a true record of what had taken place.

3. Matters Arising

Toilets – a complete turnaround since the 25th Annual Meeting report – at the Keighley Neighbourhood Forum (17.07.07) it was hoped that the toilet block would reopen. Work required included the installation of locking gates to stop troublesome access and vandalism overnight. Some work had been carried out already.

Keighley Neighbourhood Forum

Traffic Calming – the £20000 Council budget had been reduced to £5000. The three local councillors had all voted against this decrease but it had nevertheless happened. We now await the measures promised which include the speed restriction sign adjacent to Heath Grove and traffic calming at Cliffstone Drive.

The street sign Otley Road, at the junction of Green End Road with Main Road/Otley Road on the wall above the hairdresser's shop, is badly placed. It is far too high for passing drivers to easily see, of particular concern with emergency vehicles when minutes count.

From Committee Business

The graveyard in Green End Road had been of ongoing concern during the past year. After nine months of negotiations with the Tree Preservation department, verbal consent had been received to fell both the ash and sycamore trees. David will speak with nearby residents and once written permission is received, the trees will be felled and the area cleared. A plan had been drawn up and the work will be put out to tender. Steve Foster kindly offered to undertake the removal of the trees.

An unsightly sapling was growing by the electricity box on Main Road, adjacent to the steps by the hairdresser's shop. This was not the first time the Society had been approached about this, as many years ago, a similar sapling had been removed, by a resident. Thank you Florence for reminding us of this.

There was concern about the amount of ragwort around. It had been noted that in some areas the Council were removing this plant.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Stephen presented his 26th report, following the report, a big thank you to Mick and Karen for their work with the Morton Lottery.

Stephen had opened a new Standard Life internet account which gave a much better rate of interest.

There were some unclaimed prizes from the Lottery – uncashed cheques or money that had been returned to purchase additional numbers.

Stephen proposed the adoption of the accounts and was seconded by David, with all in favour. If anyone wants a set of accounts please contact Stephen.

5. Election of Officers and Committee members

Ian Kirkbride wished to withdraw as a Committee member but was willing to continue to deliver the newsletter. There had been no nominations for the committee other than those members already standing. Stephen



proposed the existing officers and committee be re-elected. He was seconded by David, with all in favour.

6. Election of Auditor

Michael Millar was willing to continue as auditor for the coming year. Stephen proposed he be appointed, with David seconding and all in favour of the appointment.

7. Village Green Maintenance

The Nowell family were kindly donating a new seat for the Green, in memory of Derek. This would be placed facing the Congregational Chapel, on the site of a previous bench. The Green was looking very well, despite the difficulties posed to the Stepping Stones group by the very wet summer (so far!). Bedding plants had been planted in time for the Gala weekend, and thanks to the rain, have had a good start.

8. Proposed projects for Morton Lottery funding

Money will be needed to restore the Graveyard to a good condition, and to set up a maintenance contract. It was hoped that there would be room for a new bench there.

The renewal of the bench halfway up Alma was in hand.

Any Other Business

Stones were disappearing from the eastern boundary wall in the Recreation Ground. This had been brought up at the March KNF, but with no apparent action taking place. This was to be followed up, first establishing the ownership of the wall from the Recreation Division of the Council. It was felt to be a Healthy and Safety issue, posing a possible danger to children playing there.

A letter had been received about the removal of the Payphone by Morton Cemetery, due to vandalism and lack of use. There were no objections to this from those present at the meeting.

The winners of the Best Kept Garden were announced. The cup would be engraved and presented, and the prizes distributed.

Karen proposed that membership be increased to £5. Currently there was neither the manpower nor willpower for committee members to collect subscriptions, and without physically collecting the membership, it will not come in in any amount. Although he proposed the membership remain the same, Stephen had no objection to an increase taking place if that was the

wish of the meeting. The amount has, and will be, advertised in the newsletter and on the bottom of the Lottery letter. The Pantry very kindly collected subscriptions and passed them on to Stephen. Bob Dennis proposed an increase to £5 for a family, with a single subscription at £2.50p. He was seconded by Stephen, with all in favour that this take place. The Morton booklets were still selling well.

A decision on keeping the Post Office was likely to be made in November. David asked if there was a wish to campaign to keep the Post Office. Ian Kirkbride, who had 25 years working experience in the Post Office, was not totally downbeat on East Morton's chances of retaining it. However we are not an area of social deprivation. He believed that within the Bradford area, 17 Post Offices would have to close. The decision would be made from Stockport and once the notice is out, if necessary, there would be 6 weeks to make representation for it to remain open. Ian said that group letters would carry more weight than individual ones. Without the Post Office, it would be difficult to see how The Pantry could remain open.

Karen wished to thank Dorothy Dennis for helping with 100 club letter deliveries, and Mick Craven for his work with the Lottery. The £150 prize at the Gala had been won by Peter Maugham. Their aim was to have 500 numbers by Christmas. July winners were drawn at the meeting. First prize was won by George Hook.

The next committee meeting, is to be held in the newly refurbished meeting room in the Institute, it was agreed that in future, committee meetings will be shared between St. Luke's Church and the Institute.

David thanked the secretary and drew the meeting to a close, thanking all those who had attended.

Crossword

Geoff Richardson's last crossword competition was won by our very helpful post lady Ellie, a well deserved £10 gift voucher for the Pantry was awarded to her.

Riddlesden and East Morton Urban Village Initiative

From the total spend of £74,997 for the last financial year, East Morton projects benefitted as follows:-

Playground development	£3000
East Morton (Early Years) Playgroup	£350
Building costs East Morton Institute	£8462
Equipment for above	£2500
Primary School – Multi Access Area	£5000
Electronic speed warning	£2000
Replacement external door Institute	£1000
Total	£22312

Institute Notes

With funding from the Government's Urban Village Initiative, what was once the bar has now been converted into an excellent meeting room. There were initial problems as the floor was found to be rotten and had to be replaced, but after that everything went well and it is difficult to imagine what it was once like. Our thanks go to Sue Gledhill of the Neighbourhood Forum for all her help.

The room, which is available for hire, is to be called 'The Doris Beanlands Meeting Room' in recognition of the work done by Doris, not only for the Institute but also for other organisations in the village.



Other improvements have been carried out such as the patio area being relaid, and some external paintwork. It is hoped to continue brightening up the Institute by some painting of the hall, improving the internal doors, fitting a new side door and other small improvements. The committee are looking at other areas of funding to enable us to change the boiler which has been very unreliable.

We have had several complaints about dog fouling and owners not cleaning up after their pets. This is something that has improved greatly since the Society was formed, but obviously there are still some irresponsible dog owners about.

Please, do scoop the poop.



Best Kept Garden

Our thanks go once again to the Best Kept Garden judge. The following gardens and frontages have been selected this year from many colourful plots surrounding our homes. Congratulations go to:-

Tubs and Baskets

1st - 12 Green End Road - An amazing range of tubs and baskets squeezed into every inch available - and we were given two displays this year. A range of lovely spring bulbs has been followed by a mass of bedding plants which should be flowering even more through August and September. A real 'year round' effort (picture on front cover).

2nd - 8 The Square - The owners have created a lovely outdoor space in the peace of "The Square". There are hanging baskets and tubs with palm trees in, and a bench to sit on too. Looks like a nice spot for a summer evening.

3rd - 3 South Street - A small enclosed yard, but from the park you can see the most stylish hanging baskets in East Morton. They are very simple - wicker cone baskets - holding only one type of plant - fantastic burnt orange large flowered begonias, with bronze foliage flowing over the baskets brim - fantastic!

Gardens

1st - 5 Elm Crescent - This garden always looks well loved, and carefully tended. A full range of flowers and shrubs and a lovely trimmed arch leading to the back garden (pictures below).

2nd - 19/21 Whitestone Drive - The tiny patch outside these modern town houses offers little opportunity for gardeners - but these owners have planted a creative patchwork of scented plants - lavender, sage and thyme - looks good all year round.

3rd - 49 Roedhelm Road, Waterside Fold - This is a beautifully neat pebble garden, with tasteful use of a few plants and larger pebbles - low maintenance but stylish. A lovely hanging basket next to the door too.

Maybe we should consider having an Open Gardens in East Morton? It does seem to be an increasingly popular event all over the country now.



Morton Village Lottery

HOW WE HOPE TO IMPROVE YOUR VILLAGE and HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THREE STEPS

a) Raising funds for the communal areas - this we are doing via the lottery and with your help we hope to have 500 members by Christmas. . . . Not that many considering the size of our village. If not already a member, join now at the post office-only £12 per number (£1 a month) with 50 prizes in a draw of over £2000 a year. Open to all your family and friends.

Why not give a number as a stocking filler for Christmas-nicely presented in a gift card.

b) Look at any communal area just outside your home - can you make it tidier? It's amazing how little time it could take and if everybody does their 'patch' the village will look smarter in no time at all.

c) We can then spend funds on those communal areas not covered by willing residents. Here again you might like to help by offering a few hours one week-end-date to be set but let me know if willing in principle

PROFESSIONAL GARDENER WANTED

If you live locally & happy to give us some advise please ring. In return we can advertise your services to the community.

Karen Redhead

Latest winners:

April

£75 S Lund; £40 MB Webb; £25 M Dickinson; £10

May

£75 A Foulds; £40 T Taggart; £25 JL Crooke; £10

June

£75 R Gregson; £40 A Crossley £25 D Miller; £10

July

£75 G Hook; £40 NS & C Brooke £25 F.Whitfield; £10 P.Dufton

August

£75 P Steel; £40 M Scott; £25 J Dobbins; £10 A Smallwood

Please support the Morton Village Lottery - all proceeds for the village

East Morton School



July is always a very busy part of the school year. A number of classes have been on visits related to their studies: Reception enjoyed a visit to a nearby farm, Year 1 visited Abbey House Museum at Kirkstall and Year 2 even managed a trip to the seaside (Bridlington).

Years 5 and 6 were involved in a stunning musical production, entitled 'Rainmaker' – a story of a young boy and his friends, from a village in South America, who go on an amazing quest deep into the forest to find the rain, since it had not fallen for months. (Had they trekked as far as West Yorkshire, they would have found no water shortage!) It's a surprising adventure through the rainforest. And as they travel they

meet lots of interesting animals, who help them face their challenges. Through the true power of friendship, they are eventually able to achieve their goal.

The whole production had been a true team effort as the children had designed and made their costumes, scenery, tickets and even programmes. There are so many talented children in school and this provided an unforgettable opportunity for them to excel and for mums and dads to be extremely proud.

Thanks once again to the owners of Fardew Golf Course, we were able to use the practice area to hold our Sports' Day. And other than a shower of rain, it managed to stay dry. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities and races that had been organised by Mr Firth, PE specialist at school.

The school garden is now in its second season and the children have continued to take great pride by using it at every available opportunity. Despite the rain they have enjoyed working there – planting and weeding. Their efforts have been well rewarded with an array of colour and vegetables. Other visitors to our garden have been 'Keighley in Bloom' judges!

But July is also a sad time as we say 'Good-bye' to our Year 6 Class, many of whom have been in this school since Reception. They have worked hard, acquiring knowledge and achieving many new skills. These are a few thoughts expressed by some of Year Six:

Josh: 'Year 6 to me has been a very happy and exciting experience. I am a bit sad at leaving this school but I will always have happy memories.'; Paige: 'I will miss EM school as I have been here since Reception, but now I am growing up and moving on to Oakbank where I will meet loads of new friends. But I know I will never forget this school – I mean, how could I?'; Zaheem: 'I have really enjoyed my time at EM School. The school has made a massive impact upon my learning. There will always be a place in my heart for this school.'; Mehvish: 'Leaving primary school and going to secondary school is a very big change and hopefully I'll fit in and make new friends. I am looking forward to it although I will miss EM School.'

We wish them all well as they move on to their new schools.

We look forward to a summer of sunshine (being forever optimistic), ready for school to reopen on Wednesday 5th September.

East Morton Playgroup

In December 2006 a small group of volunteers took over the running of the East Morton Playgroup. As with any organisation when there is an injection of new blood changes were inevitable, and this was no exception.

We started with some brainstorming sessions and a number of areas were highlighted, one thing that was very apparent was that we needed some new equipment! So earlier this year, we set off on our 'fund raising mission'.

The play group has experienced a recent influx of 'babies'; we desperately needed easy wipe mats for the babies to lay and sit on, easy wipe sitting supports, toys and a soft play area to encourage co-ordination, crawling and climbing in safety. We also established that there was no quiet reading area. We need to encourage our children and their parents to enjoy reading from an early age.

We were able to split the hall into areas to ensure the safety and enjoyment for all of the children: -
'Ride on' boisterous area – allowing the children to run, ride and throw.

Activity area – where we provide the parent and child an activity area every week to carry jigsaws, craftwork to baking.

Play Area – slightly quieter area for cars, trains, farms toys, play kitchens etc.

Reading Corner – promoting the joy of reading.

Seating and Baby area – an area for adults to sit and chat plus baby mats/toys etc.

We are overjoyed with all of the donations we have received to date and want to thank everyone concerned. Morton Village Society, East Morton Gala Committee, Tesco Supermarkets and The Community Chest/Urban Village Funding, in total we have received £630.

With these donations we now have a brand new baby area, a new reading area and many new toys. To try and give you all an idea of the huge difference these donations have made to our playgroup we have provided the before and after photographs.

The East Morton Playgroup runs every Tuesday morning at the Morton Institute for pre school children, from 9.30am to 11.30am



for only £1.50 per family. It's a thriving group with new members joining all of the time. Come and join in.

Tracey Paul, on behalf of East Morton Playgroup.

Use your local shop and Post Office to join the Morton Lottery, pay your membership and many other items



East Morton Gala 2007

A huge thank you to the people of East Morton for showing their huge support for a rather wet Gala in July! With rain forecast to continue there was a hasty re think of plans and a lower key event went ahead.... but the Gala committee need not have worried.

In true British spirit you turned out in raincoats and brollies to defy the rain clouds and watch the procession through the village and spend money

on the stalls and games on a muddy recreation ground. There was a great atmosphere and although the day finished earlier than usual it is still thought the Gala broken even – remarkable considering the wet conditions.

Anyone who has ideas for the 2008 Gala or who may like to join the friendly committee is invited to attend the AGM on Monday September 10th at 8pm in the Busfield Arms.

Morton Village Society
Aiming to preserve your village