

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD AT 7.00pm ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017**  
**IN MORCOTT VILLAGE HALL**

This meeting was called on 17<sup>th</sup> July with 7 days clear notice & within the guidelines applicable to Parish Meetings by the chair of Morcott Parish Council (Cllr. Andrew Johnson).

A total of 63 electors were present including all Morcott Parish Councillors and the Clerk. County Councillor Edward Baines was also present.

The chair (Cllr Andrew Johnson) opened the meeting and welcomed those attending. The chair explained that this meeting is a properly constituted Parish Meeting and that there are two items on the agenda. Utilising the projector (PowerPoint presentation – see Appendix #1) throughout the meeting he set out the procedure for the meeting, reaffirmed the agenda, explained what a Village Poll is, the restrictions that apply to voting in a Village Poll, and that, if called, in this case the Village Poll may take place more than 25 days after the meeting.

*Cllr Graham Pritchard handed the microphone to those invited to speak, Cllrs Pritchard and Johnson acted as Tellers during voting and the Clerk, Susan Awcock, took the minutes and names of nominees.*

**1. HOLDING A REFERENDUM (VILLAGE POLL) TO ESTABLISH THE ELECTORATE'S OPINION ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHITE HORSE INN AND PADDOCK. 10 NOMINEES REQUIRED:**

The chair asked if there were any views against holding a village poll, there was some discussion with arguments made both against and for having a poll.

There followed a discussion for approximately 15 minutes after which the chair asked those present to raise their hand if they were in favour of holding a village poll.

A large number of those attending raised their hands. The names of ten nominees who are electors of the Parish were taken by the Clerk: Ten nominees are required to call a Village Poll.

The names of the ten nominees are:

Sara Traylen	MAE 86
Michael Blank	MAE 270
Alison Johnson	MAE 92
Ian Powell	MAE 238
Michael Seabrook	MAE 152
John Martin Whitfield	MAE 13
Peter Hutchinson	MAE 255
Roger Williams	MAE 122
Robert Toby Walker	MAE 106
Mo Holley	MAE 185
Andrew Sampson	MAE 56

*(NB: Additional names were proffered; these were taken by the Clerk for the record if required).*

The chair thanked those present and announced that the presence of ten nominees confirmed that the decision of the meeting is that a Village Poll will be held.

The chair then turned to item 2 on the agenda and explained that the meeting now needed to consider the wording of the question to be asked in the Poll. He confirmed that at the conclusion of discussion a vote would be taken on this agenda item.

## **2. WORDING FOR VOTING SLIPS, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL AND HELEN BRIGGS, CEO RUTLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.**

The chair explained that the question asked in a Village Poll must have a simple yes or no answer. He explained that at the conclusion of discussion on the question or if there is any confusion over the prevailing view he will take a vote on the wording of the question to clarify the view of the meeting. The question that was put up is been the result of discussions with Debbie Mogg at RCC. It was emphasised that the outcome of a Village Poll is not binding on either Morcott Parish Council or RCC.

Utilising the projector the chair proposed the following wording for the question to be posed in the Poll:

**"Do you support the linked proposals by Burghley Estates to build houses on the Paddock including the refurbishment of The White Horse Inn?"**

*(This wording was arrived at in consultation with Debbie Mogg, Director of Resources Rutland County Council acting on behalf of Helen Briggs, Returning Officer & CEO, Rutland County Council).*

The chair explained that this question reflects the fact that there is only one proposal that has been tabled by Burghley Estates; this is the proposal that was exhibited in the Village Hall in July 2016. The planning officers at RCC have their opinion of this proposal however this has not resulted in a different proposal. Burghley Estates, who own the pub and own the paddock, have stated the following (and there is evidence for this): If they cannot generate funds from developing the paddock then they have no interest in refurbishing the pub. If permission is not granted to build houses on the paddock their next move would be to apply for permission to build 4 or 5 houses at the rear of the pub and to convert the pub to a domestic house or demolish it to build further houses. They would then hold on to the paddock and wait for it to be available for development at some time in the future.

The chair then asked if anyone would like to modify this question in any way. The subsequent lively discussion lasted approximately 55 minutes with many points being heard both for and against the wording of the question.

The chair then drew the discussion to a close and modified the original wording proposed for the question with the insertion of "current" before "linked". The modified question was displayed to those present using the projector. The modified question proposed by the chair is:

**"Do you support the current linked proposals by Burghley Estates to build houses on the Paddock including the refurbishment of The White Horse Inn?"**

The chair then said he wished to take a vote of those for and those against the proposed wording, reiterating that those present were voting on the wording of the question that they could see in front of them.

The vote was taken separately by a raising of hands of those for and those against with Cllr Pritchard acting as teller and Cllr Johnson checking the tally. The proposer of the question is Andrew Johnson.

The result was:	Those in favour of the proposed wording:	30
	Those against the proposed wording:	24

Following the vote the chair announced that as there is a majority in favour of the wording of the question as proposed the result of this vote is that the question that will be asked in the Village Poll is as follows:

“Do you support the current linked proposals by Burghley Estates to build houses on the Paddock including the refurbishment of The White Horse Inn?”

*The names who voted for supporting the wording were taken by the Clerk for the record. Ten names from this list will be submitted as nominees to RCC if this is required.*

The chair then thanked all present for their attendance and input. He then declared the Parish Meeting closed.

The Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.



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*Appendix #1 follows...*



# MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Meeting

26<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL Parish Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 Agenda



Agenda: This Parish Meeting has been called to consider:

- 1. WHETHER TO HOLD A REFERENDUM (VILLAGE POLL) TO ESTABLISH THE OPINION OF THE ELECTORATE ON THE PROPOSAL, BY BURGHLEY ESTATES, TO REFURBISH THE WHITE HORSE INN AND DEVELOP HOUSES ON THE PADDOCK**  
Note: At least 10 Nominees from the electorate in favour of a poll are required for RCC to consider this proposal.
- 2. THE QUESTION TO BE POSED IN THE VILLAGE POLL AND THE WORDING ON VOTING SLIPS, SHOULD A POLL TAKE PLACE.**  
Note: The wording proposed is subject to the approval of Morcott Parish Council and the Returning Officer, Rutland County Council.

**MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Parish Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**Agenda**

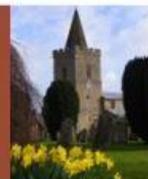


**1. WHETHER TO HOLD A REFERENDUM (VILLAGE POLL) TO ESTABLISH THE OPINION OF THE ELECTORATE ON THE PROPOSAL, BY BURGHLEY ESTATES, TO REFURBISH THE WHITE HORSE INN AND DEVELOP HOUSES ON THE PADDOCK**

Note: At least 10 Nominees from the electorate in favour of a poll are required for RCC to consider this proposal.

**MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Parish Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**Background**



**Background – What Is A Village Poll?**

- A Village Poll can be requested at a Parish Meeting by a minimum of ten nominees
- The question to be posed in the Village Poll must have a simple “Yes” or “No” answer and be agreed by RCC
- The result of a Village Poll is not binding on either the Parish Council or RCC but is a gauge of Village opinion
- A Village Poll is run by RCC according to Electoral Commission guidelines with some restrictions
- Voting in a Village Poll is only available between the hours of 4pm and 9pm on the day of the poll
- No proxy or postal votes are allowed for a Village Poll



## **2. THE QUESTION TO BE POSED IN THE VILLAGE POLL AND THE WORDING ON VOTING SLIPS, SHOULD A POLL TAKE PLACE.**

Note: The wording proposed is subject to the approval of Morcott Parish Council and the Returning Officer, Rutland County Council.



**The Question To Be posed.**

**The following has been stipulated by RCC:**

**“Do you support the linked proposals by Burghley Estates to build houses on the Paddock including the refurbishment of The White Horse Inn?”**

**MORCOTT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Parish Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017**



**The Question To Be posed:**

*(NB. the question was modified following discussion during the meeting and the vote was taken on the following: )*

**“Do you support the current linked proposals by Burghley Estates to build houses on the Paddock including the refurbishment of The White Horse Inn?”**



**MORCOTT  
PARISH COUNCIL**

**Parish  
Meeting**

26<sup>th</sup> July 2017