

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 4 August 2025 at 7.30pm

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Present: Simon Baker, (Chair), Dawn Parkhouse (Vice Chair), Sarah Gillbard, David Gillbard, David Grant, Stephen Leese Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, Debbie Ticehurst, District Councillor Mark Jenkins, County Councillor Steve Keable, and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** Sarah Vere and District Councillor Helen Tuffin.
2. **Members of the Public** – No members of the Public were in attendance.
3. **The minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 July 2025 were approved - Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, seconded: Dawn Parkhouse - carried unanimously.

4. Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere in the minutes):

- Dawn Parkhouse mentioned that she had volunteered to join the organising group for the Music Festival for 2026 but it had not been recorded in the minutes.
- A new lock was still awaited for the Village Noticeboard on the Skittle Alley.
- David Gillbard would mention to the landowners that the hedge just past Lydcott Nursery on the right as one approached Black Dog needed cutting back and could it be done at the beginning of September.
- The Clerk still had to write to Devon Highways regarding cleaning the signs around the village, the subsidence on the Morchard Road side of the railway bridge and the overgrown hedges by the school.
- The Clerk was still to write to Mid Devon District Council to request a Dog Poo Bin at the Playing Fields.

5. Finance.

Cashflow table for August was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for July/August. Expenditure for August is £1,402.01 on the main account, nothing from the Reserve account and £1,197.07 on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of July before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £14,312.89; Current Account £8,194.05; P3 Account £6,853.30.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church	£ 19.47 Direct Debit
Information Commissr	Annual Fee	£ 47.00 Direct Debit
Callum Barber	Felling Cherry Tree	£160.00 BACS
David Parker	Salary for April-June	£1,071.60 BACS
David Parker	Orchards Live Membership	£ 8.00 BACS
Stephen Leese	Defib Pads	£ 95.94 BACS

P3 Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Northfield Landscaping	Work to footpaths	£1,197.07 BACS
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The Current account stands at £6,792.04 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £14,312.89 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£150.48), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£4,000), and the P3 account stands at £5,656.23.

Stephen Leese proposed, and David Grant seconded that these invoices be paid and the Financial report accepted – carried unanimously.

6. Planning

25/00964/LBC	Listed Building Consent to remove asbestos roof sheeting and replace with insulated corrugated metal sheeting	Northcott Cottage, MB
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After Discussion: Les Partridge proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, Sheila Sinclair seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

25/01044/LBC	Listed Building Consent to remove asbestos roof sheeting and replace with insulated corrugated metal sheeting	Southcott Cottage, MB
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After Discussion: Les Partridge proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, Sheila Sinclair seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

25/01003/PNCOU Information Only	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to dwelling under class Q	Land and Buildings at NGR 279701 105633 New Buildings, Sandford
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After Discussion: The Parish Council NOTED this application.

25/003332/FULL	Erection of a replacement stable building	Land at NGR 276186 / 107832 South of Turning Ways, Lapford
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After Discussion: David Grant proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, Debbie Ticehurst seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals:

25/00606/FULL Approved	Prior Notification for the change of use of land to a temporary campsite under Class BC for a period of up to 60 non-consecutive days from 10/05/2025 – 31/10/2025 with associated toilets.	Beech Hill House, MB
25/00634/FULL Approved	Installation of a slurry lagoon	Land at NGR 277999 109904 Bishopsleigh Farm, Black Dog

7. County and District Councillor's Reports

Councillor Steve Keable's report is attached to these minutes. He mentioned the Strategic Mayoral Authority for the whole of Devon and perhaps Cornwall which should unlock Government Funds for the South West and was different from the Local Government Reorganisation that Devon Councils were engaged in. Two Councillors would be invited to the State of the District Debate about Local Government Reorganisation on Wednesday 17 September 2025. Stephen Leese and one other would attend.

Councillor Helen Tuffin's report is attached to these minutes.

Councillor Mark Jenkins reported on MDDC's achievements in recycling, that Active Mid Devon now had attracted more Members and had reduced their costs. He also reported on the Residents' Survey, the Tenants' Satisfaction Survey, Greener Initiatives and Economic Initiatives. He also commented about the number of Independent shops that were closing. Councillor Jenkins also mentioned that Planning Changes and the 5 year Local Supply of Housing under the Planning Infrastructure Bill had changed the scheme of delegation, there was scope now to refer Enforcement cases and S106 applications (not linked to Planning Applications) to Committee. Mid Devon were required to ensure that 566 houses were now built instead of 392 under the previous scheme.

Councillor Jenkins also mentioned; Environmental Delivery Plans, the re-modelling of the Waste Depot, the Draft Nature Recovery Strategy and a survey into Bus Services.

8. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- South Western Ambulance Charity grant request for a Community Response Vehicle. – Parish Council voted by 6 votes to 2, NOT to award a grant to this charity.
- GoCompare had prepared a guide to "preparing for a flood and protecting your property" – they had asked for a link to this publication to be made from our website. It was agreed NOT to include the link on the Parish Council Website as the Parish Council did not want to be seen to be favouring one company over another, however, the useful information would be copied onto the Website and credit given to the company for the information.
- Devon Community Resilience Forum would be holding an event at Honiton on 9 October 2025. With 'Martyn's Law' coming into force, organising committees would need to consider how to keep guests at their events safe.
- Mid Devon District Council reminded Parish Councillors and the general public to complete the on-line survey about the future of Devon's Councils.

- Mid Devon District Council notification that the road closure at Copplestone would be lifted during the week commencing 4 August 2025.
- The Parish Council agreed to the funding request of £109.56 for Paint for the phone box at Frost.

9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads, Road Wardens and Finger Posts: Sarah Gillbard produced a road sign that had been made for her, unfortunately the cost of the sign was higher than hoped for and close to the quotation produced by Ken White Signs which included installation of the signs. Les Partridge proposed that if the price from Ken White Signs remained the same then the contract for the replacement of the signs be given to them, Debbie Ticehurst seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED. – **The Clerk was asked to check that the quotation from Ken White Signs would still be honoured and if so to order the signs.** Cllr Steve Keable agreed to contribute £500 from his locality budget. The remainder of the funds to come from the Resilience Account. **The Clerk to apply for funds from the Locality Budget.**
- b) Accidents and Incidents: None.
- c) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order. – **The post at Frost had become loose. – Andy Hankins would set it in concrete.**
- d) Emergency Plan – A date for the working group was to be agreed.
- e) Website and new Parish Logo – Simon Baker thanked Stephen Leese for all his hard work on the new Website.
- f) Neighbourhood Watch – There were four groups in the village, Stephen Leese had applied for a scheme with all four areas under the one scheme with Stephen Leese in control of the scheme.
- g) Replacement for Cherry Tree on the Green – The Tree Surgeon had informed the Council that due to the two previous Cherry Trees on the Green having become diseased that it would be better to plant a different Tree. The Parish Council agreed to consider what sort of tree at its next meeting and the Tree Surgeon would be asked for suggestions.
- h) School Car Park – Les Partridge had spoken with Martin Bragg and Ben with regard to laying one or two drainage pipes into the field from the car park. One new drain was £350 + VAT and two new drains were £500 + VAT. It was agreed that David Gillbard and Les Partridge could make the decision once the team was on site, funding up to £500 + VAT was approved.

10. Crediton Area Association of Local Councils Meeting Report – Stephen Leese had attended the meeting in Morchard Bishop on 21 July 2025. The main item of discussion had been the future of Queen Elizabeth School and the proposal to move it all to a single site. The School hoped to make the sixth form offering more attractive. There were also discussions on Planning, Housing and bringing more people into the area to support the schools. Cllr S Keable gave some further insights regarding re-building the High School and the land available for it.

11. Local Government Reorganisation and Community Asset Transfers – The Clerk mentioned that the only asset held by Mid Devon in Morchard Bishop was the Play Area behind the garages at Greenaway. The play area appeared not to be used and thought needed to be given to how the land was best utilised. **The Parish Council agreed to have a site view before their next meeting at 7.00pm on Monday 8th September 2025 at the Greenaway Play Area.**

12. Apple Day – Would take place on Saturday 4th October 2025 when the Parish Council would also run the Coffee Morning. – **The Clerk to arrange the hire of the equipment.**

13. National Planning Policy Framework, Neighbourhood Plans and offering land for development – The Government appeared to be removing local democratic input from the Planning process. The Government was pushing for more housing development in rural areas and so Morchard Bishop was at risk. Mid Devon District Council were rewriting their Local Plan, Stephen Leese proposed that the Parish agree a strategic Plan. Neighbourhood Plans (written by Parishes) were too time consuming and focussed on more than was necessary, taking too long to write, needing a consultant and consequently being expensive, particularly now that grant funding had been removed by the Government. Cllr Steve Keable suggested that the Parish look at other Neighbourhood Plans such as Willand and Silverton and use those as a base adding in the Parish's own local land knowledge. The Parish Council should suggest local building development where they wanted it, and when complete, ask for it to be added to the Local Plan. The Parish Council agreed to begin to consider a strategic paper using Willand and Silverton's plans as a template. This matter to form an item at the next Parish Council Meeting when a Working Group could be formed if wanted.

14. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Sustainable Morchard – Nothing to report.
- Memorial Hall – Pickle Ball had started.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – Simon Baker thanked everyone who had helped at the Vintage Rally and Fun Day in any way. Welly Wanging made £78.30, The Jacket Potatoes made a profit of approximately £500. Julian Rice had provided a tremendous Trophy for the longest Welly Wang. - **The Clerk was asked to write to Julian to thank him for the trophy.**
- School – Work would commence on the weather proof track to the Garden in early August 2025 and hope to complete before term commenced.
- Churchyard – Nothing to report.
- Parochial Church Council – There had not been a meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting.

15. General (Note – items in this section cannot be discussed – merely scheduled for a future meeting).

- The Football Club had now been promoted by two divisions.
- **The Clerk was asked to report a Van that was SORN that had been parked on a road at Oldborough for the past three months.**

Meeting Closed at 9.16pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 8th September 2025** at the Memorial Hall **at 7.30pm. Note – SECOND MONDAY**