

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th September 2026 at 7.00pm

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Present: Dawn Parkhouse (Vice Chair), Sarah Gillbard, David Gillbard, David Grant, Sheila Sinclair, Debbie Ticehurst, Sarah Vere, County Councillor Steve Keable, District Councillor Mark Jenkins, District Councillor Helen Tuffin and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public attending: None

1. **Apologies:** Simon Baker (Chair), Stephen Leese, Les Partridge.

2. **Members of the Public** – None.

3. **The minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 August 2026 were approved - Proposed: David Grant, seconded: Debbie Ticehurst - carried unanimously.

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

- The Clerk had written to the Highways Liaison Officer at Devon County Council about inconsiderate parking around Bishops Meadow and elsewhere in the village. The response from Steve Tucker was that this was not directly a Highways Issue as there was no enforceable lining system in the area. If a vehicle was causing an obstruction, it was a police matter. The Parish Council considered and voted against applying for formal parking systems to be put in place in the village. The Parish Council would keep a watching brief on the situation.
- **Seats - Sarah and Debbie would see if they could put some paint on the seat at Groberry Hayes alternatively Kirk Gilroy could be employed to do this job.**
- **Both seats in St Gatien would benefit from a rub down and a coat of wood preserver, it was agreed to ask Kirk Gilroy to do this on a paid basis.**
- **Fuji Salt Spreader – Les confirmed that John Charman would clean down the salt spreader and give it a coat of diesel before putting it away for the summer.**
- The Clerk had written to the resident who had complained of disruptive behaviour from his neighbours.
- An article had been sent to the Morchard Messenger explaining what the Parish Council were and were not responsible for.
- The Clerk had submitted a closing submission to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to Planning Appeal no. 26/00300/PIP the application for a new build at Frost. The clerk would circulate this to the Parish Council.
- Councillor Keable reported back on progress so far in relation to our Highways requests; The Locality Budget for clearing of the gullies had been received, The order for the posts on which to mount the VAS sign had been placed but it was unknown when delivery would take place, Orders for replacement fingerposts had been placed but again it was unknown when they would be received, Steve Keable would contact the Building Control office at Mid Devon DC about the boundary wall at Ridge House, The Rural Response Programme for repairing potholes was working well with patch repairs carried out in Church Street, and along Chulmleigh Road. Steve Keable urged Councillors and the Public to report potholes on the Devon Highways website in order that more can be filled but also for the purposes of Data Collection, presently pot holes in rural areas were under reported. **The Clerk will submit another article to the Morchard Messenger reminding people how to make a report of a pot hole.** There are pot holes along Hill Barton Lane and Broadridge Lane that need to be reported. Steve Keable had learned of an Devon Enforcement Officer in relation to Public Utilities, **the Clerk would photograph and send to Steve Keable the unacceptable patch that Open Reach had made to a hole they had dug by the shop, it had now subsided and was a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles alike.** The subsidence on the bridge at Morchard Road was the responsibility of Network Rail but they were not going to do anything about it.
- The Clerk had written to the Parishioner who had wanted to offer a piece of land for housing giving them the relevant contact details at Mid Devon District Council.
- The Clerk had ordered a water butt for the bus shelter but it had been delivered without a lid and he was following that up.

5. Finance.

A cashflow table for September was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for August/September. Expenditure for September was £550.20 on the main account, nothing on the Reserve account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of August before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £17,652.96 (the MorFest proceeds having been transferred to this account); Current Account £8,130.43 (having paid proceeds from MorFest to village organisations); P3 Account £2,614.32.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church (est.)	£ 18.71 Direct Debit
D Parker	Orchard Live Membership	£ 8.00 BACS
D Parker	Archive Gloves	£ 51.54 BACS
D Parker	Water Butt	£ 63.95 BACS
S Leese	Defibrillator Battery and pads	£ 408.00 BACS

The Current account stands at £7,580.23 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £17,904.96 including funds for Jubilee and MorFest Funds (£3,853.46), DAAT (£150.48), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£4,000), and the P3 account stands at £2,614.32.

Sheila Sinclair proposed, and Sarah Vere seconded that these invoices be paid and the Financial report accepted – carried unanimously.

6. Planning

26/01092/FULL	Erection of a Livestock Building (749.6 sq.m.)	Land at NGR 279821 / 106512 Moor Farm Morchard Bishop
---------------	--	---

Councillor Sarah Vere declared an interest and left the room for the discussion.

Following discussion, Councillor Sarah Gillbard proposed that the application be SUPPORTED, Councillor David Grant seconded the proposal and the Parish Council all voted in favour of the proposal.

26/01171/DPO	Application under The Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 to seek to discharge the terms of a section 106 agreement pursuant to planning permission 14/01954/FULL	Harescombe, Morchard Bishop
--------------	---	-----------------------------

Following discussion, Councillor Sarah Vere proposed that the obligations in relation to this building needed to continue to be compliant with the Mid Devon District Council Agricultural Ties policies. Councillor Debbie Ticehurst seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals:

26/00892/HOUSE Granted	Replacement of existing extension roof incorporating 3 rooflights, alterations to and formation of window and door openings, and erection of a conservatory	Redhill, MB NGR: 276103/108047
26/00907/CLU Certificate Granted	Certificate of lawfulness to establish the lawful commencement of development approved under planning permission 23/01480/FULL - Erection of dwelling following the demolition of Dutch barn, utilising the Class Q fallback position	The Dutch Barn, MB NGR: 278784/107461

7. County and District Councillors' Headlines

Councillor Steve Keable had submitted his report in advance of the meeting. The second half of the report had reflected on changes to Local Government. However, following a decision taken by Central Government that afternoon, the Local Government reorganisation programme had been paused. The cost of the reorganisation across Devon was approximately £1 million, Central Government had set aside £67 million for the purpose and so it was expected that the Councils across the County would be reimbursed. Councillors Helen Tuffin and Mark Jenkins had also provided their newsletter before the meeting, this also led on the Local Government reorganisation which had now been paused. The newsletter also mentioned Local Green Spaces: Mid Devon District Council will be consulting with Parish Councils as part of Plan Mid Devon during September and October regarding areas where the Parish Council would like designated as

Local Green spaces. Suggestions put forward were: the allotments, Morchard Wood, the proposed Community Orchard, the Playing Fields, bowls club and football pitch, the School Field and St Gatien Garden.

8. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Details of the Nathan Saunders Memorial Tractor Run – 27 September
- Footpath Closure – The Green 22 September
- Mid Devon District Council offering Free Kitchen Caddies
- Westbank Community Health and Care Centre – Open day 13 October
- Devon Association of Local Councils newsletters x 2
- New interim Warding arrangements – We would now be in Sandford and Taw Vale Ward and we will have one Unitary Councillor. (*Arrangements now paused*).
- Tom Murby and Beth Ohara – Changes to the Dartline 369 Bus Service – The 369 bus route would now not be continuing to the Royal Devon University Hospital. This change would affect staff, patients and visitors at a time when people were being encouraged to use sustainable transport. **The Clerk was asked to write to Dartline to express the Council's deep concern and ask for this service to be reinstated at the earliest opportunity.**
- Boniface Trail Topographical Surveys – Traffic Lights on the A377 Crediton to Newton St Cyres – 7 to 23 September
- Devon & Torbay Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure meeting. The Parish Council expected to be invited to a meeting in Mid-September to progress our applications for Electric Vehicle Charging in the Car Park by the school and at the Memorial Hall. No offers to attend were received.
- Jeanette Richardson – The lighting up of the Nativity in the bus shelter would take place on 13 December.
- Mid Devon District Council – **reminder for Councillor's Register of Interest forms** – The Clerk had now received three forms – Mid Devon District Council had confirmed that it was compulsory for new forms to be completed.

9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads, Road Wardens, Drains and Finger Posts: - Nothing to report.
 - b) Accidents and Incidents – None.
 - c) Defibrillators – Battery and Pads had been replaced on the Defibrillator by The Forge.
 - d) Church Clock – The Clock had been serviced on 3rd September and it was again striking on the hour.
 - e) Headland Plough – The plough was yet to be delivered to Moor Farm for alterations to be made to the plough.
 - f) Drain Clearing – Jonathan Nicks would be asked to clear the ditch at the back of Chulmleigh Road. Once a date was known, the clerk would write to the relevant residents to let them know this was happening. After the ditch was cleared, we would call in our drains specialist to clear the drains in the village.
10. **Crediton Area Association of Local Councils** – The meeting that had taken place on 10 August had focussed on Local Government Reorganisation, now that, that had been paused there was nothing to report. The next meeting would take place on 21 September in Crediton.
11. **Apple Day** – 3rd October The Clerk had arranged for volunteers to assist with the apple pressing. Councillors would run the Coffee morning and offer bacon sandwiches. Dawn would run the draw. **Request for Councillors to provide Draw Prizes.**

12. **Community Orchard** – A meeting to discuss what terms would be put to the farmer would take place on Monday 21 September at 7.00pm in The London Inn for those Councillors who were interested. The Clerk had found a simple tenancy agreement that could be converted for our use. **Debbie Ticehurst would also ask Devon Communities Together whether they had any template tenancy agreements.** Once terms had been agreed with the landowner it would be worth checking with parishioners that they wanted and would use an orchard.

13. **Tidy-Up Day** – Saturday 26 September between 9.00am and 11.00am to meet in the Pub Car Park, Coffee will be served, Sheila will take the names of helpers for insurance purposes. It was agreed to concentrate on community areas and so teams will be sent to; Car Park by the school with drain rods (David Gillbard and Les Partridge to clear the kerbs in advance), Churchyard entrance, Bishops Meadow Car Park and Jayne Ways Grave.

14. **Village Archivist** – An introductory meeting took place on Tuesday 25th August with six people attending and two others unable to attend but having expressed an interest. It was decided for the time being to

make a start on documenting the articles and documents that we already held at the Memorial hall and after that to spread the net wider. The Clerk had purchased two boxes of archivist's nitrile gloves to protect the documents.

15. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Sustainable Morchard – nothing to report.
- Memorial Hall – Finances were healthy. Cheaper By Bus would play on Saturday 26 September, there would be a Christmas book swap, in the spring they would hold a film night to show “The making of Morchard”. – This could tie in with the archivist / village history project.
- School – Term had just started, there were twelve children in the reception class. Harvest Festival would be on 1st October.
- Churchyard – No news.
- Parochial Church Council (PCC) – Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Supper would take place on Sunday 4 October.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – Debbie Ticehurst reported that representatives of the committee had met with a Charity Law Solicitor from Tozers and that they had been advised to seek Tax accounting advice. There was a Water Leak between the meter and the club house which may mean digging up the road by the Playing Fields car park.

16. Items for Future Meetings (Note – items in this section cannot be discussed – merely scheduled for a future meeting).

- Debbie Ticehurst noted that Fore Street had been closed by a utility company on Tuesday 1st September without any notice being given or any diversion signposted. **The Clerk was asked to write a letter of complaint.**
- The meeting closed with Cllr. David Grant leading us in prayer for the well-being and recovery of our Chairman Simon Baker.

Meeting Closed at 8.59pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 5 October 2026** at the Memorial Hall at **7.00pm**.