

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 7th April 2025 at 7.30pm

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Present: Dawn Parkhouse (Vice-Chair), Simon Baker, Sarah Gillbard, David Gillbard, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, District Councillor Helen Tuffin, District Councillor Mark Jenkins, County Councillor Margaret Squires and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: Sadie Bullock and Leane Burniston from Friends Of Morchard Bishop School (FOMBS), Ms F J Colthorpe (Polly).

1. Apologies: Debbie Ticehurst, David Grant and Andy Hankins.

1a. The Parish Council were sorry to receive the resignation as both Councillor and Chairman from Steve Watson. The Council paid tribute to his dedication and good Chairmanship of the Parish Council. **The Clerk was asked to send him a letter of thanks for all that he had done for the Parish.** Since his resignation, the Clerk had informed the Electoral Services Team at the District Council. A Notice of Election had been placed and no election had been requested within the requisite time frame. The Parish Council were therefore free to co-opt a new Councillor.

2. Members of the Public – Rev. Peter Brown sent his apologies as he was unwell.

Sadie Bullock and Leane Burniston from FOMBS came to the Parish Council to update them on their efforts to build a track from the school to the School Garden. The track was to be 300m long and 1.5m wide. FOMBS had received three quotes for the path using either 'tarmac' or 'agriflex' and all the quotes were for sums far in excess of the current funds available. The costs seemed to the Parish Council to be unnecessarily high and the Parish Council suggested another contractor that FOMBS should approach and asked to be kept informed of progress.

3. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd March 2025 were approved - Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, seconded: Simon Baker - carried unanimously.

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

- The Clerk had sent an invitation to the North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group to attend a future Parish Council meeting in June, July or August.
- The Clerk had ordered one ton of road filler material.
- Seats – Sarah had ordered some paint for the seat by Groberry Hayes.
- **A new lock was still awaited for the Village Noticeboard on the Skittle Alley.**
- School Car Park – **The leaves and mud gathering around the kerbs need clearing.**
- K6 Phone Box at Frost – The Clerk had spoken to Greg Anson who had kindly agreed to paint the phone box again when he had time.
- Fuji Salt Spreader – **Les Partridge would arrange for John Charman to give the machine a clean and a service.**
- The Clerk had taken advice about reclaiming VAT on the new play equipment being ordered for the playground in the Playing Fields. As long as a Transfer of Assets declaration was completed after the purchase of the equipment, then the Parish Council should be able to purchase the equipment. **The Parish Council agreed to ask the Playing Fields Committee to arrange for the invoice to be made out to the Parish Council.** Proposed Les Partridge, Seconded David Gillbard – Carried.
- Baked Potato Machine – awaiting a gas engineer to fix the two broken parts. – **Sarah Gillbard will chase up.**
- Thanks were passed to Sheila, Debbie and Dawn for running the Coffee Morning on March 22nd 2025, thanks were also given to Stephen who had organised raffle prizes.

5. Finance.

Cashflow table for April was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for March/April. Expenditure for April is £1,092.85 on the main account, nothing from the Reserve account and £55.00 the footpaths account. Funds at the end of March before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £13,987.93; Current Account £5,492.00; P3 Account £7,519.40.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid: _____

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|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Function 28 | Web hosting and Email management | £ 24.00 Standing Order |
| British Gas Energy | Outside lighting of the Church | £ 23.84 Direct Debit estimate |
| S H T Dockings | Grass Cutting | £297.00 BACS |
| David Parker | Clerk's Salary | £748.01 BACS |

Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

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|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| GC Sharland | Lightsource Grant | £2,044.11 Credit |
| Interest | | £ 14.85 Credit |

Footpaths Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

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|----------|----------------------|-------------|
| J Patten | Coordinator Expenses | £35.00 BACS |
| D Parker | Secretary Expenses | £20.00 BACS |

The Current account stands at £4,317.31 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £16,046.89 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£346.06), Sustainable Morchard (NIL), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£4,000), and the P3 account stands at £7,459.40.

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

6. Planning

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| 25/00415/FULL | Erection of front porch; rear single storey extension and terrace; new garage and formation of new vehicle access | 6 Corner Close, Morchard Bishop, Cridton |
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After discussion Les Partridge proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. Sheila Sinclair seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

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| 25/00483/FULL | Erection of an Agricultural Building | Land at NGR 277315 109204 Lane End Farm, MB |
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After discussion Stephen Leese proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. David Gillbard seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals

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|---------------------------|--|--|
| 24/00009/LBC Approved | Listed Building Consent for the erection of an attached greenhouse | 4 Wood Lane, Morchard Bishop, Cridton. |
| 24/01814/FULL Approved | Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 23/00217/FULL Erection of a rural workers dwelling to allow revised plans and provide details of material finishes and biodiversity enhancements in line with the requirements of conditions 3 and 6 | Lydcott Nursery, Black Dog, Cridton |

7. County and District Councillor's Reports

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

Councillor Margaret Squires giving her last report to the Parish Council mentioned Local Government reorganisation and the move towards a Unitary Authority. Devon County Council had suggested five alternative options to Central Government, the final design would be made by the new administration post the County Council elections. Both Plymouth and Torbay were already Unitary Authorities, but both their populations were below the Government's requirement of 500,000. Across the County, Children and Adults services and Highways would be split into the new unitary authority boundaries.

<https://uk.one.network/> would show what roads were proposed to be dressed.

8. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Parking on Roads in the Village. – A resident had written to comment about vehicles being parked irresponsibly particularly around The Green which had the effect that large vehicles including emergency vehicles could not pass. **The Clerk was asked to include in the Morchard Messenger a request that villagers**

park with consideration to others to allow wider vehicles to pass. The Clerk was also asked to mention the speed of vehicles using Wood Lane to and from the Playing Fields and Sports and Social Club.

- The Police had sent through leaflets about what action could be taken against dogs and their owners if they were worrying livestock.
- The Clerk had circulated information about raising money from Scrap metal collection. **Simon Baker would research the idea further.**
- Request from Hospiscare for a Grant. – After discussion, Stephen Leese proposed and Sheila Sinclair seconded that **a grant of £100 be given to Hospiscare** – Carried. The funds to come out of the Reserve Account.

9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads: Nothing to report.
- b) Road Warden Scheme: **It was agreed that a meeting Road Wardens would be called in readiness for the new season for mending pot holes.**
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: See correspondence above.
- e) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order. A new battery would be required for the defibrillator at Frost soon.
- f) Bus Shelter – Nothing to report.
- g) Church Clock – The clock was now running to time. Thanks were expressed to Andy Hankins for the metal cable ties and to Bob Robinson for carrying out the repair.
- h) Parish Council Land – **Stephen Leese will start to detail the Land the Parish Council own.**
- i) Emergency Plan – No further progress.
- j) Village Maintenance Plans – Nothing to report.
- k) Assisting local Businesses – No further progress.
- l) Parish Diary – No further progress.
- m) V.E. Day Commemoration – The Parish Council Insurance would cover the event, M Mackey would be asked to draft a Risk Assessment. Dawn Parkhouse had the bunting. Debbie Ticehurst and David Parker would be First Aiders. 8.00am – Stephen Leese would read the Proclamation at the War Memorial. 5.00pm Set up for the evening. 6.45pm Event begins. 7.30pm Church Bells. 9.20pm Reading of Proclamation by Jim McDougal. 9.30pm Lighting of Beacon.
- n) 2025 Community Event - Stephen Leese had drafted an article for the Morchard Messenger seeking ideas for a village event to be held in the Summer, suggestions so far included; a Village Dance similar to the one held for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a Food and Drink festival. It was agreed to keep thinking about an event.
- o) Cherry Tree on the Green – The village arborist had confirmed that the Cherry Tree should now be felled. **The Clerk will apply to the Arboriculture officer at the District Council for permission to fell the tree as it is in a conservation zone.** It was agreed to think about what the trunk be best used for – perhaps a carving or a seat?
- p) "Not Spots" around the village – Stephen Leese had produced a map essentially showing that the complete centre of the village was a "Not Spot" – **The Clerk would send the map to the Resilience Officer at Mid Devon District Council and await his response.**

10. Crediton Cluster Meeting Report – Stephen Leese agreed to represent the Parish Council at the Crediton Cluster meeting.

11. Sustainable Morchard Report – There would be a Plant Swap on 3rd May. In May there would also be a Walk focussing on Birds.

12. Morchard Bishop Parish Council Website – The Clerk had circulated a report. Both "Active Councils" and "Parish On-line" offered e-mail addresses for Clerk and all Councillors with a .gov.uk domain as well as a website including a calendar. The "Active Councils" website was preferred by those who had looked at them. **The Clerk was asked to ask Active Councils for a quotation.** Stephen Leese agreed to be the Website Manager and assist in setting up the Web-Site.

13. War Memorial – The War Memorials Trust had turned down the Parish Council request for a grant stating that the War Memorial was in better condition than many. Quotations had been received for re-surfacing the piece of road above the War Memorial and for the refurbishment and painting of the posts. The Parish Council agreed to leave the resurfacing of the road for the time-being **and to ask KAL Home Improvements to refurbish and paint the posts around the War Memorial.** Proposed Stephen Leese, seconded Sheila Sinclair – Carried.

14. Finger Posts – The Clerk had sent details of the signs to Sarah Gillbard and Les Partridge for them to make enquiries – **responses were still awaited.** – Item to be left on the agenda.

15. Neighbourhood Watch – Stephen Leese confirmed that there were four Neighbourhood Watch groups in the Village. **He would circulate an e-mail with details and suggest something for the website.** With Andy Hankins being absent the main discussion was adjourned to the next meeting.

16. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Memorial Hall – The hall had been awarded £12,000 to enable them to buy solar panels.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – With Steve Watson's resignation, it was agreed to leave the Parish Council representation on the Playing Fields Committee as only David Gillbard. Playing Fields' AGM on 14 April 2025.
- School – A new Head Teacher would start after the Easter break.
- Churchyard – Nothing to report.
- Parochial Church Council – No meeting had been held since the last Parish Council Meeting.

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

- Les Partridge mentioned that Open Reach had surveyed his land with a view to putting in Broadband Fibre in the next 12 months. Dawn Parkhouse had mentioned the poor service offered by MAAT to the Devon Air Ambulance landing site Devon Air Ambulance were following it up.

Meeting Closed at 10.05pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 12 May 2025** at the Memorial Hall **at 7.30pm.** which would be our AGM and Parish Meeting.