

## MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 27th January 2025 at 7.30pm

#### At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

**Present:** Dawn Parkhouse (Vice-Chair), Simon Baker, David Gillbard, David Grant, Sarah Gillbard, Andy Hankins, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, County Councillor Margaret Squires, and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: Frances Anson

1. **Apologies:** Steven Watson, Debbie Ticehurst, District Councillor Mark Jenkins and District Councillor Helen Tuffin.
2. **Members of the Public** – None.
3. **The minutes** of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved - Proposed: Stephen Leese, seconded: Simon Baker - carried unanimously.  
**Matters Arising:** David Grant apologised for forgetting the previous meeting.

#### 4. Finance.

Cashflow table for February was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for January/February. Expenditure for February is £1,090.78 on the main account, nothing on the Reserve account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of January before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £13,966.81; Current Account £6,586.22; P3 Account £4,519.40.

##### Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Function 28	Web hosting and Email management	£ 24.00 Standing Order
British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church	£ 27.18 Direct Debit estimate
Churchyard Committee	Annual Grant	£1,000.00 BACS
David Parker	Expenses - Ink Cartridges	£39.60 BACS

##### Footpaths Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Devon Public Rights of Way	Major Works Grant	£3,000.00 Credit
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The Current account stands at £5,495.44 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £13,966.81 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£346.06), Sustainable Morchard (£8.04), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£4,000), and the P3 account stands at £7,519.40.

A question was raised and answered in relation to the annual grant to the Churchyard about the cost of grass cutting in the Churchyard.

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

#### 5. Planning

25/00009/LBC	Listed Building Consent for the erection of an attached greenhouse.	4 Wood Lane, Morchard Bishop
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After discussion Les Partridge proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. David Grant seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

25/00045/HOUSE	Erection of single storey extension	Bishopsleigh Cottage, Black Dog, Crediton
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After discussion Simon Baker proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. David Grant seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

#### Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals

24/01738/LBC <b>Granted</b>	Listed Building Consent for change of use of an agricultural building to additional ancillary accommodation	The Barn, Middle Leigh Farm, Morchard Bishop
24/01402/FULL <b>Granted</b>	Change of use of an agricultural building to ancillary accommodation to a dwelling	The Barn, Middle Leigh Farm, Morchard Bishop

#### 6. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- BT Digital Voice events and Mobile “not” spots – a letter had been circulated asking Councillors to identify areas in the village where there was no internal house mobile signal. There were plenty of these in the village and the surrounding area but it wasn't clear how much detail the Resilience Officer at Mid Devon District Council wanted. – **The Clerk was asked to make further enquiries of the Resilience Officer.**
- Street Works – notification to close Chulmleigh Road for South West Water between 10 February and 14 February 2025.
- Parish On-line initiative to switch our website and e-mail address to a gov.uk domain, - Stephen Leese proposed that **the Clerk investigate this further to find out what the on-going costs would be.** – Carried.
- Churchyard Grant Request – a request had been received from the Churchyard Committee for their Annual Grant – this was agreed to.
- Free events/workshops for Mid Devon Agricultural Businesses during February 2025 – information was circulated.
- Post Box presently on the Old Post House has now been closed and taken away and a new Post Pox has been erected on the Village Green by the Car Parking spaces.
- Land and Property Registration firm had sent a flyer suggesting that all Council owned land ought to be properly registered with the Land Registry as quite often Parishes owned unregistered land. The Parish Council owns very little land, Stephen Leese had looked into this further and questioned whether the Council had any documentation about the ownership of land. It was agreed that **the Clerk, Stephen Leese, Sheila Sinclair and Debbie Ticehurst would go through the documents in the Parish Council's possession.**

#### 7. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads: There had a been a flood on the road down to Morchard Road between Ridgeway and Week Cottage. The Hedges near to Morchard Road needed cutting back, **David Grant agreed to contact Mr Reddaway and Mr Bragg.**
- b) Road Warden Scheme: Nothing to report.
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: On Fp14 (Alpaca Way) two dogs OFF LEADS managed to get into a duck enclosure whilst the ducks were out. **The Clerk will ask the Police for an information pack as to what can be done about dogs being loose in fields with livestock.**
- e) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order.
- f) Bus Shelter – Nothing to report.
- g) Church Clock – Nothing to report.
- h) Emergency Plan – No further progress.
- i) Village Maintenance Plans – **The Clerk will meet with Stephen Leese about the turf/grass that needed cutting back around the Green on which the bus shelter was located.**
- j) Assisting local Businesses – No further progress.
- k) War Memorial – The Clerk had received three quotations for the work to repair the tarmac to the front of the War Memorial **but was still chasing a fourth.** The Clerk had now received quotes for the refurbishment and painting of the posts and would **move towards making an application to the War Memorials Trust.**
- l) Parish Diary – No further progress.
- m) Bad-Weather Wardens and Winter – Nothing to report.
- n) Church Lighting – Andy Hankins had looked into the costs and discovered that the current lights were very efficient and the power itself did not cost a lot (about 8p per day) but it was the standing charge that made

up most of the charge. Therefore, if the time that the lights were on was reduced it would make very little difference to the cost of lighting the outside of the church. The Parish Council agreed that there would be no change in the current arrangement.

**8. Crediton Cluster Meeting Report** – No report.

**9. Sustainable Morchard Report** – There would be a talk about Swifts that would be open to the public on 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall and was “Free of Charge”. There would be a Seed swap on 1<sup>st</sup> March and a plant swap on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**10. Finger post signs- consideration of estimate for replacement** –The Clerk had received a quotation for the replacement of the missing fingerposts of £2,595.00. The Parish Council thought this was too high and **agreed to obtain quotations from other providers. The clerk was also asked to mention it in the Morchard Messenger and offer an amnesty for the anonymous return of any signs to the “Cardboard shed” in the London Inn Carpark.**

**11. Governance Documents** - The Clerk had circulated the Parish Council’s own Governance Documents before the meeting in order that they could be read and considered in readiness for this meeting. Stephen Leese proposed and Sheila Sinclair seconded that the documents be approved en masse. This was carried and the documents were approved.

**12. 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V.E. Day** – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May with the beacon being lit at 9.30pm. It was agreed to hold the event in the field behind the London Inn which would make it safer for all. It was hoped to organise a Barbecue.

**13. 2025 Community Event** – **Stephen Leese would draft an article for the Morchard Messenger seeking ideas for a village event to be held in the Summer.**

**14. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports**

- County Councillor’s report – It was budget setting time, the Government were not recognising how rurally deprived Devon was. There would be no “rural settlement” grant from the Government this year. This would mean that County, District and Parishes would have to do more for less. There would be a reorganisation of County and District structures with a Unitary Authority coming into existence.
- Memorial Hall – The Memorial Hall Committee had set up a rota for the cleaning of the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council were running the Coffee Mornings on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025 – help and donations for the raffle were requested. The Memorial Hall Committee were looking at replacing their Audio/Visual system.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – The AGM would take place on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The Committee was still trying to clarify the possibility of becoming VAT registered and what effect it would have on the Sports and Social Club. There was a fence down between the Playing Fields and the Bowls Club, there was a proposal to replace the fence with a wire fence and plant a hedge. The Committee was still investigating new Play Area equipment.
- School – **Sheila Sinclair will convey to the school, the Parish Council’s disappointment that it had not received a letter of thanks for the fund raising towards the track to the School garden and that work on it had not commenced yet.**
- Churchyard – No report.
- Parochial Church Council – No meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.

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

- The Clerk mentioned that another Parish Council had raised money by **collecting scrap metal. He would circulate details.**
- A car was being parked long term in the Car Park by the school – **the Clerk was asked to mention it on “Spotted in Morchard”.**

Meeting Closed at 9.37pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 3 March 2025** at the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**. when we will consider the Village Assets and their maintenance.