

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 1st July 2024 at 7.00pm

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Present: Steve Watson (Chairman), Simon Baker, David Grant, David Gillbard, Sarah Gillbard, Andy Hankins, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, Debbie Ticehurst, District Councillor Mark Jenkins and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: None

1. Bio-Diversity Net Gain – Richard Kapff from Natural Capital Marketplace gave a presentation to the Parish Council about Bio-Diversity Net Gain and the advantages it could offer landowners. Bio-Diversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development. It makes sure that habitats for wildlife are left in a measurably better state than they were before the development. In England BNG was mandatory from 12 February 2024 and Developers must deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%. This means that a development will result in more, or better-quality natural habitat than there was before development. All new Developments must undertake a base-line survey to work out how many biodiversity units would be lost by the development. A habitat will contain several biodiversity units, depending upon things like its size, quality, location and type. Biodiversity units can be lost through development or generated through work to create and enhance habitats. Developers who are not able to achieve a 10% BNG on their development can buy units of BNG on land in the same geographical region (Local Character Area). Landowners offering land where BNG can be enhanced would need an Ecologist to tell them what their base line was and what uplift they could get, the difference equated to the number of units that the landowner would be able to sell to developers. The landowner after receiving the payment and entering into a Conservation Covenant, was legally responsible for creating, enhancing and managing the habitat for at least 30 years to achieve the target condition. Assessment is carried out every three to four years and if the landowner doesn't manage the land in accordance with the covenant, then the payment will be clawed back. The arrangement was worth entering into for units of over two hectares although smaller parcels of land could be aggregated to form a larger parcel of land. This scheme is not the same as Stewardship and cannot be put in place on top of SFI. Nor is it the same as Carbon Offsetting.
2. **Apologies:** Dawn Parkhouse, County Councillor Margaret Squires, District Councillor Helen Tuffin.
3. **Members of the Public** - None.
4. **The minutes** of the Council meeting held on 3rd June 2024 were approved - Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, seconded: Simon Baker – carried unanimously.
5. **Finance.**
Cashflow table for July was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for June/July. Expenditure for July is £752.04 on the main account, £328.03 on the Reserve Account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of June 2024 before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £15,430.86; Current Account £7,877.07; P3 Account £2,585.14.

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	£ 24.28 Direct Debit
Anthony Scoins	Repair of Noticeboards*	£ 638.52 BACS
David Parker	Gift for Internal Auditor	£ 65.24 BACS

* It was noted that the estimate for this work was £575 but Mr Scoins had explained that more work had been necessary than had at first been apparent.

Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

South West Fixings	Bitumen for Pothole repairs	£328.03 BACS
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The Current account stands at £7,125.03 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £15,102.83 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£1,116.80), Sustainable Morchard (£39.54), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£1500), and the P3 account stands at £2,585.14.

Stephen Leese proposed and Debbie Tichurst seconded that these invoices be paid and the Financial report accepted – carried unanimously.

6. Planning

24/00811/FULL	Erection of a general purpose agricultural building	Land at NGR 275593 104905 Willobrooke Farm, Morchard Bishop
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After discussion David Grant proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. Debbie Ticehurst seconded the proposal and it was carried unanimously.

7. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Owners of Hideaway House – I wanted to make the Parish Council aware that the steps on the pavement outside our house opposite the pub have been cracked. We think this happened when contractors were back and forth a couple of weeks ago.
It's a tight corner for tractors but usually they get round ok.
If you can let me know what we can do, it's not our property but like to keep it looking tidy.
Thanks Clare and Matt
The Parish Council considered this correspondence and directed that the Clerk reply to the householders that they were content for the owners to repair the steps themselves in any way that they wish just as the previous owner of the property had done.
- Crediton Cluster – Steve Huxtable had written to thank the Council for the invite to the meeting which he had found very informative and was sure that there were potential synergies between the local councils.

8. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud: Nothing to report..
- b) Road Warden Scheme: Nothing to report.
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: Nothing to report.
- e) Defibrillators – All Defibrillators are working. Stephen Leese has strimmed the weeds around the defibrillator at Frost. New pads will be required for the defibrillator in Church Street during August at a cost of approximately £97.
- f) Bus Shelter – Nothing to report.
- g) Church Clock – Nothing to report.
- h) Churchyard Committee Trees – Nothing to report.
- i) Emergency Plan – No further progress.
- j) Public Convenience in Morchard Bishop – The Parish Council agreed to put this item on hold for the moment whilst another group in the village explore whether they will be able to get funding for and build a public toilet.
- k) Village Maintenance Plans – The Clerk will speak to Aidan Wilcox about trimming areas back around the benches and killing weeds where necessary.
- l) Assisting Businesses – This item had not moved forward yet.
- m) D-Day Commemorations – The Commemoration events went well. Sarah will pass the profits from the Barbecue to Dawn Parkhouse to send off to the various charities.

9. **Morchard Bishop Playing Fields Fun Day** – The Parish Council will run a Welly Wanging competition. Andy Hankins and David Grant agreed to be the Parish Council's main representatives but would welcome others giving them a break. Cost to public 50p per pair of wellies. Separate competitions for Under 11's, 11-16's, Ladies and Men. Sarah agreed to provide the prizes – bottles for adults and chocolates for the two under 16 categories.

10. **Crediton Cluster Meeting Report** – Yeoford Parish were coming on board. The Boniface Cycle Trail would now be led by the cluster. Queen Elizabeth's School may need to move whilst urgent work is carried out to one of their sites. – For Morchard Bishop Parish Council, the cluster is not yet of great benefit, however, the contacts and exchange of ideas is useful. The next meeting would be in September.

- 11. War Memorial** – The white posts need the rust treating and painting. Debbie Ticehurst would approach KAL construction and approach the man that painted the climbing frame for the Playing Fields. – We need quotes from both. Simon will obtain two bags of stone to supplement the stone already around the War Memorial. A working party was arranged for Monday 8th July at 7.00pm. The Clerk would research grants for War Memorials.
- 12. Christmas Lights** – The Aim was for the public to be kept safe whilst lighting a tree and the bus shelter. David Gillbard proposed that the Parish Council buy some new 12v lights that would be run off leisure batteries housed in a box under the tree and run via a timing device. The Parish Council would speak with KAL construction.
- 13. Sustainable Morchard Report** – The group had held a competition at the school to design a logo. Two logo's had been chosen, one as the group's main logo and the other to go on stickers to give to children.
- 14. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports**
- Memorial Hall – There had been some interest following the appeal for a treasurer and a part time caretaker. New bookcases had arrived. There would be a Book Swap on 7th August.
 - Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – An audited report on the children's play area reported no major problems. The Tesco grant had been used to have the old climbing frame painted.
 - School – nothing to report
 - Churchyard – Annual Tidy Up evening set for Wednesday 17th July at 6.00pm.
 - Parochial Church Council – No report.
- 15. General** (Note – items in this section cannot be discussed – merely scheduled for a future meeting). David Gillbard offered to Sustainable Morchard a talk on Arable Farming from his daughter Emma Gillbard. Road closures were due to take place between Morchard Road and the village during the week commencing 1st July. There was no further news with regard to the hedge being cut at The Green – Les Partridge would ask his man if he would cut the hedge when he came to cut Les' hedges. Complaints had been received from Parishioners about concrete lorries coming up Polson Hill. There were also reports of boy racers in the village – particularly an incident recently after a local school prom. The Parish Council thought that there was little that could be done as when they had tried before there were no volunteers to man the speed cameras.
- District Councillor Report – Mark Jenkins had nothing to report.

Meeting Closed at 9.00pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 5th August 2024** at the Memorial Hall **at 7.30pm** when we would consider holding a bonfire in the autumn.