

## MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

**Monday 10 February 2025 at 7.00pm at the Morchard Bishop Sports and Social Club**

**Present:** Neale Meade, Karen Hayman, Sheila Sinclair (Parish Councillor), Richard and Anna Kapff, Alex Winter, David Parker (Parish Clerk)

- 1. Apologies:** Jackie Patten (P3 Co-ordinator), John Kanefsky, Claire Proietti, Massimo Proietti,
- 2. The minutes** of the meeting of 9 December 2024 (and Appendix) were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising.
- 4. Finance:** – Funds in the P3 account stand at 7,519.40, having received the major projects grant of £3,000 twice. David has reported the duplicate payment to Devon County Council PROW and we await instructions. £1,000 reserved for the work to the gateway on Footpath 9. So available funds are £3,519.40.
- 5. Volunteer Reporting** – There has been no reporting this last few months but all the footpaths have already been walked.
- 6. Report on Footpaths/outstanding works – see separate appendix for ongoing work.**

Fp2 – The large tree that came down close to the Beech Hill entrance was cleared and taken away by the Pettifers.

Fp56 – The tree that had blown down on the track between Middlecott and Crethaven – Neale cut up and cleared.

Fp40 – Jay Northfield has repaired the bridge. Devon PROW has agreed that Jay should invoice them directly for this work.

Fp59 Jay Northfield has reinstated the fingerpost.

Fp3 Jay Northfield has adjusted a gate latch .

#### **Work to do (see separate Appendix)**

Fp40 – A large tree has come down close to the footpath, Jay Northfield cleared the branches blocking the path and replaced the gate. David will speak to the landowner and mention that the Pettifers may be able to take that tree away too.

Fp15 – Needs cutting back. The hanging post out of the garden may need replacing as gate is leaning – David will investigate.

Fp14 – Needs an Eye for a hook placing on gatepost.

Junction of Fp66/28 Stile is wobbly – Neale will investigate.

## **7. Annual Reports**

David took the Committee through the Annual Return forms that he had completed so far. The Committee approved the Annual Returns.

## **8. Walking Festival Feedback**

A huge thank you to all the walk leaders who took part in Mid Devon's first Walking Festival. Your time, enthusiasm, and dedication made the event a success, and we truly appreciate your efforts in leading engaging and enjoyable walks.

This was a pilot to assess the impact a festival could have on the visitor economy. Below are some of the key findings which I thought you might find useful following your feedback:

### **Main summary:**

- The festival was well received, with positive feedback from participants about the variety and quality of walks.
- Many walkers appreciated the knowledge and friendliness of the leaders, making the experience more enjoyable.
- Attendance was encouraging, with 240 participants booking onto walks and 188 attending across the programme (less due to weather and no-shows).
- Facebook ads were successful for securing bookings and awareness
- One booking system v's managing enquiries and customer experience – to be considered next time.
- Confirmation from some organisations pushed back deadlines.
- Suggestions for improvement included, to work closer with accommodation providers to build packages around the walking festival (encourage day to stay), too many walks at times which diluted the offer (themed walks most popular), Not all organisations engaged / followed the communication strategy, spread of walks across Mid Devon v's localised area - pros and cons.
- The majority of walk leaders preferred to deliver a festival every other year. As it was a pilot, we are taking this year to assess some of our key walks, to audit the infrastructure and identify improvements e.g. signage / way markers.

I hope you are able to support the festival again and I will be in touch to start planning later this year. Amy Dugard,  
Mid Devon District Council – Economic Development and Regeneration

## **9. Walking Group**

The first walk of the monthly walks had 8 people attend. The second walk (January) was better advertised and had 19 people attend – thanks also to Anna and Richard for the soup, bread and cheese. The next walk would be on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and go via the Playing Fields to Tatepath up to High Hedges and Back Lane to Middlecott and back to the Village. The fourth walk on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March would go along Alpaca Way, through Parks Farm and Woodgate to Weeke, then down Oldborough Lane up to Watcombe Farm and back through Broadgate Farm to the Village. Walks commenced at 11.00am leaving the Memorial Hall.

**10. Any other Business**

David was asked to circulate the Footpaths Friends forms giving details as to how to report the condition of footpaths etc.

Meeting closed at 8.04pm

**The next scheduled meeting of the P3 committee will be at 7.00pm on Monday 14 April 2025 at the Sports and Social Club**