

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 12th May 2025 at following the Annual Parish Meeting

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Present: Simon Baker, (Chair), Dawn Parkhouse, Sarah Gillbard, David Gillbard, Andy Hankins, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, Debbie Ticehurst, County Councillor Steve Keable and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** David Grant, District Councillor Helen Tuffin and District Councillor Mark Jenkins,
2. **Members of the Public** – No members of the Public were in attendance.
 - 2a. Rev. Peter Brown was unable to attend and would attend the meeting in June.
 - 2b. The Clerk had received one letter expressing interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. However, the Clerk and others were aware of others who may be interested but had not got in touch with the Parish Council yet. There was also precedent that an advert should be placed on the website, on the Noticeboard and mentioned in the Morchard Messenger and that a co-option pack should be prepared. It was agreed that **the Clerk would acknowledge the expression of interest and prepare an advert and application pack with a closing date one week before the July meeting** in order that potential applicants could have time to see the mention in the Morchard Messenger and make their application.
3. **The minutes** of the Council meeting held on 7th April 2025 were approved - Proposed: Dawn Parkhouse, seconded: Sheila Sinclair - carried unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere in the minutes):**
 - The Clerk had sent a letter of Thanks to the outgoing Chair Steve Watson.
 - **A new lock was still awaited for the Village Noticeboard on the Skittle Alley.**
 - **School Car Park – David Gillbard and Les Partridge agreed to clear the leaves and mud gathering around the kerbs.**
 - Fuji Salt Spreader – John Charman had given the machine a clean and a service.
 - With regard to the new play equipment being ordered for the playground in the Playing Fields, the Clerk had asked the Playing Fields Committee to arrange for the invoice to be made out to the Parish Council.
 - Baked Potato Machine – a gas engineer had fixed the two broken parts.
 - The Clerk had included in his article in the Morchard Messenger a request that villagers park with consideration to allow wide vehicles to pass by and also that people drive along Wood Lane more slowly.
 - A meeting of Road Wardens had been held on 6th May 2025.
5. **Finance.**

Cashflow table for May was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for April/May. Expenditure for May is £951.94 on the main account, £100 from the Reserve account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of April before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £16,062.91; Current Account £10,096.23, the first half of the precept having arrived; P3 Account £7,464.40.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Core Synergy Ltd	Web hosting and Email management	£ 24.00 Standing Order
British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church	£ 23.84 Direct Debit estimate
Stapletons Accountants	Payroll Services	£144.00 BACS
Clear Councils Insurance	Annual Insurance premium	£760.10 BACS

Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Hospiscare	Grant	£ 100.00 BACS
Interest		£ 16.02 Credit

The Current account stands at £9,144.29 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £15,962.91 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 £7,464.40.

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

6. Planning

25/00506/FULL	Erection of above ground circular slurry store	Land at NGR 277716 107798 Wood Barton, MB
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After discussion Les Partridge proposed that this application be SUPPORTED subject to additional hedge screening to the south side (road side) of the slurry store. Debbie Ticehurst seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

25/00620/CAT	Notification of intention to fell 1 Cherry tree within the Conservation Area	Village Green, Fore Street, MB
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It was noted that this was the Parish Council's own Application. After discussion Stephen Leese proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. Les Partridge seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

7. County and District Councillor's Reports

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

Councillor Steve Keable giving his first report to the Parish Council mentioned that he had not long been in position and had attended three training days. The County Council was likely to be Liberal Democrat led but he awaited the meeting of the Full Council on 22nd May to find out who would make up the cabinet. He would provide regular reports.

8. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Grant Request – North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team. Stephen Leese proposed and Sheila Sinclair seconded that a grant be made to the charity of £100 towards the cost of a new off-road emergency vehicle. The grant to be taken from the Reserve account.
- CPRE Planning Workshop – 20th May 2025 at Tiverton Hotel, Blundells Road, Tiverton – **David Gillbard and Sarah Gillbard agreed to attend this event.**
- Mid Devon District Council offer of training regarding Planning – Monday 28th July at 5.30pm at Phoenix House, Tiverton. **Stephen Leese and Andy Hankins agreed to attend this training in person and Simon Baker agreed to attend the training on-line.**
- Devon Communities Together – Creating an Emergency Plan – 20th May 2025 – No-one wished to attend this training.

9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads: **David Gillbard would mention to the landowners that the hedge just past Lydcott Nursery on the right as one approached Black Dog needed cutting back and could it be done at the beginning of September.**
- b) Road Warden Scheme: The Pot-Hole Patrol would commence repairing pot-holes on Tuesday 13 May 2025. **A notice would be placed in the Morchard Messenger and sent to all Parish Councillors explaining how to report pot-holes to Devon Highways.**
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: Nothing to report.
- e) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order. A new battery would be required for the defibrillator at Frost and new pads for the defibrillator in Church Street soon.
- f) Bus Shelter – Nothing to report.
- g) Church Clock – Nothing to report.
- 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) V.E. Day Commemoration – The event was very successful with a good turn out for the Proclamation in the morning and over 100 people attending the event in the evening. David Gillbard proposed that profits from the sale of food on the evening of £332 would be donated to the British Legion, Dawn Parkhouse seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

- m) 2025 Community Event – A member of the community had suggested a Music Festival be held in the Summer of 2026. This idea was accepted enthusiastically. Sarah Gillbard will follow this up with the villager concerned.
- n) Cherry Tree on the Green – Sarah Gillbard would ask Callum to quote for felling the tree and removing the stump.
- o) Fund Raising through collecting Scrap Metal - Simon Baker had looked into the possibility of raising money through scrap metal collection but as prices for scrap metal were so low currently, there was no point in continuing with the idea for the time being.
- p) War Memorial – Karl had been asked to commence work to restore and paint the posts around the War Memorial – he will complete the work in stages.
- q) Finger Posts – Sarah Gillbard and Les Partridge awaited quotes from their contacts for replacing the Finger on the posts.

10. Crediton Cluster Meeting Report – Matters discussed at the Crediton Cluster meeting included: housing and other land uses on the Land south of Barnfield, The Boniface Trail update, Stagecoach Bus 5 reliability and punctuality, Local Government Reorganisation. Ideas for future meetings included information sharing such as asset registers and grass cutting maps. Date of next meeting 9 June 2025 at 10.00am at 8 North Street, Crediton.

11. Sustainable Morchard Report – There had been a successful Plant Swap. The group now had a healthy budget for booking the hall and speakers etc. A Bluebell Walk would take place on Saturday 17 May at 3.00pm. A walk focussing on birds would take place on Sunday 18 May at 6.00am for members of the group.

12. Morchard Bishop Parish Council Website – The Clerk, Simon Baker and Stephen Leese had met on-line with Active Councils and recommended that the Parish Council go with the Active Councils website. David Gillbard proposed and Stephen Leese seconded that the Parish Council invest in a new Website with Active Councils to include e-mails for each Councillor so that they could be GDPR compliant. – Carried. Stephen Leese will contact Active Councils and try to negotiate a better price possibly by getting the provider to agree a three year deal.

13. Neighbourhood Watch – There were apparently four different groups within Morchard Bishop. The Clerk will include the matter in his Parish News article to encourage the organisers to contact him. This matter to be postponed to the next meeting of the Parish Council to enable more information to be discovered with a view to the Parish Council running a village wide Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

14. Morchard Bishop Charitable Trust – The Clerk read a letter from the Chairman of the Morchard Bishop Charitable Trust. Stephen Leese proposed that the funds held by the trust be brought into the care of the Parish Council and ring-fence in the account that had been originally set up for the youth club. With the remaining members of the Trust Committee remaining in place to oversee the trust. David Gillbard seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED. The Clerk will follow this up with the Chairman of the Trust.

15. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Memorial Hall – Solar panels were to be fitted to the hall roof imminently. The AGM would take place on 13 May 2025. A new Audio Visual System was to be installed in the main hall. A quiz was taking place on 17 May 2025.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – New Play Equipment had been ordered costing £65,000. It was recommended that the Playing Fields Committee spoke to the S106 Officer (Elane Barry) at Mid Devon District Council about what the S106 funds could be used for. A Car Boot Sale had taken place on 12 May. A Fair Day planning meeting was coming up. The committee were discussing revamping the Sports and Social Club building to include a disabled toilet.
- School – Nothing to report
- Churchyard – Nothing to report.
- Parochial Church Council – No meeting had been held since the last Parish Council Meeting.

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

- Les Partridge mentioned that with a group looking at preserving the Church Tower, that then would be a good time to refurbish or replace the clock face as scaffolding would already be in place.
- Debbie Ticehurst wanted to prepare a Welcome Pack for new arrivals to the village.
- Sheila Sinclair mentioned the land to the north of the Churchyard that was for sale and wondered if funds could be found to buy it for the village to use as a Community Orchard?

Meeting Closed at 9.49pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 2nd June 2025** at the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.

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