

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

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

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

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

1. **Apologies:** Stephen Leese and District Councillor Helen Tuffin.
2. **Members of the Public** – No members of the Public were in attendance.
3. **The minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 June 2025 were approved - Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, seconded: Dawn Parkhouse - carried unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere in the minutes):**
 - A new lock was still awaited for the Village Noticeboard on the Skittle Alley.
 - School Car Park – Les Partridge agreed to ask Martin Bragg and Ben to lay a second drainage pipe into the field from the second drain in the car park. Les would seek permission from Ben Yendell.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Music Festival for 2026 – A sub-committee of Simon, Debbie, Sheila, Sarah and the Clerk was agreed . A first organising meeting would be set for 22 July 2025.
 - The Football Club had been grateful for the letter sent from the Parish Council congratulating them on their success.

5. Finance.

Cashflow table for July was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for June/July. Expenditure for July is £220.65 on the main account, £195.58 from the Reserve account and £611.10 on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of July before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £14,495.30; Current Account £8,474.69; 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	£ 19.47 Direct Debit
Aidan Wilcox	Weedkilling and hedge trimming	£ 45.00 BACS
Lydcott Nursery	Planting planters	£132.18 BACS

Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

MAT Electrics	DAAT Electrical cabinet	£ 195.58 BACS
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P3 Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Northfield Landscaping	Work to footpaths	£ 611.10 BACS
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The Current account stands at £8,266.24 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £14,299.72 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£150.48), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£4,000), and the P3 account stands at £6,853.30.

David Gillbard proposed, and David Grant seconded that these invoices be paid and the Financial report accepted – carried unanimously.

6. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals:

25/00506/FULL Approved	Erection of above ground circular slurry store	Land at NGR 277716 107798 Wood Barton Farm , MB
25/00415/HOUSE Revised Drawings Granted	Erection of front porch; rear single storey extension and terrace; new garage and formation of new vehicular access	6 Corner Close, Morchard Bishop
25/00620/CAT No Objection	Notification of intention to fell 1 Cherry Tree within the Conservation Area	Village Green, Fore Street, MB

7. County and District Councillor's Reports

Councillor Mark Jenkins reported that the Appeal against MDDC's refusal to allow 100 homes to be built at Tidcombe Hall by the Grand Western Canal had been allowed on the basis of the Council's lack of housing supply. Councillor Jenkins will push for the Local Plan to be brought forward to stop dubious builds in inappropriate areas. This decision highlighted the need to have a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Jenkins also mentioned the Mid Devon Survey and the Shared Prosperity Fund.

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

Councillor Steve Keable's report is attached to these minutes.

8. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- South Western Ambulance Charity grant request for a Community Response Vehicle. – **Councillors agreed to look at the information that the Clerk had circulated by e-mail and to make a decision at the next meeting of the Council.**
- Dog Worrying Livestock Posters – reply from the Police. **It was agreed to put the three posters on the Village Website for parishioners to download.**
- Government Response to remote meeting and Proxy voting consultation. – the Clerk recommended that Councillors look at the information that had been circulated before the meeting. The Government had indicated that they were likely to approve remote attendance in meetings and voting remotely or by proxy. This would bring its own difficulties not least the purchase of technology necessary to run these type of meetings should the Parish Council wish to accept these proposals.
- Free Cyber Services available to protect .gov.uk websites. The information relating to this had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- Morchard Bishop Affordable Homes – There was an Open Afternoon on Wednesday 16 July at the Memorial Hall run by Willow Tree Housing Partnership promoting the affordable homes at Belstone View.
- Mid Devon Business e-newsletter – promoting a new service for Businesses in Mid-Devon.
- Funding available for Community Commercial Hubs - A **Capital** grant scheme to support the creation of or improvements to community delivered **commercial space** located in Mid Devon's towns and villages. This could include but are not limited to – the creation or improvement of community retail spaces, pubs, cafes and workspace i.e. hot desk facilities, work hubs and industrial space. These could be 'standalone' spaces or incorporated into multi use centres such as town, village and community halls.
- Mid Devon Grant Schemes – Attention was directed to the information circulated before the meeting.
- Mid Devon Consultation into the Local Validation Checklist - Mid Devon were asking the community for any views on the Draft Mid Devon District Council Local Validation Checklist. Since 2008 local planning authorities had been required to publish a list of information they require to "validate" the planning applications they receive. This validation list formed two components, the national requirements, including the application form, the fee, certificates etc and secondly, specific local validation requirements known as the "Local List". - Attention was directed to the information circulated before the meeting.
- Local Flood Risk Management Workshop – an online workshop Enabling Community Maintenance for Local Flood Risk Management on Wednesday 16 July.
- GoCompare had prepared a guide to "preparing for a flood and protecting your property" – they had asked for a link to this publication to be made from our website.
- Ridge House – The Activities Co-ordinator was asking if anyone in the village could (i) read with their residents and (ii) help the residents plant their tubs. **Shelia Sinclair would mention the gardening to members of Sustainable Morchard. The Clerk would include the request in his Parish News.**

9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads: With regard to cleaning road signs, Simon Baker had discovered that Devon Highways had a team which cleaned road signs. **The Clerk was asked to e-mail Devon Highways requesting that the road signs around Morchard Bishop be cleaned.** David Gillbard reported possible subsidence at Morchard Road on the other side of the railway bridge. **The clerk was asked to write to Devon Highways and Net Rail asking for this to be investigated.**

- b) Road Warden Scheme: Work continued.
- c) Accidents and Incidents: A resident had had her car, which was parked on the north side of Church Street by St Gatiens Garden, hit by a large vehicle. Was there any camera footage of the suspect vehicle?
- d) Dog Control: Nothing to report.
- e) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order. – **The post at Frost had become loose. – Andy Hankins would set it in concrete.**
- f) Bus Shelter – The clerk had cleared the detritus in the corner of the bus shelter.
- g) Church Clock – It was hoped that the cost of the work could be covered within the grant that the St Marys at the Community's Heart (SMATCH) group were applying for.
- h) Parish Council Land – **Stephen Leese will start to detail the Land the Parish Council own.**
- i) Emergency Plan – A new working group was formed to progress this plan – Members: Simon, Dawn, Sarah, Debbie, David Gillbard and the Clerk.
- j) Village Maintenance Plans – Aidan Willcox had sprayed off weeds at the Pound and to trim hedges around the benches.
- k) Assisting local Businesses – There were a number of Village Businesses already listed on the new Parish Council Website but this was work in progress.
- l) Cherry Tree on the Green – The tree had been cut down and the wood removed as it was not suitable to be carved. The stump would be ground out. Simon Baker had quotes for three different Cherry trees. Les Partridge proposed that the tree (Prunus the Bride) costing £366.67 + VAT be purchased, David Gillbard seconded and all were in favour. The funds to come out of the Resilience Account. Simon Baker and the Clerk would plant the new tree.
- m) Finger Posts – **Sarah Gillbard was awaiting a sample and quote.** Les Partridge had not heard back from the National Trust but had discussed with Tony Scoins whether he could make the signs **Tony would supply a quote. Sarah had approached Julian Rice for a quote.**
- n) Website and new Parish Logo – Simon Baker showed the Council the new website. It was a tool that the Council hoped the community would find helpful and use. The website would be live from 1 August 2025. Simon encouraged Councillors to set up their new e-mail addresses and to link their phones. The logo needed a little adjustment but was nearly finished.
- o) Neighbourhood Watch – **Awaited Stephen Leese looking into this.**
- p) Parish Council Audit – The internal Audit was complete and the certificate of exemption had been sent to the external auditors. The Internal Auditor had commented that the clerk still had to make a reclaim for VAT for the last two years of over £4,000.

10. Crediton Cluster Meeting Report – Stephen Leese had attended the meeting on 9 June. Forward Planning was discussed, particularly the land to the South of Barnfield. Councillors were asked to note that the Call for land included that 10% of housing should be on sites of less than one hectare in size. DALC had given the group a grant in order to purchase a subscription for a drop-box for one year. Crediton Town Council had formed an Asset Transfer Group in readiness for Local Government Reorganisation.

11. Sustainable Morchard Report – A talk about Otters would be held on 6 October 2025. A "Village Meeting" would be held to discuss the future of the group. Items mentioned were Apple Day, Bug Hotels and Wildlife Finders.

12. Flooding in the Village. – **The Clerk was asked to report the blocked gullies to Devon Highways** on the Portal and to pass the reference to Cllr S Keable. To request the drains to be sucked out and ask when they were last done.

13. Interviews to fill vacancy for a Parish Councillor – Simon Baker took the Council through the protocol for the interview questions. The Parish Council expressed gratitude that six strong candidates had put themselves forward.

14. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Memorial Hall – No Report.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – At the Fair and Vintage Rally Sarah and Emma would run the Jacket Potato Machine charging £4.50 for a fully loaded potato.
- Help was wanted on Monday 28 July at 6.00pm with erecting marquees.
- The Parish Council will support the application for a Dog Poo Bin at the Playing Fields. - **The Clerk will request a Dog Poo Bin at the Playing Fields.** The Playing Fields would meet any cost.
- Welly Wanging – Young Children would do Bean Bag throwing. Andy Hankins proposed a shield for the Men and Women, with winners' names engraved each year. College and sixth form winners would

get Amazon Vouchers. Middle School winners would also receive Amazon Vouchers. Juniors would receive Amazon Vouchers and Pre-School would receive sweets.

- School – Sheila had met with Hannah the new Head Teacher who commented that parents and teachers did not feel connected with the village. The school wanted to be more involved with the village. Numbers each academic year were dropping. The Head Teacher wanted to improve the “Trim-Trail”.
- Churchyard – The AGM had taken place. The extension of the graveyard had been abandoned as it had not been supported by the Planning Consultant due to geology and the level of the water table. He had advised the Church not to apply for a change of use for the proposed extension.
- Parochial Church Council – There had been no applicants for the permanent post of vicar. A new temporary Priest in Charge was likely to be appointed soon. The Accounts had been finalised and submitted.

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

- The Football Club had now been promoted by two divisions.
- The Clerk was asked to report the overgrown hedges by the school on the Devon Highways website.
- David Grant would speak to the landowner about the overgrown hedge as one approached Morchard Road.

Meeting Closed at 9.25pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 4th August 2025** at the Memorial Hall **at 7.30pm**.