

## MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 6 October 2025 at 7.30pm

#### At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

**Present:** Simon Baker, (Chair), Dawn Parkhouse (Vice Chair), Sarah Gillbard, David Grant, Les Partridge, Debbie Ticehurst, Sarah Vere and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

**1. Apologies:** Stephen Leese, Sheila Sinclair, County Councillor Steve Keable, District Councillor Helen Tuffin, District Councillor Mark Jenkins.

**2. Members of the Public** – No members of the public were in attendance.

**3. The minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 September 2025 were approved - Proposed: Dawn Parkhouse, seconded: Debbie Ticehurst - carried unanimously.

**4. Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere in the minutes):**

- David Gillbard had spoken to the landowners about the hedge just past Lydcott Nursery on the right as one approached Black Dog and he had been asked to cut it back when he did his own hedges.
- The Defibrillator post at Frost had become loose. – Andy Hankins would set it in postcrete.
- Simon would speak further to the owner of Amaury Cottage, he would also investigate the cost of a solar panel speed sign.
- Les and Andy had kindly removed and destroyed the remains of the dead sheep which appeared to be the heads and skins of two sheep which had presumably been stolen and butchered.
- The Clerk had sent a letter of thanks to the person that cut the hedge in the car park by the school.

**5. Finance.**

Cashflow table for October was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for September/October. Expenditure for October is £389.67 on the main account, nothing from the Reserve account and £1,104.54 on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of September before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £14,324.83; Current Account £6,662.79; P3 Account £5,656.23.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church	£ 17.67 Direct Debit
S Dockings	Grass Cutting – Jul - Sep	£267.00 BACS
D Parker	Rental Apple press etc	£ 30.00 BACS
D Parker	Gift for Internal Auditor	£ 75.00 BACS

P3 (Footpaths) Accnt

Northfield Landscaping	Work to footpaths	£1,104.54 BACS
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The Current account stands at £6,273.12 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £14,324.83 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 £4,551.69.

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

**6. Planning - There were no Applications to consider**

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Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals:

25/01003/PNCOU <b>Refused</b>	Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to dwelling under Class Q	Land at NGR 279701/105633 New Buildings, Sandford
25/01044/LBC <b>Granted</b>	Listed Building Consent to remove asbestos roof sheeting and replace with insulated corrugated metal sheeting	Southcott Cottage, MB

25/01110/PNAG No Objection – Prior Approval not required	Prior notification for the erection of a general purpose agricultural building	Land and Buildings at NGR 274856 107946 Rudge Rew, Lapford
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## 7. County and District Councillors' Headlines

Councillor Steve Keable's report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Helen Tuffin's report would be circulated to the Parish Council once it was received.

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

- Fuel Poverty Project – Better Housing Better Health. – This is a fuel poverty project. Better Housing Better Health works to help residents living in or at risk of living in fuel poverty to access advice and support. Their service is free of charge. They also have emergency fuel vouchers worth £49 to assist residents who use a prepayment meter. The notice they sent had been sent to the Morchard Messenger and would be placed on the Council's website.

## 9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads, Road Wardens and Finger Posts: The Clerk had reported five finger posts that were missing fingers to Devon Highways - a reply was awaited, he had also reported 9 drains that were blocked – the reply that had been received was that 9 drains out of a total of 262 drains in Morchard Bishop was not regarded by them as a defect. The County Councillor's support had been requested. A meeting had been set up with the Highways Officer on Friday 7 November at 11.00am at the London Inn. The Pothole repair team had been out on 6 October and laid 20 buckets of tarmac along the road from Spire Lake to Farthing Park. They would go out again on Tuesday 7 October to tackle the road to Eastington. With regard to flooding, the Parish Council would ask the Highways Officer about the supply of sandbags at the forthcoming meeting. The County Council have washed some of the signs through the village and they were looking much smarter. Some signs had not been washed and those the Parish Council will need to adopt onto a cleaning rota/responsibility going forward. Overgrown hedges along The Green at Meadowbank and Shelomi were mentioned.
  - b) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
  - c) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order.
  - d) Emergency Plan – A date for the working group was to be agreed.
  - e) Neighbourhood Watch – Stephen Leese would draft a neighbourhood plan document contents page.
  - f) Replacement for Cherry Tree on the Green – The Parish Council agreed unanimously to purchase a Crab Apple Tree at a cost of £385. Sarah Vere said they had access to a mini digger to dig the hole to plant the tree.
- 10. Crediton Area Association of Local Councils Meeting Report** – There had not been a meeting in September, the next meeting would take place on 13 October 2025 at Newton St Cyres.
- 11. Play Area at Greenaway** – The only asset that Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) held in Morchard Bishop was the children's play area behind some garages in Greenaway. Mid Devon DC would not consent to the area becoming a carpark. The Parish Council did not wish to accept the liability for this area and so it was agreed that the status quo be maintained with the Playing Area left in the ownership of MDDC.
- 12. Morchard Bishop Music Festival – Saturday 23 May 2026.** – Notes from the planning meeting had been circulated.
- 13. Christmas Lights and the Village Nativity** – The Village Nativity would take place at 5.45 on Sunday 14 December at the Bus Shelter. The Nativity display and the Christmas lights would be put up on Saturday 13 December and powered by batteries again. Soup and Chips would follow after the lighting up ceremony in The London Inn.
- 14. Bad Weather Wardens and Gritting** – There remained a supply of grit at Broadgate Farm, Les would deliver some of the older damp salt to the field behind the London Inn. Bob Robinson had agreed to be the lead Bad Weather Warden and would arrange a meeting of the Bad Weather Wardens at the London Inn one evening. John Charman would be asked if he would grit the London Inn Car Park when doing his gritting rounds.

### 15. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Apple Day – Took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 when an enthusiastic public turned up and lots of apples were pressed into juice. Donations £74, Breakfast Baps £60 and draw £34, Expenses had yet to be submitted. **Letters of thanks would be sent to the main helpers.**
- Sustainable Morchard – a talk about Otters was taking place simultaneously to the Parish Council Meeting.
- Memorial Hall – Solar panels had been fitted along with a SMART meter. The AV system had been installed. A film night “How to train your Dragon” had been set for Wednesday 29 October. Pickle Ball was going well as was the Book Swap. The Commemorative Tablet outside the Memorial Hall was to be restored. A Car Boot sale was to be held in the Memorial Hall on 2 November and Bingo on 21 November.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – There had been some changes to the Trustees. The Fair had made a profit of £5,700. The Committee had written to the solicitors dealing with the Norman Rice Will but no reply had been received.
- School – The track to the Garden had been completed. FOMBS were organising an official opening for Friday 10 October. It was reported that parents were not happy about the suggestion by the School that the Toddler Group no longer have anything to do with the Pre-School. It was suggested that the Chapel may be a suitable alternative place for the toddler group to meet in future as it already had the facilities.
- Churchyard – The Churchyard tidy up took place on the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> October and would continue on Wednesday 8 October. A Churchyard Committee meeting would be held on 8 October.
- Parochial Church Council (PCC) – The PCC met on 25 September 2025. The Rev'd Caroline Ralph had been appointed until April 2026 or until a permanent Priest-In-Charge was found whichever was the sooner. The PCC agreed to the proposal to form a “Friends of St Mary's” Group which would aim to raise money towards the upkeep of the fabric of the church. On the third Thursday of the month the school were now attending the Church at 1.15 for All Age Worship.

### 16. Items for Future Meetings (Note – items in this section cannot be discussed – merely scheduled for a future meeting).

- Nothing raised.

Meeting Closed at 8.32pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 3 November 2025** at the Memorial Hall **at 7.30pm** when we will set the dates for next year's meetings and look at Parish Initiatives.