

## MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30pm

#### At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

**Present:** Simon Baker, (Chair), Dawn Parkhouse (Vice Chair), Sarah Gillbard, David Grant, Andy Hankins, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, Sarah Vere, County Councillor Steve Keable, District Councillor Helen Tuffin, and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** Debbie Ticehurst, 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 4 August 2025 were approved - Proposed: Dawn Parkhouse, seconded: Sheila Sinclair - carried unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere in the minutes):**
  - A new lock had been fitted to the Village Noticeboard on the Skittle Alley. Thanks given to Stephen Leese for organising.
  - 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 as soon as possible.
  - The Clerk had written to Devon Highways regarding cleaning the signs around the village, the subsidence on the Morchard Road side of the railway bridge, flooding and the need to clear our drains.
  - The Clerk had written to Mid Devon District Council to request a Dog Poo Bin at the Playing Fields. The Clerk had confirmed that the quotation from Ken White Signs would still be honoured and if so to order the signs, however, information came to light that Devon Highways may now replace the signs if they were reported on their portal. The Clerk and all members of the Parish Council to report as the more names on each report move the sign up the priority list. The Clerk had applied for funds from the Locality Budget.
  - The Defibrillator post at Frost had become loose. – Andy Hankins would set it in postcrete.
  - Apple Day – The Clerk had arranged the hire of equipment.
  - The Clerk had written to Julian Rice to thank him for the trophy.
  - The Clerk had reported a Van that was SORN that had been parked on a road at Oldborough for the past three months. The vehicle had now moved.

#### 5. Finance.

Cashflow table for September was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for August/September. Expenditure for September is £148.72 on the main account, nothing from the Reserve account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of August before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £14,324.83; Current Account £6,811.51; 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
Greg Anson	Paint for Phone Box	£109.56 BACS
Stephen Leese	Bolts for Noticeboard	£ 21.49 BACS

The Current account stands at £6,662.79 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 £5,656.23.

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

#### 6. Planning

25/01118/FULL	Construction of a Dung Store	Land and Buildings at NGR 274856 107946 Rudge Rew, Lapford.
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After Discussion: Les Partridge proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, David Grant seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

25/01110/PNAG	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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After Discussion: Stephen Leese proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, David Grant seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

25/01099/FULL	Erection of a replacement building	Shobrooke Bungalow, Morchard Road, Crediton
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After Discussion: Stephen Leese proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, David Grant seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

25/01147/CAT	Notification of intention of crown thinning by 30% to 1 Oak tree within the Conservation Area	Oakridge, Church Street, MB
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After Discussion: Stephen Leese proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, Dawn Parkhouse seconded the proposal and it was CARRIED.

Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals:

25/00483/FULL Granted	Erection of an agricultural building	Land at NGR 277315 109204 Lane End Farm, MB
25/00964/LBC Granted	Listed Building Consent to remove asbestos roof sheeting and replace with insulated corrugated metal sheeting	Northcott Cottage, MB

## 7. County and District Councillors' Headlines

Councillor Steve Keable's report is attached to these minutes. He mentioned that the Devon County Strategic Plan for the next four years had been approved with the six priorities being; Positive Futures for every child and young person, Supporting independence and dignity, Continuous service improvement, A green Devon for future generations, Economic inclusion and local prosperity and Stronger Communities and safer places. This plan was being pushed out for wider consultation. The County Council were supporting the case for banning mobile phones in schools. There was a new grant scheme at Devon County Council for young people. The Culm Garden Village Project was progressing but was dependent on obtaining government funding for a motorway enhancement at junction 28 of the M5. Failure of this project would impact across the remainder of Mid Devon. At the end of 2024, 2000 Planning Applications had been granted but 1500 of those applications still waited for building to be started which had a detrimental effect on the Mid-Devon DC housing supply.

Councillor Helen Tuffin's report is attached to these minutes. She mentioned the Mid Devon Leisure Centres re-branding to "Active Mid Devon". They had been short listed in the UK Active Awards. Care Leavers and low-income households were being offered free or discounted memberships to Active Mid Devon. The Council had advanced towards the top 5% of national performance for their recycling rate and reduction in residual tonnage. The Council would start collecting pots and pans from 15 September 2025. There was a planned trial for recycling nappies and sanitary products. The latest Section 106 funding reports were available on the District Council website. There was help available for Farmers through the UK shared prosperity fund with a limited number of free places available.

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

- Peninsula Transport £100k Rural Mobility Fund – the Parish Council could not think of a viable scheme to apply for funding for. The deadline was 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
- Flooding and Parking on Fore Street / Chulmleigh Road – The Clerk had already written to Devon Highways to highlight the problem with flooding. **Simon would speak to the owner of Amaury Cottage, he would also investigate the cost of a solar panel speed sign.** The Parish Council had no objection to a mirror being put up but it would need to be agreed with neighbours. The County Council had recognised that there was a need to drop the speed limit in some places from 30 to 20mph. The Clerk pointed out that previously

the village had been surveyed and the clear view had been that the speed limit should remain at 30mph. At the time speed tests had shown that the majority of speeding in the village took place in Church Street around school start and finish times. With regard to blocked drains, If the village had evidence that drains were blocked then they should let Cllr Steve Keable know.

- MDDC – Annual Clerks' Meeting, 3 suggestions and survey. **The Parish Council voted for the following items to be aired at the Annual Clerks' meeting: An Overview of Major Budget expenditure and taxes, Highways, Asset transfers from MDDC to Town and Parish Councils. The Clerk will complete the Clerks' Survey.** The three suggestions were not looked at and will either be considered by the Emergency Plan working group or at the next Parish Council Meeting.

- MDDC – Animal Welfare Licensing Policy – The Clerk read to the Council the headnotes of the proposed changes to the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy – the Parish Council had no comments to make.

## 9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads, Road Wardens and Finger Posts: Nothing to report.
- b) Accidents and Incidents: The remains of part of a dead sheep had been found stuffed into a feed sack and dumped illegally at Orchardy. **Les would kindly get rid of the remains. Stephen Leese would report the incident to the Police.**
- 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 had met with the Police in Crediton and with the lady that organised the local Neighbourhood Watch who encouraged the village to recruit Neighbourhood volunteers.
- f) Replacement for Cherry Tree on the Green – Awaiting a new tree catalogue in the autumn. Options to be explored for a fruit tree.
- g) School Car Park – Martin Bragg had completed the drain in the car park, it was agreed that a single new drain was all that was necessary.

**10. Crediton Area Association of Local Councils Meeting Report** – The meeting had been postponed to the 15 September 2025.

**11. For the Morchard Messenger – an introduction to the new Website** – Stephen Leese had kindly drafted a document, to go in the Morchard Messenger, which explained to readers what different areas of the new Parish Council Website offered.

**12. Local Government Reorganisation and Community Asset Transfers** – The only asset that Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) held in Morchard Bishop was the children's play area behind some garages in Greenaway. It was agreed that **the Clerk would speak to MDDC to ascertain the status of the land and also the S106 Officer. Sarah Vere would consult the Land Registry.** There was talk of turning the area into an additional car park but before any decisions were made there would be a need to survey local residents for their views. If houses were to be built on the site then the land would be sold at a commercial price.

**13. The new National Planning Policy Framework, Neighbourhood Plans and offering land for development** – **Stephen Leese and Sarah Vere would produce a document for the Parish Council to consider over the winter.**

## 14. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Apple Day – Would take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 when the Parish Council would also run the Coffee Morning and offer Bacon Baps. Both Sarahs would be in the kitchen, Dawn on the Draw, David Parker on apple press, with David Grant and Stephen Leese assisting where necessary. Apologies from Simon Baker and Sheila Sinclair as not available. Can Council Members supply draw prizes please.
- Sustainable Morchard – there would be a village meeting on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September between 2.00pm and 4.00pm in the Memorial Hall which would include a talk on Solar Panels.
- Memorial Hall – The Committee would meet on 9<sup>th</sup> September. A SMART meter was to be fitted for the Solar Panels.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – The application for an Alcohol License was continuing.
- School – The track to the Garden had been completed. FOMBS were hoping to do an official opening in a few weeks. **The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to the person that cut the hedge.** The Pre-School had a new teacher – Miss Rook.

- Churchyard – The Churchyard tidy up had been set for the morning of 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am, but because that clashed with Apple Day, the Council asked if it could be rearranged.
- Parochial Church Council (PCC) – The PCC would be meeting on 25 September 2025.

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

- The Planning Group for the Music Festival would meet at 6.15pm on 30 September 2025.
- Sheila Sinclair had been asked to mention problems with concrete lorries, some dropping concrete on the roads and a driver being aggressive and rude when asked to slow down.
- It was agreed that the on-line version of the Morchard Messenger would be published on the Website on the last Monday of the month.
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Meeting Closed at 9.10pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b> at the Memorial Hall <b>at 7.30pm</b> .
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