

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting 11th May 2026

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

Apologies: District Councillor Mark Jenkins

Members of the public: Caroline Partridge, Alan Quick (Crediton Courier)

1. Election of Chairman:
Simon Baker proposed by Dawn Parkhouse and seconded by Sheila Sinclair.
No other nominations being received Simon Baker was appointed Chairman.
Simon Baker took the chair and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman.
2. Dawn Parkhouse was elected Deputy Chairman, proposed Stephen Leese and seconded by David Grant. All in favour.
Dawn Parkhouse signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Chairman.
3. Then followed the election of officers:

Officer	Officer for 2026/27
Weather Warden	Bob Robinson
Churchyard Committee	Les Partridge
Memorial Hall Committee	Debbie Ticehurst
Parochial Church Council	David Parker
MB Playing Field Association	David Gillbard
MB Primary School	Sheila Sinclair
P3 Footpaths Committee	Sheila Sinclair

The above Officers were proposed en-masse by the Chairman - Carried.

The Parish Paths Partnership (P3) was elected en-masse and will consist of:

Chairman:	Neale Meade
P3 Coordinator:	Karen Hayman
Volunteers:	John Kanefsky, Jackie Patten, Claire Proietti, Massimo Proietti, Sue Viccars.
Parish Council Rep:	Sheila Sinclair
Clerk:	David Parker

Proposed: Dawn Parkhouse, Seconded: David Grant, Carried.

4. Clerk's Report for the year 2025-26

The average attendance at Parish Council meetings was 85.86%.

Finance:

Main:	Income: £13,840	Expenditure: £9,080	Difference: £4,760	Balance: £ 9,873
Reserve:	Income: £ 4,303	Expenditure: £6,315	Difference: (£2,102)	Balance: £11,990
P3:	Income: £ Nil	Expenditure: £3,947	Difference: (£3,947)	Balance: £ 3,573
All accounts:			Total Closing Balance:	£25,436

The financial aspects of the year were presented to the meeting. Certain debts from the year would be paid in the new financial year including money set aside but not claimed by three charities due to the change in the Clerk's e-mail address. It was agreed that those payments be made to the charities. As both the Total Gross Income and the Total Gross Expenditure were below £25,000, the Parish Council approved the completion of a Certificate of Exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. Stephen Leese proposed that the Financial Report be accepted, Sheila Sinclair seconded the proposal – Carried.

A total of 23 planning applications were discussed, 5 were Listed Building Consents, Extensions/Modifications (5), Variation of Plans (1), Class Q (1), agricultural store/building (7), Change of use to Temporary Campsite (1), Retrospective Planning Consent (1), Applications relating to Tree felling and reduction (2).

Projects completed during the year include:

Cllr Sarah Vere was appointed a Parish Councillor following the resignation of Steve Watson.

The Parish Council organised the Village Commemoration of V.E. Day.

The Parish Council completed the process of refreshing the bollards around the War Memorial.

The old Cherry Tree on the Green by the bus shelter had become diseased and was felled.

A new Malus (crab apple) tree was planted to replace it.

Further drainage was added to the car park by the school.

The Parish Council bought a Vehicle Activated Speed sign and erected it in the village.

The Parish Council was instrumental in providing funds and advice with regard to the all-weather track around the school field.

Signs discouraging cold callers were distributed to those that wanted them.

The Parish Council resolved that meetings commence at 7.00pm in future.

The Parish Council met with the new Head of the Village Primary School and with the Superintendent Minister of Emmanuel Chapel.

On-going Projects:

Sustainable Orchard.

Campaign for better Broadband connection.

Emergency Plan.

Assisting Businesses.

Road Warden Scheme.

The Parish Council invested in a new, more informative website, provided e-mail addresses for all Councillors as well as the Clerk and designed a new Logo.

Snow Warden Scheme.

We continued our membership of the Crediton Association of Local Councils.

We continued to fill in potholes around the village and trained more "lead road wardens".

Planning commenced for a Music Festival – "MorFest".

The Parish Council commenced the process of logging and registering the land it believed it owned.

We supported the Village Nativity scene again and Carol Singing around the village

A successful fourth "Apple Day"

The Parish Council continued to press Devon Highways with regard to road repairs, drains and gulleys and finger posts.

A welcome pack for new residents had been produced in paper format and on the website.

A group for Carers was formed.

The Parish Council's own Governance Documents had been examined and approved at the Parish Council meeting held in February.

The meeting ended at 7.17pm

Following the Annual Meeting the Chairman presented Councillor Les Partridge with an award for completing 30 years on the Parish Council and thanked him for his input and experience, he was warmly congratulated by all and photographs were taken by the press.