

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd August 2026 at 7.00pm

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Present: Dawn Parkhouse (Vice Chair), Sarah Gillbard, David Gillbard, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Debbie Ticehurst, Sarah Vere, County Councillor Steve Keable, District Councillor Mark Jenkins and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

Members of the Public attending: Kim French and Mick French.

- 1. Apologies:** Simon Baker (Chair), David Grant, Sheila Sinclair, District Councillor Helen Tuffin.
- 2. Members of the Public** – Mick French wished to raise the issue of inconsiderate parking particularly in Bishops Meadow but also in the wider village. With regard to Bishops Meadow Mr French mentioned cars parking on the kerb, cars parking on the junction with Chulmleigh Road rather than 10m from the junction and cars parking within the turning head. **It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Highways Liaison Officer at Devon County Council to ask for his advice.**
- 3. The minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 July 2026 were approved - Proposed: Sarah Vere, seconded: Debbie Ticehurst - carried unanimously.
- 4. Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere in the minutes):**
 - **Seats** - Sarah and Debbie would see if they could put some paint on the seat at Groberry Hayes alternatively Kirk Gilroy could be employed to do this job.
 - Both seats in St Gatien would benefit from a rub down and a coat of wood preserver, it was agreed to ask Kirk Gilroy to do this on a paid basis.
 - **Fuji Salt Spreader** – Les confirmed that John Charman would clean down the salt spreader and give it a coat of diesel before putting it away for the summer.
 - **Welly Wanging** at the Morchard Bishop Vintage Rally and Fun Day – The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Charles Parkhouse and Robert Vere who had stepped in to assist the Parish Council when they were short staffed. Thanks also to Sarah Gillbard for organising and for providing the prizes. The Parish Council raised £74 for the Playing Fields.
 - The Clerk had only, so far, received two replacement Register of Interests Forms to send to Mid Devon District Council.
 - David Grant had spoken to the farmer whose hedge ran up to the river bridge at Morchard Road and the hedge had been cut back.
 - The Parish Clerk had received a communication from the Member of the Public who had complained about disruptive behaviour from his neighbours. After discussion, the Parish Council confirmed that they were not the correct forum for such a complaint. – The resident should contact the police. – **The Clerk would inform him.**
 - **The Clerk was asked to write an article for the Morchard Messenger covering what the Parish Council are and are not responsible for and mentioning inconsiderate parking.**
- 5. Finance.**

A cashflow table for August was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for July/August. Expenditure for August was £71.21 on the main account, nothing on the Reserve account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of July before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £12,015.73; Current Account £21,071.93; P3 Account £2,614.32.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church (est.)	£ 18.71 Direct Debit
MB Memorial Hall	Room hire for meetings	£ 52.50 BACS

The Current account stands at £21,000.72 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £13,024.68 following receipt of the £1,000 award from locality budgets) 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 £2,614.32.

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

6. Planning

26/00892/HOUSE	Replacement of existing extension roof incorporating 3 rooflights, alterations to and formation of window and door openings, and erection of a conservatory	Redhill, MB NGR: 276103/108047
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Following discussion, Councillor Stephen Leese proposed that the applications be SUPPORTED, Councillor Debbie Ticehurst seconded the proposal and the Parish Council all voted in favour of the proposal.

26/00907/CLU	Certificate of lawfulness to establish the lawful commencement of development approved under planning permission 23/01480/FULL - Erection of dwelling following the demolition of Dutch barn, utilising the Class Q fallback position	The Dutch Barn, MB NGR: 278784/107461
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Following discussion, the Parish Council acknowledged this application but made no comment.

26/00515/LBC	Listed Building Consent for the repair of timber elements in A frame roof	3 Fore Street, MB
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Following discussion, Councillor Les Partridge proposed that his application be SUPPORTED, Councillor Stephen Leese seconded the proposal and the Parish Council all voted in favour of the proposal.

26/00300/PIP Appeal to Secretary of State	Permission in Principle for the erection of 1 detached dwelling	Land at NGR277210 106707 South East of Lydcott House, MB
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The Clerk and a friend of Sarah Gillbard's to draft and circulate a response for approval to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate by 1st September 2026. The Parish Council will echo the sentiments of the District Planners whilst reiterating their original points. The Clerk will take some photographs of the entrance to the site. State that if the Inspector was minded to allow the appeal then the Planning Officer had suggested some conditions which we suggest they should apply. District Councillors Helen Tuffin and Mark Jenkins were asked to liaise with the Planning Officer and offer support in objecting to the appeal.

Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals:

26/00707/FULL Approved	Conversion of barn to holiday let to include installation of an electric vehicle charging point and solar photovoltaic panels	Park House, Fore Street, MB
26/00708/LBC Granted	Listed Building Consent for conversion of barn to holiday let to include installation of an electric vehicle charging point and solar photovoltaic panels	Park House, Fore Street, MB

7. County and District Councillors' Headlines

Councillor Steve Keable gave a detailed report about the roadworks around the Tesco store at Crediton. The work had taken less time than expected because Tesco (who were paying for the work) discovered that their footfall had dramatically fallen during the work. Councillor Keable had supplied his monthly newsletter which concentrated on Local Government Reorganisation. Councillor Keable's newsletter also gave details of the web address for the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).

The Clerk asked Councillor Keable to make sure that he would be able to give a full report using his Highways Tracker Document to the Parish Council in September. The Parish Council were particularly concerned as to when the poles would be put in place for the VAS sign.

Councillor Mark Jenkins had also provided his newsletter before the meeting and this also led on the Local Government reorganisation. His newsletter also mentioned Community Emergency Hubs.

8. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- DCC – Locality Budget – Our application supported by Councillor Steve Keable for £1,000 towards having the drains cleared in the parish had been successful and the funds had been received. This meant that as

soon as the weather turned and it started raining, then we could ask for the drains to be cleared. Before that they would be too dry to be able to do the work necessary.

- Steve Keable – Fire Service Response Times – Steven Keable had sent the results of his enquiries as to how long it took the Fire services to attend the fire on the A377 at Bugford. Councillor Keable told the meeting that he was still following this up.

- North Devon District Council – North Devon Local Plan – The Parish Council had been sent a reminder that they had until 11 August to respond. The Parish Council chose not to respond to the invitation to comment upon the Scoping Consultation. Steven Keable commented that North Devon, Torridge and Mid Devon District Councils should all be working together to produce local plans that were sympathetic to each other.

- Paul Tulley – Invitation to a tour of Beech Hill House facilities. – The Parish Council were grateful for the invitation and would visit Beech Hill House on Wednesday 12 August at 7.00pm.

9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads, Road Wardens, Drains and Finger Posts: The Bridge at Canns Mill had been hit by a haulier's lorry. It had been reported to the Highways Liaison Officer who had notified his bridge inspector for action.
- b) Accidents and Incidents – None.
- c) Defibrillators – Battery and Pads will need replacing at the end of August on the Defibrillator by The Forge.
- d) Church Clock – Nothing had been heard from Smith of Derby the clock company who had been paid to service the clock. David had chased them to see when an engineer would visit to service the clock and restore the chimes.
- e) Headland Plough – Sarah Vere had negotiated a price of £300 plus VAT. The plough would be delivered to Moor Farm for alterations to be made to the plough.

10. **Local Government Reorganisation** – The Government had chosen in favour of the Plymouth and Exeter plan for four unitary authorities with some Towns and Parishes being moved into the City's areas to make up numbers and to give them further land for building the housing they required. Morchard Bishop will stay in the Rural Devon area. The other three unitary authorities will be Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter. For a time, it is likely that some services will be provided by other authorities and paid for by the receiving authority.

11. **Plan Mid Devon / Local Plan** – A parishioner had written to the Clerk further to the Clerk's article in the Morchard Messenger offering a piece of land for housing. **The Clerk will write to the parishioner giving them details of Mid Devon District Council and suggesting that they contact them and ask for the parcel of land to be considered as part of the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) process.** Details of the land offered as part of the HELAA process was available on <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/housing-and-economic-land-availability-assessment/> and then selecting the relevant appendix.

12. **Community Orchard** – Unfortunately the meeting arranged had been postponed. There was concern as to whether the parishioners wanted or would use an orchard, also concern was raised about a lease and the cost of drawing up such a lease. A meeting to discuss what terms would be put to the farmer would need to happen and a date for that would be set at the next Parish Council Meeting.

13. **Tidy-Up Day** – Saturday 26 September between 9.00am and 11.00am to meet in the Pub Car Park.

14. **Village Archivist** – The Clerk had spoken to some members of the community and had received one e-mail in response to his article in the Messenger. The Clerk will e-mail those interested to suggest an introductory meeting on the evening of either Monday 24th or Tuesday 25th August.

15. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Sustainable Morchard – nothing to report.
- Memorial Hall – The Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee had successfully applied for lottery funding and the Hall Committee were planning on having remedial work done to the flat roof at the back of the hall.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – Debbie Ticehurst gave report following the Mediation on Wednesday 15 July. The Constitutions of both organisations would need to be re-written following legal advice on Charity Law. There would need to be a further Mediation session. The Playing Fields Committee were concerned that at the monthly meeting of the Sports and Social Club Committee no written financial

report was presented to them. The Rally and Fair Saturday 1 August had been a success. The Playing Fields' AGM would be held on Monday 10 August.

- School – No report as School holidays.
- Churchyard – No news.
- Parochial Church Council (PCC) – The Reverend Fran Allison has been appointed Team Vicar for our Benefice. She will arrive in the autumn and live in the Morchard Bishop Rectory. The Church had sent a letter thanking the Parish Council for their MorFest Contribution and explaining that it would go toward the Tower Restoration project where lottery funding was being applied for and that this would assist toward providing matched funds.

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

- The Clerk had received a suggestion that **water butts were placed at the bus shelter** to assist with the watering of plants around the war memorial and the green. – This suggestion was approved.
- A resident had asked if the dog poo bin on the ramp at Greenaway could be moved. – there was discussion about where to relocate it to – **the Parish Council will consider the matter further.**

Meeting Closed at 9.26pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 7 September 2026** at the Memorial Hall at **7.00pm.**