

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting 13th May 2024

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

Apologies: District Councillor Mark Jenkins

No members of the public attended.

1. Election of Chairman:
Steve Watson proposed by Debbie Ticehurst and seconded by Sheila Sinclair.
No other nominations being received Steve Watson was appointed Chairman.
Steve Watson took the chair and will sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman.
2. Dawn Parkhouse was elected Deputy Chairman, proposed Simon Baker, seconded Debbie Ticehurst. All in favour.
3. Then followed the election of officers:

Officer	Officer for 2024/25	Proposed	Seconded
Bad Weather Warden Co-ordinator	Debbie Ticehurst	David Grant	Sheila Sinclair
Churchyard Committee	Les Partridge	Simon Baker	Dawn Parkhouse
Memorial Hall Committee	Debbie Ticehurst	Sheila Sinclair	Stephen Leese
Parochial Church Council	Dawn Parkhouse	Simon Baker	David Grant
MB Playing Field Association	Steve Watson (David Gillbard to be asked)	Debbie Ticehurst	David Grant
MB Primary School	Sheila Sinclair	Dawn Parkhouse	David Grant
P3 Footpaths Committee	Sheila Sinclair	Simon Baker	Dawn Parkhouse

Dawn Parkhouse will sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Chairman.

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

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

Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, Seconded: Debbie Ticehurst, carried unanimously

4. Clerk's Report for the year 2023-24

The average attendance at Parish Council meetings was 77.5%.

Finance:

Main:	Income: £18,723	Expenditure: £17,009	Difference: £1,714	Balance: £ 4,829
Reserve:	Income: £6,550	Expenditure: £19,920	Difference: (£13,370)	Balance: £15,463
P3:	Income: £2,119	Expenditure: £ 1,101	Difference: £1,018	Balance: £ 2,585
All accounts:				Total Closing Balance: £22,877

A total of 19 planning applications were discussed, 2 were Listed Building Consents, 3 were for Agricultural Dwellings, Extensions/Modifications (6), Variation of Plans (1), Class Q (0), agricultural store/building (0), Change of use of land (0), Siting of holiday units (0), New Building (2), Neighbourhood Plan at Lapford (1), Polytunnel (1), New Development at Chulmleigh Road (2), Applications relating to Tree felling and reduction (0), Agricultural Track and Hard standing (1).

Projects completed during the year include:

We looked into the Insurance position of the Memorial Hall.

We supported the Memorial Hall in organising the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III.

We bought equipment and found volunteers to commence the Road Warden Scheme and successfully filled in a lot of pot holes in the village.

Sarah Gillbard painted the Bus Shelter and weather proofed the woodwork.

The Council organised a First Aid Course for the village.

The Parish Council supported a new Defibrillator being placed at the Playing Fields.

Drainage was put into the Car Park by the school to allow water to escape, Members of the Parish Council cleared the gutters of the Car Park.

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

We commenced looking at the possibility of having a public convenience in the village.

We had the drainage ditches around Jane Ways Grave cleared.

The restoration of the Clock mechanism in the Church Tower was completed..

A successful second "Apple Day"

The Chairman of the Parish Council attended the "State of the District Debate" run by Mid Devon District Council.

We heard from Mid Devon Medical Practice about their plans to merge with Amicus Health.

On-going Projects:

Heart of Devon Environment Group now known as Sustainable Morchard.

Campaign for better Broadband connection.

Emergency Plan.

Assisting Businesses.

Road Warden Scheme.

Investigate the possibility of having a Public Convenience in the village.

Apple Day event to be continued.

Booklet of Local Walks.

The financial aspects of the year were presented to the meeting. Simon Baker proposed that they be accepted, Stephen Leese seconded the proposal – Carried.

The Parish Council's own Governance Documents had been examined and approved at the Parish Council meeting held in February, the Parish Council agreed to an increase in the quorum from four to five Councillors.

The Parish Council had accepted the proposed changes to the Town and Parish Charter proposed by Mid Devon District Council.

The meeting ended at 7.58pm