

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30pm

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

Present: Steven Watson (Chair), Dawn Parkhouse (Vice-Chair), Simon Baker, Sarah Gillbard, Andy Hankins, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, Debbie Ticehurst and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: None

1. **Apologies:** David Gillbard, David Grant, County Councillor Margaret Squires, District Councillor Mark Jenkins and District Councillor Helen Tuffin.

2. **Members of the Public** – None.

3. **The minutes** of the Council meeting held on 27th January 2025 were approved - Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, seconded: Simon Baker - carried unanimously.

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

- BT Digital Voice events and Mobile “not” spots –The Clerk had made further enquiries of the Resilience Officer and read out the reply stating that he was seeking where in the village householders had no mobile signal inside their properties. It was agreed that **Stephen Leese would draft a survey to go in the Morchard Messenger for residents to state their address and their mobile signal provider.**

- Parish On-line initiative to switch our website and e-mail address to a gov.uk domain, the Clerk had provided a report about websites. It was agreed to make Consideration of Website a main Agenda Item for April 2025.

- Land and Property Registration – Stephen Leese, Sheila Sinclair and Debbie Ticehurst had looked through the Parish Council documents and could only find details of the land at St Gatien Garden. **Stephen Leese will speak to Land and Property Registration to find out what the next steps would involve.**

- Hedges near Morchard Road overgrown – David Grant had spoken to the land-owner who said he would get the contractor back to cut the hedges on the road side.

- **The Clerk was yet to circulate details about raising money from scrap metal collection**

- The Parish Council had discovered who was parking their car long term in the car park by the school.

4. **Finance.**

Cashflow table for March was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for February/March. Expenditure for March is £117.62 on the main account with a receipt of £29 from the raffle at the coffee morning, £8.04 from the Reserve account for room hire for Sustainable Morchard and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of February before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £13,995.97; Current Account £5,492.00; P3 Account £7,519.40.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Function 28	Web hosting and Email management	£ 24.00 Standing Order
British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church	£ 30.62 Direct Debit estimate
Memorial Hall	Room Hire	£ 63.00 BACS

Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Memorial Hall	Room Hire	£8.04 BACS
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The Current account stands at £5,403.38 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £13,974.52 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£346.06), Sustainable Morchard (NIL), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£4,000), and the P3 account stands at £7,519.40.

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

5. Planning

25/00264/FULL	Construction of new vehicular access	Lydcott Nursery, Black Dog
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After discussion Debbie Ticehurst proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. Les Partridge seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals

24/01828/PNCOU Refused	Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to one dwelling under Class Q	Land and Building at NGR 279701 105633 (Rolestone Barton), New Buildings
24/01814/FULL Approved	Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 23/00217/FULL Erection of a rural workers dwelling	Lydcott Nursery, Black Dog, Crediton

6. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Devon Community Resilience Forum – was taking place on 11 March 2025 in Torrington.
- Invitation to join the North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group – **The Clerk was asked to invite a member of this group to a future Parish Council meeting.**
- Mid Devon District Council call for sites – The District Council were inviting landowners to get in touch with them if they felt that their land may be suitable housing development in the future.
- Mid Devon Mobility had thanked the Parish Council for the donation.
- Mid Devon Mobility invited members of the Parish Council to their AGM on Wednesday 5 March.
- Keep Britain Tidy campaign confirmed the Great British Spring Clean would take place between 21 March and 6 April 2025.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields had sent their annual request for confirmation of the Parish Council's trustee nomination. The Parish Council nominated Steven Watson and David Gillbard.
- Citizens' Advice had thanked the Parish Council for the donation.

7. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads: Nothing to report.
- b) Road Warden Scheme: **The Clerk was asked to order another ton of road filler material. It was agreed that a meeting Road Wardens would be called in readiness for the new season for ending pot holes.**
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: **The Clerk awaited a reply from the Police with details as to what could be done with dogs loose around livestock.**
- e) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order.
- f) Bus Shelter – The Clerk had had it reported to him that a woman was urinating in the bus shelter. Councillors were asked to be vigilant and to try to discover where this woman came from.
- g) Church Clock – The clock was running fast because part of the magnet had fallen off the pendulum. **Andy Hankin offered to supply some metal zip ties to fix it back on. Andy would get in touch with Bob Robinson.**
- h) Emergency Plan – No further progress.
- i) Village Maintenance Plans – Stephen Leese, Frances Clement and Debbie Ticehurst had cleared the grass that grew over the path and kerbs around the Green on which the bus shelter was located. The Parish Council thanked them for this work.
- j) Assisting local Businesses – No further progress.
- k) War Memorial – The Clerk had now made the preliminary grant application to the War Memorials Trust for re-surfacing the piece of road above the War Memorial for the refurbishment and painting of the posts.
- l) Parish Diary – No further progress.
- m) Finger Posts – A second quotation had been received for £2,171.40 including VAT which the Parish Council thought still too high. The Clerk had mentioned an amnesty for the return of any Finger Signs in his article in the Morchard Messenger. **The Clerk was asked to send details of the signs to Sarah Gillbard and Les Partridge for them to make enquiries.**
- n) VE Day Commemoration – The Parish Council agreed to restrict the event to the one evening on Thursday 8th May with the Barbecue open from 6.45pm onwards in the London Inn Car Park. The Dove Dance Academy offered to perform a dance in the Memorial Hall, **Dawn Parkhouse would revert to them stating that the girls**

would be welcome to perform a dance in the Car Park of the London Inn. In addition, the Parish Council Chair was asked to read a proclamation at the War Memorial at 8.00am on the same day.

- o) 2025 Community Event - Stephen Leese would draft an article for the Morchard Messenger seeking ideas for a village event to be held in the Summer.

8. Crediton Cluster Meeting Report – Steve Watson had attended the Crediton Cluster on 17 February 2025. Items discussed included: a proposed cycle path from Newton St Cyres to Exeter at a cost of £20m, proposals to build 750 houses on the QE Lower School site at Barnfield or alternatively to build 350 houses with some public open space. Culm Garden Village had agreed a scheme to build 500 houses but if the scheme to build between 5,000-7,000 houses went ahead that would reduce the pressure for housing in other parts of mid Devon.

9. Sustainable Morchard Report – The talk about Swifts had been very successful. The Seed swap on 1st March had also been a success.

10. Village Assets and their Maintenance –

Bus Shelter – in good order.

Seats - All except the seat by Groberry Hayes were in good condition. – Debbie Ticehurst agreed to assist Sarah Gillbard in keeping an eye on the seats, they would see if they could put some paint on the seat at Groberry Hayes.

Church Floodlighting – in good order

Noticeboards x 3 – The newer noticeboard on the wall of the skittle alley needed the top lock replacing. The Clerk will instruct Tony Scoins to repair it.

St Gatien - Garden all in good order.

Land at Jane Ways Grave – in good order.

Land at the Pound – in good order.

Land around Bus Shelter and War Memorial – following the grass removal it was now in good order.

Church Clock – The magnet on the pendulum needs repairing and the Clock Face and hands are in need of refurbishment.

School Car Park – the drainage provision made last year is working. The leaves and mud gathering around the kerbs need clearing.

K6 Phone Box at Frost – the Paint is looking tired and in need of a repaint – The Clerk will mention it to Greg Anson who kindly painted it last time.

Fuji Salt Spreader – in working order. At the end of the season Les Partridge will arrange for John Charman to give the machine a clean and a service.

Langton Snow Plough – Now the rubber strip has been replaced all is in working order.

Seat for Best Kept Village – in good condition.

Christmas Lights – some of the strings of lights had broken and been disposed of and six new strings had been bought to replace them.

Defibrillators x 4 – all in good working order.

Small Apple press – in good working order.

Evolution Hulk Compactor – in good working order.

Road signs and cones – in good working order.

Road Tools – in good working order.

Baked Potato Machine – awaiting a gas engineer to fix the two broken parts. – Sarah Gillbard will chase up.

11. Neighbourhood Watch – Andy Hankins had spoken to neighbours around Frost and although people liked the idea of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme – no-one wanted to head it up. 10 Neighbourhood Watch sign could be purchased for £150. Andy Hankins agreed to try and set up a village size neighbourhood watch scheme.

12. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Memorial Hall – The cleaning rota was working well. The Memorial Hall Committee had received a quote for the Audio/Visual system but it was very expensive. They hoped to be able to run Film nights. Taped markings would be put on the hall floor to enable people to play Pickle Ball.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – The committee had held meetings with two contractors regarding Play Equipment, TK Play and Marshall Makro but the equipment was very expensive. Advice had been received that Charities could not reclaim VAT on purchases which were not for business use. AGM would take place on 14th April 2025. The Clerk will make some further enquiries about VAT.

- School – The Parish Council had visited the School to present them with a cheque towards the track to the School garden. The Councillors had been given a tour of the school and were invited to the assembly. **The Clerk would invite the treasurer of FOMBS to talk to the Parish Council.**
- Churchyard – Nothing to report.
- Parochial Church Council – The down pipe on the Church Tower was not cleared properly first time but the contractors had returned and the Pipe was now running free. It had been blocked with nesting materials from jackdaws and a plan was in place to stop them being able to nest in the hopper. There was a plan to set up a “Friends of St Marys” group. The Church Council had agreed to pay 75% of the Diocesan share demand made in the same way that Holy Cross Crediton were only paying 75% - particularly whilst the Diocese was failing to fill the vacancy for the post of vicar. The PCC would not hold a Christmas Bazaar this year but instead would hold a Christmas Tree Festival – the Parish Council would be asked to sponsor/decorate a tree.

13. General (Note – items in this section cannot be discussed – merely scheduled for a future meeting).

- The Clerk was asked to include attendances of County and District Councillors in the annual statistics.
- The Clerk was also asked to make County and District Councillor Reports a monthly agenda item.
- The Parish Council were running a Coffee Morning on March 22nd 2025 – **Stephen, Sheila and Debbie agreed to help, Dawn would run the Raffle. Stephen Leese will buy raffle prizes but other prizes were welcomed.**
- **Parish Councillors were asked to inspect the Cherry Tree by the Bus shelter as certain Councillors felt that it was becoming dangerous.**

Meeting Closed at 9.54pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 7 April 2025** at the Memorial Hall **at 7.30pm.** when we will consider the Parish Council Website and Parish Initiatives.