

## MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 2 December 2024 at 7.30pm

#### At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

**Present:** Steven Watson (Chair), Dawn Parkhouse, Simon Baker, David Gillbard, Sarah Gillbard, David Grant, Andy Hankins, Stephen Leese, Les Partridge, Sheila Sinclair, Debbie Ticehurst, County Councillor Margaret Squires and David Parker (Parish Clerk).

Members of the public attending: None

1. **Apologies:** District Councillor Mark Jenkins and District Councillor Helen Tuffin.
2. **Members of the Public** – Nothing raised.
3. **The minutes** of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were approved - Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, seconded: Debbie Ticehurst - carried unanimously.

#### 4. Finance.

Cashflow table for December was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for November/December. Expenditure for December is £492.77 on the main account, £31.50 on the Reserve Account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of November 2024 before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £13,966.23; Current Account £9,408.64; P3 Account £1519.40.

##### 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	£ 25.11 Direct Debit estimate
Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Jul - Dec	£126.00 BACS
Lydcott Nurseries	Parish Planters	£126.36 BACS
Function 28	Calendar	£106.80 BACS
David Parker – Expenses	Printer Paper	£ 9.50 BACS
Mid Devon Mobility	Grant	£ 75.00 BACS

##### Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Memorial Hall	Sustainable Morchard Rm hire	£31.50 BACS
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The Current account stands at £8,915.87 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £13,934.73 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£346.06), Sustainable Morchard (£8.04), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£1500), and the P3 account stands at £1519.40.

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

#### 5. Planning

24/01680/CAT	Notification of intention to fell 5 Lawson Cypress trees (G1) within a Conservation Area	6 Corner Close, MB
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After discussion David Grant proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. Les Partridge seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

##### Planning: decisions / appeals / withdrawals

24/01450/CAT <b>No Objection</b>	Notification of intention to fell 1 Magnolia Grandiflora tree within the Conservation Area	Grasshopper Lodge, Fore Street, MB
24/01361/FULL <b>Approval</b>	Erection of extension to horticultural barn	Lydcott Nursery, Black Dog, Crediton

24/01072/FULL Granted	Change of use of land to horse manege	Land at NGR 278284 110062 (Mear Farm), Black Dog, Crediton
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#### 6. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Mid Devon Mobility (Charity) had sent a letter making their annual request for grant support. The Council had budgeted £75 as in previous years for this grant, Sarah Gillbard proposed and Sheila Sinclair seconded that we award the £75 grant to Mid Devon Mobility – Carried.
- Prosper Business Support Programme – Information about this programme to assist local businesses was circulated.
- activibeas.com – a website to promote local Community events – information about this group was mentioned, the Council decided to leave it for the time being until our own local Calendar was working.
- Sreet Works – notification to close Chulmleigh Road for South West Water between 13 January 2025 and 17 January 2025 and between 10 February and 14 February 2025.
- Land and Property Registration firm had sent a flyer suggesting that all Council owned land ought to be properly registered with the Land Registry. The Parish Council owns very little land but Stephen Leese agreed to look into this further.

#### 7. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads: Devon Highways had thanked the Clerk for his complaint. The reply had been circulated stating that as a result they were working on several improvements including simplifying the approval process for frequently ordered items. The Clerk noted that more fingers had dropped off road signs and needed repairing. David Gillbard agreed to look at what needed to be done.
- b) Road Warden Scheme: Nothing to report – too cold to use the material.
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: Nothing to report. However, David Gillbard had heard of dogs being imported from abroad carrying a form of canine brucellosis. Stephen Leese agreed to look into this and produce an article for the Morchard Messenger.
- e) Defibrillators – All in working order.
- f) Bus Shelter – Nothing to report.
- g) Church Clock – Nothing to report.
- h) Emergency Plan – No further progress.
- i) Village Maintenance Plans – Nothing to report.
- j) Assisting local Businesses – No further progress.
- k) War Memorial – The Clerk had received three quotations for the work to repair the tarmac to the front of the War Memorial but was still chasing a fourth. The Clerk had now received quotes for the refurbishment and painting of the posts and would move towards making an application to the War Memorials Trust.
- l) Parish Calendar – Progress with our software support company was painfully slow but we were making progress.
- m) Christmas Lights and Nativity – The Parish Council now had the box to house two batteries and an inverter. The lights will be put in place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 10.30am ready for lighting on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 17.45hrs.
- n) Bad-Weather Wardens and Winter Gritting – All had seemed to work well during the recent snow event. The clerk would check how full all the grit bins were. Still no volunteers to act as a Bad Weather Warden in Greenaway or Rectory Gardens. Jamie had inspected the snow plough and had ordered a new rubber strip.
- o) The King's Portrait – the second portrait of the King was now hanging in the vestry of the Parish Church.
- p) Devon Air Ambulance Lights (DAAT) – The Football Club had received the eight lights and were now trying to source a cherry picker for the installation.

#### 8. Crediton Cluster Meeting Report – The November Cluster meeting had been cancelled.

#### 9. Sustainable Morchard Report – There would be a talk about Swifts that would be open to the public on 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. There would be a Seed swap on 1<sup>st</sup> March and a plant swap on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

#### 10. Budget for 2025-26 and Precept – First Consideration – There was considerable debate about the level of precept that should be requested for the year 2025-26 bearing in mind how the Council's costs were expected to increase. Various scenarios were suggested. After much debate, Simon Baker proposed that a Precept of £11,560 be requested, an increase of £1,000 or 6% based on the District Council's calculation

that it could collect payment from more properties in the coming year. Sarah Gillbard seconded the proposal, and it was carried by 8 votes to 3 with Stephen Leese, Debbie Ticehurst and Andy Hankins voting against. It was agreed that the budget (how the Council spent the precept) would be looked at, at the meeting in January.

11. **Morchard Messenger – Front Page for January** – Simon Baker and Sarah Gillbard had put together a montage of photographs from the Laser light and Bonfire Extravaganza, further work was needed. The cost of the Messenger producing a colour front and back would add an extra £100 and it was agreed to make a £100 grant to the Morchard Messenger for this purpose. The Clerk would supply details of various events throughout the year for some suitable words to be put together.
12. **Parish Initiatives** – A. Community Apple Pressing Day – this had again been a success this year and it was agreed to continue the project in 2025. B. Printed Walking maps – Stephen Leese and Debbie Ticehurst would progress this project. C. Broadband Provision – this was still an aim, but the Parish Council awaited infrastructure and Devon County Council had just released Airband from their obligations. D. Roads the Parish Council agreed to keep up the pressure on South West Highways and oversee the Road Warden Scheme. E. Car Charging – “Charge My Street” initiative, the Parish Council awaited a decision from Devon County Council, however, Andy Hankin commented that he had made his EV charger publicly accessible at a very reasonable rate and had not had any interest shown. F. The village Bonfire Extravaganza had been a great community event but not one to be repeated annually and so another community event would be suggested. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for January along with a commemorative event for VE day.
13. **Trustees and Village Organisations Reports**
  - Memorial Hall – The committee were holding a Christmas Bingo on 6<sup>th</sup> December and a Coffee Morning on 21<sup>st</sup> December. The Electrics on the heating in the hall had been improved but were still not correct. The Craft Fair had been successful, and the Hall Committee had done well selling refreshments. There were problems with the cleaning not being done properly and was now being monitored for quality.
  - Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – The committee was still looking at the possibility of becoming VAT registered, however the Sports and Social Club connection was complicating things. The Committee had received three quotes for four pieces of play equipment totalling approximately £80,000.
  - School – A busy end of term with singing at Church, at Ridge House and at the Nativity at the Bus Shelter.
  - Churchyard – Nothing to report.
  - Parochial Church Council – The blockage in the downpipe on the Church Tower had been cleared but there was still water ingress into the Tower. Running costs were still a major concern for the Church. The Church had hosted its annual Christmas Bazaar which had suffered due to the Bishops Market taking place in the Memorial Hall the evening before with parishioners having already had their fill of Christmas Fairs. The PCC accepted the offer of the portrait of the King. They would next meet on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.
  - Councillor Margaret Squires – Would be standing down at the County Council elections in May 2025.
14. **General** (Note – items in this section cannot be discussed – merely scheduled for a future meeting).  
Nothing raised in this section.

Meeting Closed at 9.45pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 6 January 2025** at the Memorial Hall **at 7.30pm**. when we will consider a special village event, give second consideration to next year's budget and the precept and look at the Emergency Plan.