

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.59pm following the Annual Meeting

At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

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

Members of the public attending: None

1. **Apologies:** District Councillor Mark Jenkins.
2. **Members of the Public** - None.
3. **The minutes** of the Council meeting held on 8th April 2024 were approved - Proposed: Stephen Leese, seconded: Sheila Sinclair – carried unanimously.

4. Finance.

Cashflow table for May was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for April/May. Expenditure for May is £212.50 on the main account, £61.00 on the Reserve Account and nothing on the footpaths account, during April we received the Precept of £5,280.00 into the Main Account. Funds at the end of April 2024 before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £15,463.35; Current Account £4,075.17; P3 Account £2,585.14.

Current Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

EDF	Electricity	£ 16.00 Direct Debit
Function 28	Web hosting and Email management	£ 24.00 Standing Order
Stapletons Accounts	Payroll Calculations etc	£ 120.00 BACS
David Parker	Expenses-paper and PDF conversion	£ 10.50 BACS
Memorial Hall	Room Hire	£ 42.00 BACS

Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

Forest Whale Books	Sponsorship	£ 40.00 BACS
Memorial Hall	Sustainable Morchard Room Hire	£ 21.00 BACS

The Current account stands at £9,122.67 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £15,422.35 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£1,116.80), Sustainable Morchard (£50.04), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£1500), and the P3 account stands at £2,585.14.

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

5. Planning - there were no applications to consider.

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Planning: **decisions / appeals / withdrawals**

24/00436/CLU Granted	Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a dwelling in breach of agricultural occupancy condition on Planning Permission 90/02238/OUT for a period in excess of 10 years.	The Cottage Gardens, Lapford

6. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Street Works – South West Water notification of a Road Closure on Polson Hill between Pilgrim Cottage and Coburg between 11th June and 13th June for utility works.
- The School had sought permission to have a skip placed in the carpark by the school – all cleared away now.
- Mid Devon District Council had sought the Parish Council's view regarding three options for the name of the new Development in Chulmleigh Road. The Parish Council preferred the name "Belstone View".
- Crediton Cluster Group of local Councils – The Town Clerk to Crediton Town Council had written asking if they could attend a meeting of our Parish Council to provide more information about the group and to answer any questions. It was agreed to invite them to our meeting in June. The Chairman agreed to attend the Cluster Group's next meeting on Monday 20th May.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team would be in the village in the area of the village shop on Thursday 16th May between 10.30 and 11.30am.

7. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud: Nothing to report.
- b) Road Warden Scheme: The Pot Hole Team had held a meeting. They had a plan to try to find more opportunities to fix pot holes with either Sarah or Steve leading teams at different times. There would be a need for more volunteers. There appeared to be no limit to the amount of pothole repair material that Devon County Council would supply. With regard to bitumen – that was costing £21 per tin and concern was raised about how that would be funded. The Parish Council decided that it would be a good use of the Light Source Money in the Resilience account so all Road Warden sundries would be paid from the Resilience Fund.
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: Nothing to report.
- e) Defibrillators – All Defibrillators are working. The pads at Frost would need replacing in June.
- f) Bus Shelter – The Parish Council gave a vote of thanks to Sarah for kindly cleaning the bus shelter.
- g) Church Clock – Smiths of Derby came back to fix the Fly Fan back on the clock mechanism and discovered that the bush holding the fly fan had become loose and so that part had now been sent back to Derby to be sweated back on to the spindle.
- h) Churchyard Committee Trees – The committee have been told that permission to trim back the trees would need to be sought from Mid Devon District Council as the Churchyard was in a conservation area. An application would be made in due course.
- i) Emergency Plan – No further progress.
- j) Public Convenience in Morchard Bishop – Stephen Leese provided a comparison chart comparing the various merits and problems of each of the proposed solutions. Margaret Squires mentioned that various villages are removing their public toilets due to the fact that they are being abused and the ongoing cost of running them – consumables, cleaning and vandalism. The Clerk was asked to enquire of Down St Mary and Lapford Parish Councils their experience of running the public conveniences and what their running costs were. For the time being Sarah Gillbard would speak with Claire and Matt at the shop and say that if any walkers etc came to the shop asking for a public convenience then they could direct them to the pub. David Grant proposed that the Parish Council pay the pub for such use, it was agreed that a scheme needed to be worked out and this was to go on a future agenda.
- k) Village Maintenance Plans – The Clerk had received a quote for the repair of the noticeboards attached to the Skittle Alley and at Frost of £575. Stephen Leese Proposed and Debbie Ticehurst seconded that this quote be accepted – Carried.
- l) Assisting Businesses – This item had not moved forward yet.
- m) D-Day Commemorations – Bunting would be placed around the War Memorial on Saturday 1st June at 10.00am. The Clerk and Dawn volunteered with other helpers needed. On Thursday 6th June, the Chairman would read the "National Proclamation" from the War Memorial at 8.00am. Set up in the School Playground could take place from 4.00pm. In the evening from 6.45pm David and Sarah's Barbecues would be set up in the School where it was expected to cater for 100 people. Stephen Leese and Debbie Ticehurst would control traffic and Debbie would also cover First Aid. The Bells would be rung from 7.30pm and at 9.10pm Jim McDougal would read the "International Tribute". At 9.15pm the Beacon would be lit. Anton had agreed to provide the gas.

8. **Sustainable Morchard Report** – The group held a successful Coffee morning and plant swap on Saturday 4th May. On 28th May there will be a public talk about Owls. The speaker will be Stephen Powells. The group had received a talk on Bio Net Gain and what it meant for Developers. Developers had to ensure that there was 10% more bio diversity than when they first started working on the site – that 10% increase did not have to be at the same site and so they could purchase credits for land elsewhere. The speaker had wondered if the Parish Council and other landowners had areas of land that could be used for the Bio

Diversity Credits – it was a 30 year commitment. The Speaker (R. Kapff) was to be invited to the July meeting commencing at 7.00pm for a talk to last 30 minutes.

9. **Village Awards to recognise contributions people make to the village.** – Steve Watson asked if, like Sandford, we wanted to have a ceremony to honour those who help in the village. After discussion it was agreed that a number of people like to do things quietly and would not want attention drawn to them. It was agreed that such awards were not needed for this village.
10. **Parish Initiatives** – The Clerk took the Parish Council through the list of Parish Initiatives.
 - Community Apple Day – this was wanted – the Clerk to find a date at the end of Sept./beginning of Oct.
 - Printed Walking Maps – Debbie Ticehurst and Stephen Leese would progress this matter.
 - Broadband Provision – this was still an aim but we are awaiting infrastructure.
 - Roads – keep up the pressure on Devon Highways – continue with Road Warden Scheme.
 - Car Charging / Charge My Street Initiative – awaiting to hear back on our bid for Electric chargers to be placed in the Car Park by the school.
11. **Trustees and Village Organisations Reports**
 - Memorial Hall – no meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting.
 - Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – The Playing Fields had held a successful Car Boot Sale with 12 cars attending and all cakes sold out by 2.30pm. The Sports and Social Club had agreed to pass to the Playing Fields Committee their profits of £7,000. Talks were underway as to how to save V.A.T. on the new equipment for the Play area.
 - School – nothing to report
 - Churchyard – No news.
 - Parochial Church Council – AGM would be held on Thursday 16th May. The Church Open Gardens Event will be held on Saturday 15th June for one day only. Talks were underway about the repairs to the Church and the Church Tower.

County Councillor's Report: More money was being put into Roads, drainage and mending pot holes. The County Council were trying to recruit more Foster Carers. James McInnes was the new Leader of Devon County Council.
12. **General** (Note – items in this section cannot be discussed – merely scheduled for a future meeting).
Nothing was mentioned.

Meeting Closed at 9.38pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 3rd June 2024** at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm when we would hear from the Crediton Cluster of Councils.