

## MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Parish Meeting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 at following the Annual Parish Meeting

#### At Morchard Bishop Memorial Hall

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

1. **Apologies:** District Councillor Mark Jenkins and Rev. Peter Brown
2. **Members of the Public** – No members of the Public were in attendance.
3. **The minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2025 were approved - Proposed: Sheila Sinclair, seconded: Debbie Ticehurst - carried unanimously. **The minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 May 2025 were approved - Proposed: Dawn Parkhouse, seconded: Les Partridge - carried unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising (not dealt with elsewhere in the minutes):**
  - The Clerk had prepared an advert to recruit a new Parish Councillor and sent it to the Morchard Messenger and placed it on the Noticeboards and on the Website. To date he had received three expressions of interest and sent out three application packs, none had been returned yet.
  - A new lock was still awaited for the Village Noticeboard on the Skittle Alley.
  - School Car Park – David Gillbard and Les Partridge had cleared the leaves and mud gathering around the kerbs. They were thanked for their work. David Gillbard reported that it would be worth getting a second drainage pipe laid into the field from the second drain in the car park.
  - Sarah and David Gillbard had attended the CPRE Planning workshop which had been very interesting and worth going to. The information pack had been circulated with the agenda for this Parish Council Meeting, Sarah recommended taking a look at the pack. Sarah stressed that it was worth keeping an eye on the neighbourhood and watching out for those making development applications.
  - Mid Devon District Council offer of training regarding Planning – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30pm at Phoenix House, Tiverton. Stephen Leese and Andy Hankins agreed to attend this training in person and Simon Baker agreed to attend the training on-line.
  - David Gillbard would mention to the landowners that the hedge just past Lydcott Nursery on the right as one approached Black Dog needed cutting back and could it be done at the beginning of September.
  - The Clerk had placed a notice in the Morchard Messenger explaining how to report pot-holes to Devon Highways.
  - Music Festival for 2026 – Sarah had spoken to the Villager who was enthusiastic and had a number of ideas. A sub-committee was to be formed – anyone interested to pass their names to Sarah.
  - Morchard Bishop Charitable Trust – The Clerk had contacted the Chairman of the Trust who had immediately requested cheques from their banks to transfer to the Parish Council. The Clerk had impressed on the Chairman that the remaining Trustees had to stay in place.
5. **Finance.**

Cashflow table for June was circulated which explained the income and expenditure figures for May/June. Expenditure for June is £872.18 on the main account, £1496.29 from the Reserve account and nothing on the footpaths account. Funds at the end of May before payment of these invoices stood at: Reserve Account, £15,962.91; Current Account £9,295.03; P3 Account £7,464.40.

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

Core Synergy Ltd	Web hosting and Email management	£ 24.00 Standing Order
British Gas Energy	Outside lighting of the Church	£ 17.99 Direct Debit estimate
WJPS Software	Software Support	£346.80 BACS
Core Synergy	SSL Certificate	£ 59.99 BACS
CPRE	Planning Course	£ 40.00 BACS
Selwyn Anthony	Repairs to Jacket Potato Cooker	£ 86.40 BACS
Bud2Blooms	Flowers for Margaret Squires	£ 30.00 BACS
S Dockings	Grass Cutting	£267.00 BACS

Reserve Account Receipts and Invoices to be paid:

N Devon Search & Rescue	Grant	£ 100.00 BACS
WJPS Software	Website & Email set up	£1,170.00 BACS
A & S Paving	Bitumen	£ 176.26 BACS
Screwfix	Pot hole repair sundries	£ 50.03 BACS

The Current account stands at £8,422.85 after payment of these invoices, the Reserve account stands at £14,466.62 including funds for Jubilee Funds (£113.46), DAAT (£346.06), Clock Face fund (£613.99), Election Expenses (£4,000), and the P3 account stands at £7,464.40.

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

## 6. Planning

25/00634/FULL	Installation of a slurry lagoon	Land at NGR 277999 109904 Bishopsleigh Farm, Black Dog
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This was an application by David Gillbard, he had addressed the Parish Council as a member of the Public. David Gillbard and Sarah Gillbard left the room for this item.

A full and frank discussion ensued. A proposal to delay a decision in order that the Council could hear from the objector failed with 2 votes FOR and 6 AGAINST. The Chair proposed that this application be SUPPORTED, 6 Voted FOR the proposal, 0 voted AGAINST and 2 Councillors ABSTAINED from voting.

25/00606/PNCOU <b>INFORMATION ONLY</b>	Prior notification for the change of use of land to a temporary campsite under Class BC for a period of 60 non-consecutive days from 10/05/2025 – 31/10/2025 with associated toilets	Beech Hill House, Morchard Bishop
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25/00415/HOUSE <b>Revised Drawings</b>	Erection of front porch; rear single storey extension and terrace; new garage and formation of new vehicular access	6 Corner Close, Morchard Bishop
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After discussion Les Partridge proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. Sheila Sinclair seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

24/01485/LBC <b>APPEAL</b>	Listed Building Consent for erection of covered walkway to include re-rendering of wall with lime-based render and installation of suspended floor	The Old Dairy, 2 Chapel Street, Morchard Bishop
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25/00369/LBC	Listed Building Consent to re-thatch roof with water reed	Whites Farmhouse, Morchard Bishop
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After discussion David Grant proposed that this application be SUPPORTED. David Gillbard seconded the proposal, and it was carried unanimously.

## 7. County and District Councillor's Reports

Councillor Helen Tuffin's report is attached to these minutes.

Councillor Steve Keable's report is attached to these minutes.

## 8. Correspondence not dealt with elsewhere in the meeting:

- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – Vintage Rally and Family Fun Day – The Parish Council agreed to offer their services for the Fun Day to run the Baked Potato Machine and run Welly Wanging – Andy Hankins would arrange a game for younger children.

- Mid Devon District Council - Green Enterprise Grants were available to help businesses go green. – It was worth exploring whether any Community owned buildings would benefit from this grant.
- Devon Communities Together – Rural Housing Enabling and Housing Needs – Grants available for Housing Needs surveys.
- Request for Parish Support for a Dog Poo Bin at the Playing Fields – **David Gillbard will take this suggestion back to the Playing Fields Committee for further discussion.**
- Mid Devon District Council had invited members of the Parish Council to the raising of the Armed Forces Day Flag on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 at 10.00am at Phoenix House, Tiverton.
- A resident had forwarded to the clerk an e-mail exchange he had had with Open Reach about new telegraph poles being positioned behind Corner Close towards the Green. Openreach had explained that it was because they were preparing to bring ultrafast broadband to Morchard Bishop.

## 9. Ongoing Matters:

- a) Roads, Signage, Hedges, Potholes, Footpaths and Mud on roads: The Pothole that the Council reported on Rixey (Watery) Lane had been repaired by Devon Highways but part of their repair had simply slipped through the side of the drain – leaving another hole there! Les Partridge proposed that each Councillor adopt a sign or fingerpost in the village and keep it clean. – This proposal was welcomed and agreed to. **Simon will compile a list of signs that Councillors can 'adopt' for cleaning.**
- b) Road Warden Scheme: The Pot-Hole Patrol had now commenced work and was receiving praise.
- c) Accidents and Incidents: Nothing to report.
- d) Dog Control: Nothing to report.
- e) Defibrillators – All checked and in working order.
- f) Bus Shelter – in the corner of the bus shelter was a mirror picture that had been smashed with stones from the War Memorial. This would need separating and tidying up. - **The Clerk volunteered.**
- g) Church Clock – Nothing to report.
- h) Parish Council Land – **Stephen Leese will start to detail the Land the Parish Council own.**
- i) Emergency Plan – No further progress.
- j) Village Maintenance Plans – **Aidan Willcox to be asked to spray off weeds at the Pound and to trim hedges around benches etc.**
- k) Assisting local Businesses – No further progress.
- l) Cherry Tree on the Green – **Sarah Gillbard was awaiting a quote from Callum for felling the tree and removing the stump.** It was agreed that the trunk should be taken down whole to investigate whether the timber could be used for a decorative bench or something else useful. It was agreed to replace the Cherry Tree with another mature Cherry Tree. **Simon would get a quote.**
- m) Finger Posts – Sarah Gillbard was awaiting a sample and quote. Les Partridge had not heard back from the National Trust but had discussed with Tony Scoins whether he could make the signs Tony would supply a quote. Sarah had approached Julian Rice for a quote.
- n) Website and new Parish Logo – The new Website was progressing well. The logo needed revising to replace the Crown with a Bishop's Mitre.

**10. Crediton Cluster Meeting Report** – Date of next meeting 9 June 2025 at 10.00am at 8 North Street, Crediton. **Stephen Leese will attend.**

**11. Sustainable Morchard Report** – Members of the group had enjoyed their early morning bird walk.

**12. Land by the Church that is for sale.** – Too late for the Parish Council to do anything as an offer had been accepted from some people in Black Dog.

**13. V.J. Day Commemoration** – A letter had been received from the British Legion thanking the Parish for its contribution of £332. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not lead an event for VJ Day.

**14. Neighbourhood Watch** – There were apparently four different groups within Morchard Bishop. The Clerk had included the matter in his Parish News article and asked the organisers to contact him – he had not heard back from any of them. **Stephen Leese would look further into this matter, but it was not a high priority at present.**

**15. Purchase of new Play Equipment for MB Playing Fields' Childrens' Area.** – The Trust who had donated the money were unhappy with the proposal to avoid paying VAT. It was therefore agreed to revert to the original position of the Playing Fields Committee ordering the equipment themselves and paying the VAT due. Lessons had been learnt for the future.

#### 16. Trustees and Village Organisations Reports

- Memorial Hall – The AGM had taken place. The solar panels had been fitted, were working and would be extended as further funds were available. A new Audio-Visual System was to be installed in the main hall soon. The quiz had been well received.
- Morchard Bishop Playing Fields – Ongoing Maintenance discussions.
- School – Sarah Gillbard had heard back from a contractor with regard to the track. The contractor had inspected the area and would quote, a different contractor would apply the top layer with a playground type surface.
- Churchyard – The AGM was next week.
- Parochial Church Council – The AGM had been held.

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

- **The Clerk was asked to write to the Football Club to say that the Parish Council was very proud of their success.**
- The Clerk confirmed that the Audit would be internal only, as neither income or expenditure had been more than £25,000. The Parish Council confirmed the Certificate of Exemption. The Parish Council also approved the Accounting Statements in Section 2. Simon and Stephen would assist the Clerk in submitting the Audit documentation.

Meeting Closed at 9.20pm

The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council will be on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025** at the Memorial Hall at **7.30pm**.