

MORCHARD BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 9 January 2017

Present: Keith Davies (Chairman), Roger Field, Erwin Moore, Les Partridge, Charlotte Squire, David Grant, Dawn Parkhouse, Luke Denno, Frank Yendell, Sarah Gillbard.

Margaret Squires and Judi Binks attended.

Records of Declarations of Interest made during the meeting are filed with these minutes.

1. Apologies: Nick Heath.

2. The minutes of the meeting of 5 December 2016 were approved and signed, proposed D Grant, seconded E Moore, unanimous.

2A. Following a late confirmation Cllr Ken Browse joined the meeting. Ken is Chairman of Halberton

Parish Council, Committee Chairman of the Devon Association of Local Councils and immediate Past Chairman and current Vice Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils. He explained a little of his work at national level and some of the achievements of NALC, the most recent of which was to remove a Government threat to impose (expensive) referenda on Parish and Town Councils under certain conditions.

He continued by mentioning some of the people that he had met as National Chairman, which brought him to the hundred years of service of the Yendell family, he then presented Frank Yendell with a certificate of appreciation from Devon Association of Local Councils.

3. Matters Arising:

(a) Highways. Despite reporting potholes and blocked drains little seems to be happening, possibly as SWH will lose the contract on 10 weeks' time. The Clerk will write to the Highway Engineer, copying in Cllr Squires. [Post script: this leak may be a broken water main.]

(b) Transparency Code)

(c) Frost Phone Box) Work in progress.

(d) Emergency Planning / Resilience)

(e) Drain in Wood Lane)

(f) Accidents and Incidents. A parishioner fell at the steps to the dog waste bin between the bungalows and the Rectory in Church Street. This was reported to MDDC, who own the land, and this prompted a very quick response by fitting new handrails.

(g) TAP Fund. The Clerk has contacted neighbouring parishes regarding making a combined TAP Fund application for the parish's churchyards. Replies so far are not hopeful.

(h) Defibrillators. The defibrillator on the skittle alley wall was reported to have a flashing red light, the Clerk opened it (and set off the alarm) and firmly closed the case and the red light disappeared. It is possible that the alarm was triggered by the low temperature, so the Clerk will buy and fit a Max-and-min thermometer in each box.

(i) DAAT night flying. Morchard Bishop is live as one of DAAT's night flying landing sites, one of about two dozen in the county. Villagers have raised £1058 (Christmas hamper draw) plus £95 (Morchard Maids carol singing), which has been ring-fenced in the Parish Council accounts. This will maintain the facility for some years to come.

The leader of the project was Dawn Parkhouse, who received a well-deserved vote of thanks. Thanks are also due to Verity Tapp and everybody else who helped or contributed.

Village Project

(j) A £2000 grant is available from DCC for the Play Area, but it must be claimed before the end of January. It was agreed that this sum would be invested in draining the lower end of the Play Area, proposed D Grant, seconded L Denno, unanimous. L Denno will prepare a job specification. The Lottery application continues to develop.

4. Members of the Public. None attended but complaints have been received concerning the Post Office van arriving late and leaving early. Cllr Judi Binks offered to take this up with Mel Stride, MP, which she has done and received a response.

5. **Correspondence.** Two letters have been received, one from NTMW Devon Citizens Advice thanking the Parish Council for their donation and the other from Light Source advising that work was starting on the solar array at Sharland Farm.

Amongst the emails received were:

- An email advising that DCC was moving towards sharing the costs of projects, where the parish's contribution could be in cash or man-hours. The spring at the War Memorial was considered a likely candidate for such work.
- MDDC has advised that its Local Plan is again in the consultation process. The plans are available for review at the Boniface Centre in Crediton between 12 noon and 3 pm on Wednesday 25 January. There are currently three sites for development listed for Morchard Bishop (west of Greenaway, Tatepath Farm, Gurneys) of which the first is the favoured option and the second two are "alternatives". From studying the descriptions it is clear that the notes for each are a desk study and do not reflect reality on the ground, or the Parish Council's responses. The Clerk will attend the review in Crediton to discuss the options for the village and also discover what is needed to identify the parish's Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure.

6. **Planning.** Four planning applications were considered:

16/01917/FULL	Variation of Planning Permission	Menchine Farm
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A formal vote of "No Comment", proposed L Partridge, seconded D Grant, unanimous.

16/01923/HOUSE	Erection of single storey extension	Mear Cottage
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Supported, proposed F Yendell, seconded C Squire, unanimous.

16/01878/FULL	Conversion of former slaughterhouse and loading bay to dwelling (Revised scheme)	Maybank, Morchard Road
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Supported, proposed E Moore, seconded F Yendell, unanimous.

16/01885/FULL	Conversion of redundant barns to 3 dwellings	Shobrooke Farm
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Supported, proposed R Field, seconded S Gillbard, unanimous.

The following planning decisions were received from MDDC:

- Reserved matters for the erection of a replacement bungalow at Tregarth, Bugford, have been accepted.
- Prior notification for change of use for a barn to a dwelling under Class Q has been accepted.

7. **Finance.** £753.05 has been received from HMRC as a VAT rebate and £90 was banked in the DAAT Fund from Morchard Maids carol singing. A further £5 was received during the meeting for carol singing and £1058 from the Christmas hamper draw, also for the DAAT Fund. Six invoices were presented for payment:

M Baker	Bus Shelter cleaning – December	£20.00
S Dockings	3 months' grass trimming	£183.00 (inc VAT)
Morchard Messenger	Sponsorship	£40.00
R Patten	Reimburse 2 bulbs for church lights	£15.84 (inc VAT)
MAT Electrics	Earthing for DAAT lights control	£272.63 (inc VAT)
Churchyard Committee	Annual Grant	£1000.00

Payment proposed L Denno, seconded F Yendell, unanimous.

Cashflow: Total reserves fell by £1394, of which £1016 was for the DAAT controls for the lights [£1000 had been grant funded], £244 for Dart Electrics for wiring in defibrillator cabinets and £108 for 6 months' use of the Memorial Hall.

Precept: It was agreed to raise the total Parish Precept by 2%, or £144 for the whole parish for the financial year 2017-18. The Government grant has been reduced by £140.96 to £486.21, a drop of 22.5%. Once a small increase in the number of Band D equivalent properties is factored in, the Parish Precept per Band D property will increase from £16.23 per annum to £16.79 p.a., an increase of 56 pence per year.

The Devon Association of Local Councils fee will be deducted at source.

Proposed D Grant, seconded F Yendell, unanimous.

8. General.

- F Yendell will chair the February meeting in the absence of the Chairman and his deputy.
- The Christmas lights on the Green received some adverse comments and will need to be rethought before next Christmas.

**The next meeting of Morchard Bishop Parish Council
will be at 7.30 pm on Monday 6th February 2017
in the Memorial Hall.**