

Morebath Parish Council

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Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 3 July 2018 in Morebath Village Hall at 8pm.

Present: Cllr J Wescot (Chair) (*), Cllr M Adams, Cllr T Conway (*), Cllr B Hatton, Cllr Mrs P Reed (*), Mrs S Squire (Clerk).

Also present: Cllr P Heal, Chairman of Mid Devon District Council
County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe
District Councillor R Stanley
1 member of the public

* Cheque signatories.

1819-027 Apologies. Cllr Andrew and Briden, District Councillor A Moore.

1819-028 Declarations of Interest. None announced.

1819-029 Dispensation to Councillors. None announced.

1819-030 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018.
Agreed and signed as a correct record.

1819-031 Actions Arising:

Cllr Conway gave an update regarding slabs leading to the post box and planting.

The Clerk confirmed that DCC Public Rights of Way had been requested to write to the landowner regarding insulation points in the electric fence. They are doing this and will enclose a handle plus a warning board to encourage a response.

Grass Cutting. The Clerk confirmed that MDDC had carried out a further cut and the last cut, scheduled for October, would not take place.

1819-022 Open Forum.

Councillors were asked if any progress had been made with traffic calming measures as the speed of traffic was a concern and other measures did not appear to have any effect.

Cllr Hatton advised that Morebath does not qualify for schemes. An option would be to form a Road Traffic Calming group or wait for resurfacing although nothing was planned.

Cllr Wescott was of the opinion that Highways would not support any Parish Council initiative as the data does not warrant action being taken. Sometimes Highways will agree to a 20mph speed limit but this is not enforceable.

1819-023 Cllr P Heal, Chairman, MDDC.

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Cllr Heal advised he was visiting all Parishes during his two year role as Chairman and gave details of the activities of Mid Devon District Council.

As part of his Chairman's role, he chairs full Council meetings every two months and represents the Council as the civic side of the appointment which involves Church services, and he had taken part in the Armed Forces Day by raising the flag. He is to plant a tree to mark the 100th anniversary of the suffragette movement. In this connection, there is an exhibition in Tiverton Museum, one of four in the Mid Devon District area.

Cllr Heal also spoke about Mid Devon's budget and the way opportunities are being looked at to assist with the budget to prevent cuts in services, especially due to the fact that government funding is decreasing and would end by 2020. Mid Devon is involved with property investment showing good returns in the commercial property market.

The first phase of the Local Plan review involving land around Junction 27 of the M5 and associated sites will begin its process in September. The Council is keen for the Plan to be adopted to prevent speculative planning.

Housing numbers in Mid Devon are good although more were needed. There was a housing need and a lot of developments with planning permission but not being followed up.

There was a question and answer session.

Question: Are Parish Councils necessary?

Answer: Yes. Smaller Parishes should amalgamate with larger Councils as a way of continuing. There is a problem of getting people to stand and Parish councils have to be more proactive and undertake practical issues in the community.

Cllr Hatton spoke about Parish Council's lack of power and was advised by Cllr Heal that Mid Devon only have powers for certain areas and its Councillors can also feel frustrated.

It was stressed that feedback on planning and local housing is important with local knowledge.

Question: How much reserves does Mid Devon hold and what is the return?

Answer: There is £15 million on deposit. Cabinet Agendas show where it is invested at 2 ½ % interest.

Councillor Wescott advised that some ethical banks offer between 6 ½% & 8% linked to feed in tariffs in different parts of the country. The solar panels tariff no longer applies.

It was advised that District Councillors are not prepared to risk money and so keep the reserves in what is considered a safe place. The District Council is limited to where finance can be invested.

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The District Council receives just under an 8% return on property let and to further increase revenue, regeneration in the longer term is being looked at.

1819-024 Report of the County Councillor.

DCC has a new Chairman, who is the first lady Member to be elected. She unveiled a portrait of Quita Maxell Philipps, a colleague of the leading surrfagettes.

A local Community Transport Volunteer Award has been given to the driver of the Exe Valley Market Bus.

Carlton Lodge, a Special Education Needs establishment has been redesigned as a SEND school. It is hoped there will be some expressions of interest for it to open in September.

The British Horse Society has advised that accidents involving horses had increased from 7 to 17 between 2016/17/18, the highest figure in the South West. Electric cars could be a threat as they are so quiet.

Riders were encouraged to wear high visibility clothing

Tiverton High School relocation. Tiverton Community Arts Theatre (TCAT) has submitted an Application with a view to moving the school to the other side of the road on the same site as TCAT. There is a consented outline application on the site and if it went ahead it would form part of the Buildings Schools for the Future Project, of which Chulmleigh and Ilfracombe have been involved. The government has been asked to help. TCAT runs Tiverton High School hall as a theatre with permission of Tiverton High School Governors.

1819-025 Report of the District Councillor.

The Local Plan is going to the Inspector at the Tiverton Hotel on 23 & 24 September which will include the proposal for Junction 27 of the M5 and its consequences.

Council Finance. The general fund finished under £1/4 million in profit and housing £450,000.

An Award for promoting the garden fund at Cullompton has been awarded.

Mid Devon has nearly 600 empty homes and has a dedicated team to bring these back into use. 130 had been brought back into use as at March and it is hoped the number will be halved in the next six months.

The Premier Inn development had commenced and was due to be completed in August 2019.

Tiverton regeneration proposals are out for consultation and it is anticipated that a Planning Application will be submitted by the end of the Summer.

The Three Rivers development has received first prize for the project, out of a national competition for architects, being the best scheme for regenerating Tiverton.

Palmerston Park. This was due to be completed by the end of Spring 2019 comprising 26 flats and 4 flats at Bircham Lane. The original

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contractors had gone into liquidation and some of their work was poor. Mid Devon has been reimbursed for some of the work and the remainder will be dealt with in Court in the hope of breaking even

1819-026 Report of the Police.

Councillors had been circulated with an email from the Police in connection with a new way of finding crime statistics.

1819-027 Improvements to the centre of Morebath.

1819-028 Cllr Conway gave an update regarding slabs leading to the post box and planting advising that the work had been delayed and more help was awaited. **Action: September Agenda**

The Clerk confirmed that DCC Public Rights of Way had been requested to write to the landowner regarding insulation points in the electric fence. They were doing this and also sending a handle and board to encourage a response.

Grass Cutting. The Clerk confirmed that MDDC had carried out a further cut and the last cut, scheduled for October, would not take place.

1819-029 Planning. Councillors noted the following Planning Applications that had been registered since the last meeting:

18/00486/FULL – Change of use of first floor office (B1) to beauty therapist (A1) – G J Strong Ltd, Shillingford. **Granted Approval.**

18/00785/HOUSE – Conversion of attic to guest room & demolition of first floor walkway to cottage – Velthams Court, Morebath. The Planning Officer has advised this has changed from a Householder Application to a Certificate of Lawfulness Application and that the Parish Council are no longer being consulted, this now being an issue for the Legal Department.

The following Applications were considered:

18/00796/HOUSE – Erection of a replacement garden room, open porch and installation of dormer windows in roof to provide additional living accommodation – Firdown, Morebath. The Planning Officer expects to determine this Application by 17/7/18 and as such, the Parish Council's response will be considered. **Councillors decided to send a response of 'no comment'.**

18/00482/FULL – Conversion of redundant joinery workshop to 2 dwellings – G J Strong Limited Workshop, Four Winds, Shillingford. **It was resolved to recommend refusal on the grounds of access into and from the site causing additional traffic movements.**

1819-030 Finance 2018/19

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- a. The current financial position was noted.
- b. Allocation of reserves from the budget. No allocations took place.

c. Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

	Ch.No.	
• Mrs S Squire salary / HMRC PAYE	515	£259.60
• Mrs S Squire – Expenses	516	£ 18.30
• Mrs A Marshall. Internal audit fee	517	£100.00

- d. NatWest authorisation for change of contact details.
In accordance with the NatWest Unincorporated Club, Society or other Community Organisation Mandate, the following Resolution was passed:

The authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended.

**Proposed by Cllr Hatton, seconded by Cllr Conway.
Unanimously agreed.**

- e. The internal audit of the 2017/18 accounts had been completed and details were given.
The Certificate of Exemption and contact details of the Chairman and Clerk had been forwarded to the external auditors.

Correspondence.

- 1819-031**
- a. MDDC. Opportunity to respond on the Gambling Act Consultation on fourth review of Statement of Principles. Closing date: 10/8/18. Details had been circulated to Councillors. *Noted.*
 - b. MDDC. Opportunity to respond on the Licensing Act 2003 Policy Consultation. Closing date: 31/8/18. Details had been circulated to Councillors. *Noted.*

- 1819-032** **Other items for noting only:**
- a. The Clerk attended GDPR training at MDDC on 30/5/18
 - b. The Clerk met Cllr Hatton at Tiverton on 12/6/18 regarding reserves/budgetary figures
 - c. The Clerk is booked on a DALC 'Making Good Decisions' course on 12/7/18 in Exeter
 - d. Defibrillator. Cllr Westcott will contact an electrician for it to be fixed.

- 1819-033** Next meeting: **Tuesday, 11 September 2018 at 8pm in Morebath Village Hall.**

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

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Summary of Decisions:

- **Minutes of 15 May 2018**
- **Planning**
- **Finance**

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
