

**Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 1 August 2019 in Morebath Village Hall at 8pm.**

**Present:** Councillors J Wescott (Chairman), T Conway, Mrs P Reed.

District Councillor A Moore. 7 Members of the public.

**1. Apologies.** County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe, District Councillor R Stanley.

**2. Co-option of Parish Councillors.** Two letters of application had been received to fill two of the four vacant seats from Sandra Shipperley and Leonie Hagenbrock.

**Proposed for co-option by Councillor Conway proposed, seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.**

Newly elected Councillors Mrs Shipperley and Miss Hagenbrock took their places around the table and completed the necessary paperwork. They were handed a folder of Parish Council compliance and documentation for studying.

**3. Declarations of Interest.** None.

**4. Dispensation to Councillors.** None.

**5. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 21 May 2019. Agreed and signed as a correct record.**

**Actions Arising:**

- Position regarding a dog-leg speed limit sign to prevent recurring impact damage.  
DCC Highways had replied advising there was no safety issue with the current location of the sign. This will be turned back to the correct way round and if further damage occurs, then an alternative sign post may be considered.  
**Action: The Clerk to progress a bid from the DCC Community Enhancement Fund for a new sign.**
- Position regarding the raised inspection cover on the Lodfen to Bampton road.  
**Action: The Clerk to remind DCC Highways that the work was still outstanding.**  
**In addition, the Clerk to report a dangerous area on the B3190, 70 yards before Bonny Cross in the Bampton direction. Councillor Conway advised part of the hedge was missing which should be taped as there is a big drop to the river below.**
- Position regarding the protective cover to light switch in the Parish Council car park  
Councillor Conway advised that one tradesman inspected the work but was not interested and he was trying to get other local qualified electricians to quote.
- Definitive Map Review. The DCC Public Rights of Way Officer attended a Public Meeting on 16 July 2019.  
The officer had requested attending the meeting on 19 November 2019 to present the findings and Councillors had no objections to this.

A letter with maps had since been received together with a copy of the slides and notes of the meeting.

The letter stated that the County Council had noticed an anomaly in that a bridleway from Skilgate parish in Somerset stops at the county/parish boundary and does not continue into Devon/Morebath. As a public right of way should always start and finish on a county road or other public right of way, this cul-de-sac route will be a proposal for investigation under the parish review.

District Councillor Moore advised of another route opposite Ashtown Farm towards Burston Farm which goes to a deer gate and stops. The owners of Burston wish it to continue to be open.

- Councillor Conway confirmed that weed killing in the car park had been done.
- Section 106 Application funding for Morebath Cricket Club. It was noted that this Council responded to MDDC by advising it was unable to come to an agreement to support the application.

Councillor Conway reminded the meeting that on the evening of the last meeting, two Parish Councillors voted in favour and it was left thinking all was in order. He was of the opinion that the vote was not a tie, due to the Chairman not being in favour and also having a casting vote. As a result, the matter had been deferred by MDDC.

District Councillor Moore advised that MDDC takes Parish Councils views into account. Both District Councillors had supported the Application as well as other Town and Parish Councils, and the Application was progressing.

Mr I Hyde of Morebath Cricket Club had asked for the Application not to proceed as he wanted it to go through the proper channels and get the support of the Parish Council.

- Plants at the old Railway Bridge and by the Village Hall. Councillor Mrs Shipperley volunteered to care for these.

#### **6. Open Forum:** No items were raised.

There was a presentation by Mr I Hyde regarding the Section 106 application for funding by Morebath Cricket Club.

Mr I Hyde advised that the previous proposal was deferred. The Club would like a new estate style fencing around the ground and hoped that the Parish Council would support the Section 106 funding application and other applications for grant funding to improve the Club.

Club Members were also looking to paint the Pavilion and undertake substantial repairs. The Section 106 application is important to them to enable the facilities to be improved and keep the Club going.

£1,000 had been received from Tesco and £1,000 from the Viscount Amory Trust. If the Section 106 application is successful the Club would look to raise money for other items.

Q: How many members does the Club have?

A: About 25 – 30 with an age range of 13 – 60+ comprising people from Morebath and surrounding parishes.

Councillor Wescott felt it was an excessive amount to spend on a fence. It was understood that if the Section 106 funding was not claimed, it would disappear.

Another Member of the Cricket Club stressed the importance of good facilities for young people which will encourage them to be interested and join the Club.

**Councillor Conway proposed that Morebath Parish Council support the Cricket Club's application for Section 106 funding. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed.**

**Vote: In favour – 4. Carried.  
Against – 1**

## **7. Reports**

### **7.1 County Councillor (PC).**

Apologies received. Written Report received and circulated together with media release from F40, the National Education Union, the Association of School and College Leaders and the National Association of Head Teachers entitled Coalition unveils long-term funding plan to reverse education cuts.

### **7.2 District Councillors (AM)**

This was Councillor Moore's first meeting since the election and he thanked people for voting for him for a further 4 years.

- MDDC is currently run by a coalition of independent and Liberal Democrat Councillors and the Leader is Bob Deed. The Conservative Party did not have a majority and have formed a constructive opposition party.
- While Councillors are getting used to their new roles, it is quiet.
- At Fore Street Tiverton, access into pannier market is to start shortly.
- A green agenda is occupying a lot of time at meetings. MDDC has joined with DCC for a declaration of a carbon neutral by 2050, and Mid Devon is trying to reach this by 2030. Councillor Moore is supportive of this, but thinks some awkward decisions will have to be made. The Policy Environment Group is leading this initiative.
- Councillor Moore is willing to help parishioners on planning matters.

### **7.3 Police (PCSO). Not present, no report received.**

## **8. Improvements to centre of Morebath.**

### **8.1 Area Outside the Village Hall (deferred from the May 2019 meeting).**

Councillor Conway advised the necessary posts had been obtained. He is arranging for them to be fixed which will conclude the project.

### **8.2 Vehicle restriction sign on Morebath entry to Exbridge Lane.**

**Action: The Clerk to obtain costings and correct wording from Highways to prevent large vehicles from going down the lane and getting stuck.**

## **Finance, Planning & other organisational matters**

### **9. Planning.**

#### **9.1 Planning Applications registered since the last meeting:**

- Application 19/01020/LBC – Listed Building Consent to reslate main house, replace corrugated iron roof on boot room with slates, external alterations to garden room and internal alterations to main house and Cider house – Willishayes, Morebath.

**To reply: No comment.**

- Application 19/01061/FULL – Variation of condition 10 of planning permission 14/01452/MFUL to extend the life time of the solar park from 25 to 40 years – land East of Bowdens Lane, Shillingford. Morebath Parish Council is being consulted as an adjoining Parish.

**To reply: No comment.**

## 9.2 Planning Correspondence:

- Planning Appeal – Whitehall Farm Gardens. It was noted that the Clerk drafted and submitted representations on behalf of the Parish Council to the Planning Inspectorate.
- The following Mid Devon District Council Decision Notices were noted:  
**APPROVALS for:**  
**19/00532/FULL** – Variation of Conditions 2 &7 of Planning Permission 17/01292/FULL to allow for the repositioning and reduction in size of the new dwellings – Veltham Barn, Morebath  
  
**19/00514/FULL** – Retention of extension to an agricultural storage building – adjacent Moor Farm, Morebath.

## 10. Finance 2019/20

**10.1 Update on current financial position.** Details of the reserves as at 1/8/19 were circulated.

**NatWest Current Account as at 1 July 2019: £18,368.41**  
**NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 1 July 2019: £6,217.72**

## 10.2 The following payments were approved and authorised:

	<u>Ch.No.</u>
• Mrs S Squire - salary / HMRC PAYE *	£254.25
• Mrs S Squire expenses	£ 9.80
• Mrs A Marshall. Internal audit fee for 2019	£100.00
• Mr T Ellicott (P3 work)	£147.00
• Exmoor Industrial Supplies Ltd (In connection with P3)	£ 25.98 *
• PFG Fabrication Ltd (6 posts)	£383.00
• Morebath Village Hall – hire of Hall January – May 2019	£ 60.00 *

\* Due to the non-receipt of a replacement cheque book, these payments were incorporated into the Clerk's cheque who issued the relevant cheques for her own personal account.

**10.3 2019 Audit.** This has been completed by the internal auditor and the Exemption Certificate submitted to the external auditors P K F Littlejohn by the deadline date of 1 July 2019.

The internal auditor's Report was advised to Councillors.

## 11. Correspondence

**11.1 USL Group.** Proposed road closure from Morrells Cross to Watchet Cross on 14/11/19.

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Councillors were concerned that vehicles will take short cut and clog up small lanes, causing inconvenience.

**Action:** The Clerk to convey Councillors feelings and ask if the company can reduce the time it will take for the work to be done.

**12. Other items to note only.**

**12.1 Clerk's Leave:** 8 to 18 August 2019 inclusive.

**13. Items for the next Agenda.**

-  **Parish Plan**
-  **Bank mandate**
-  **Neighbourhood Alert**
-  **Grass cutting**
-  **Play area (106 money)**

**14. Next meeting:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 at 8pm in Morebath Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

**Summary of Decisions:**

- **Co-option of Parish Councillors**
- **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 21 May 2019**
- **Support for Morebath Cricket Club's Section 106 Application Funding**
- **Planning**
- **Payments**

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Chairman of Morebath Parish Council

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Date