

Morebath Parish Council

**Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 March 2019
in Morebath Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors J Westcott (Chair) (*), J Briden, T Conway, B Hatton, Mrs P Reed (*).
(*) Cheque signatories.

Also present: District Councillor A Moore from Minute No. 1819-096
Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

The planned presentation from Mid Devon Mobility who had requested financial assistance did not take place due to illness of the representative.

1819-087

Apologies.

Councillors M Adams, J Andrew.

1819-088

Declarations of Interest.

None.

1819-089

Dispensation to Councillors.

None.

1819-090

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2019.

Approved and signed as a correct record.

1819-091

Actions Arising:

Impact damage to speed limit sign.

The sign had been hit again. In the absence of County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe, who had agreed to take this up at the last meeting, the Clerk to report the details to Devon Highways.

Action: Clerk

Raised inspection cover on the Lodfen Crossing to Bampton road.

Reported to Highways by the Clerk.

Protective cover to light switch in the Parish Council car park.

Cllr Conway advised a way has to be found to isolate the electricity supply to fix a new switch. If this cannot be done, an electricity firm would have to be involved.

Action: Cllr Conway

Enquiry to MDDC regarding payment for grass cutting services.

The Clerk advised that a reminder had been sent for a reply. District Councillor Moore took this issue up on behalf of the Parish Council and would make further enquiries.

Grass cutting contract details sent to MDDC.

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Clarification was given that there should be 7 cuts as follows:
12/3/19; 17/4/19; 28/5/19; 2/7/19; 5/8/19; 11/9/19;
15/10/19.
The charge would be £342.66.

Confirmation was given that a letter had been sent to Mr S Kelland in respect of work to be carried out in 2019.

Asset Register.

This had been updated to include a notice board in the sum of £900.

Definitive Map Review.

DCC Public Rights of Way Officer would attend the July meeting.

Potholes.

Reported by the Clerk. Various reference numbers had been given.

Action: The Clerk to provide Councillors with a link to the DCC website in order to report problems direct.

1819-092

Open Forum. No members of the public were present.

1819-093

Reports.

County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe. Not present.

District Councillor Moore spoke about the following:

MDDC budget. The outturn for the 2018/19 financial year was £45,000. For the coming year, there would be an estimated shortfall of £250,000 to be taken out of reserves. Full Council had agreed the budget.

Council Tax. The average Mid Devon Band D property will have a bill of £2,000 per annum, broken down as follows:
£60 Precept for each village. Morebath is £40
£86 towards Devon Fire and Rescue Service
£204 to Mid Devon District Council for services
£212 towards Devon and Cornwall Police services
£1,385 to Devon County Council

Councillor Wescott spoke about the lack of a Police Report. He asked District Councillor Moore if there was a loss on MDDC recycling and this would be ascertained.

Councillor Moore advised that contracts were in place with Devon County Council and no waste goes to landfill. Assurance was given of the best possible service with good returns.

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Councillor Moore spoke about the Three Rivers Development to provide social housing in Tiverton. Mid Devon are involved in local projects.

The government require new homes to be built and these will come with a New Homes Bonus.

Councillor Wescott asked about the reduction of District Councillors in the Ward from 2 to 1, which would mean less representation for rural areas and more for the urban areas.

In reply, District Councillor Moore advised that the Boundary Review is to consider Wards and boundaries, and the jobs to be done within the Wards. The Boundary Commission will take all representations into account to determine the right number of Councillors and number of people in the Ward and would be surprised if the number of Councillors for Morebath was reduced to one.

Reference was made to an email recently forwarded to Councillors giving details of a proposed meeting in connection with the Campaign for Local Democracy in Mid Devon.

District Councillor Moore advised there was Section 106 funding available in the sum of £45,000 for projects which met the criteria for the Bampton Group of Parishes comprising Bampton, Morebath,

Police. The Clerk had sent a number of reminders requesting a report, including details of helicopter disturbance. No reply had been received.

1819-094

Improvements to the centre of Morebath.

Councillor Conway spoke about the area outside the Village Hall where, because of vehicles parking, dips in the surface have appeared.

Action: Councillor Conway to arrange for this to be addressed.

1819-095

Planning.

There had been no Planning Applications registered since the last meeting.

Planning Correspondence.

The following MDDC Decision Notice was noted:

Refusal – Application 18/01598/FULL – Whitehall Farm (Garden), Morebath. Huntsham and Clayhanger.

1819-096

Finance.

- a. Update on current financial position:
NatWest Current Account as at 1/3/19: £14,043.54
NatWest Savings Account as at 1/3/19: £6,213.63

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There was a discussion on savings accounts and the small amount of interest earned.

b. Donation to Mid Devon Mobility. Not discussed due to the representative not giving a talk.

c. **The following payments were approved and authorised:**

	Ch.No.	
Mrs S Squire / HMRC PAYE	531	£254.25
Mrs S Squire. Expenses	532	£ 13.00

d. NatWest Bank.

Bank Statements were being received but in the incorrect name and spelling of Morebath. This was being followed up by the Clerk.

e. MDDC Website with link to Morebath website.

The Clerk explained she had attended two website training sessions at MDDC, the most recent one on 12 March which did not cover training due to technicalities with an internet connection.

There had been various attempts to add items to the website by the Clerk and members of her family.

District Councillor Moore to take this up with MDDC.

f. Cllr Hatton had checked the account book and cheque book.

1819-097

a. Morebath Cricket Club. Invitation to hold a meeting at the Club's Pavilion free of charge. Councillors decided not to take up the offer.

Action: The Clerk to advise the Club.

1819-098

Other items to note only.

P3 (Parish Paths Partnership)

Councillor Hatton spoke about actions as a result of the recently carried out Footpath Survey.

Councillor Adams was not able to carry out the work now and it was thought Mr T Ellicott would be able to do this.

Councillor Hatton is in email contact with Devon County Council Public Rights of Way in this connection.

1819-099

Items for the next Agenda. Those identified from these Minutes.

1819-100

Next meeting:

Tuesday, 21 May 2019 at 7pm in Morebath Village Hall starting with the Annual Parish Meeting ahead of the Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM), this being the first meeting in the term of office of the new Council.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Minutes of 5 February 2019**
- **Payments**

Signed as a correct record:

Date:
