

Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 September 2019 in Morebath Village Hall at 8pm.

Present: Councillors J Wescott (Chairman), T Conway, Mrs P Reed, Mrs S Shipperley, Miss L Hagenbrock.

3 Members of the public

1920 - 033 Apologies. District Councillors A Moore and R Stanley. Apologies received from County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe after the meeting due to an unavoidable delay.

1920 - 034 Co-option of Parish Councillors. Three letters of application had been received to fill the two remaining vacant seats.

A paper ballot was held and the following were elected and deemed to be co-opted:

Mrs Susan Shaw
Mr Alex Wilson

The newly co-opted Councillors signed the relevant paperwork and were handed Parish Council compliance and other details by the Clerk.

1920 - 035 Declarations of Interest. None.

1920 - 036 Dispensation to Councillors. None.

1920 - 037 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 August 2019. Agreed and signed as a correct record.

Actions Arising:

- **The Clerk is progressing an application to the DCC Community Enhancement Fund for a new dog-leg sign.**
Action: Cost to be obtained for the next meeting.
- The Clerk had reminded DCC Highways that the work regarding the **raised inspection cover on the Lodfen to Bampton road** still required attention.
- Councillor Conway advised that the **protective cover to light switch in the Parish Council car park** has been replaced and the Invoice will be dealt with under Finance.
- **Definitive Map Review.** DCC Public Rights of Way have been advised of another route that stops at a gate on the route from North of Ashtown Cross towards Burston Farm. The Public Rights of Way Officer at Devon County Council had advised that she was aware of this, having been also advised by a member of the public.

It was explained that although it is said that public rights of way should start and end at a County road or other public right of way, this does not apply to where there are sections of unclassified County road as in this case.

Historically, it is thought that this section of road may have been taken over

by the County Council when milk tankers were brought in and if made up to a suitable standard by the landowner the County Council could have agreed to take over a section of the lane leading to the farm.

The section that is shown on the map by the green line is a County road and as such may be used by the public on foot, horse, cycle or with vehicles but in this case, the public right of way does not extend past the section recorded as a County Road.

Action: The Clerk to follow this up by advising that the part of the track is the section not shown green on the map.

- **Section 106 Application funding for Morebath Cricket Club.** It was noted that this Council responded positively to MDDC by supporting the Club's application for funding.
- **Vehicle restriction sign on Morebath entry to Exbridge Lane.** Following this Council's request for appropriate signage to discourage large vehicles using the Lane, Devon Highways has responded as follows: "Restrictions of usage to the network are generally only made to prevent damage to weak roads and bridges. Under the current austerity measure, DCC's policy is not to install any new signage unless under exceptional circumstances as the limited funding is needed to maintain existing, even if this was not the case, imposing weight or size restrictions affects legitimate access needs for properties, agriculture and businesses and the removal of rights may go beyond the highway authority's duty to be reasonable and proportionate in its actions. Unfortunately this will not be able to be installed.

Action: The Clerk to request an advisory sign indicating the road was unsuitable for heavy vehicles. The cost to be ascertained from the same firm be approached in respect of the 30mph dog leg sign.

- **USL Group – proposed road closure from Morrells Cross to Watchet Cross.** There has been extensive correspondence regarding this item and the latest suggestion is for the road to be closed for a day in the hope that the work will be completed within that timeframe. The suggestion of one lane being open is not practical because the vehicle's stay will protrude out into the road and not give enough width for passing vehicles.

Action: The Clerk to enquire the procedure when there is a single track lane where poles have to be replaced and the question asked about the width of the machine. To also point out that December is the darkest time of the year so there is doubt the work would be completed in a day.

- **Neighbourhood Alert.** To further consider this item which was raised at the last meeting. Ask about community messaging.

Action: The Clerk to include a piece in Signpost to contact Councillor Miss Hagenbrock if they are interested in being involved in a Neighbourhood Alert scheme.

- **Grass Cutting.** To consider areas for attention in the next financial year and whether to invite other contractors to provide a quotation.

Action: The Clerk to put an advert in Signpost inviting interested people to quote for a maximum of 8 cuts between April and September.

Also invite Mr S Kelland, Mr T Jackson and MDDC to quote.

Also, the grass cutting map provided by MDDC to be available at the November meeting.

1920 - 038 Open Forum:

1920 – 038.1 There was interest in organising a litter pick when the hedge trimmers had finished for the year.
Councillors Mrs Shipperley and Miss Hagenbrock expressed an interest to helping with this.

1920 – 038.2 Various potholes in the Parish were spoken about. Councillor Wescott advised that these had already been reported.

1920 – 038.3 Play Area. Covered under 1920 – 041.5.

1920 – 039 Reports

1920 – 039.1 County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe. Not present.

1920 – 039.2 District Councillors Moore and Stanley. Not present.

1920 – 039.3 Police. Not present.

1920 – 040 Improvements to centre of Morebath.

1920 – 040.1 Area Outside the Village Hall (deferred from the May 2019 meeting).
Councillor Conway advised that the posts had been obtained and arrangements were being made for them to be fixed.

1920 – 040.2 Parish Plan.

Action: The Clerk to send a copy to Councillors for studying ahead of the next meeting.

Finance, Planning & other organisational matters

1920 – 041 Planning.

1920 – 041.1 Planning Applications registered since the last meeting: None

1920 – 041.2 Planning Correspondence: The following MDDC Decision Notices were noted:

APPROVAL for 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.

REFUSAL for Application 19/00905/PNCOU – Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling under Class Q – Southcombe Farm, Shillingford.

1920 – 042 Finance 2019/20

1920 – 042.1 Update on current financial position.

NatWest Current account as at 30 August 2019: £17,309.43

NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 30 August 2019: £6,219.86

Reserves. Councillors did not make any alterations.

Councillor Mrs Shipperley expressed the wish to plant daffodil bulbs to enhance the area and was advised that the Parish Council would reimburse her up to the sum of £20.00.

	Ch.No.	
1920 – 042.2 The following payments were approved:		
- Mrs S Squire / HMRC wages	541	£254.25
- Mrs S Squire expenses	542	£ 31.86
- K M Electrical (replacing protective light switch in car park	543	£ 51.00
- DALC The Good Councillors Guide	544	£ 3.79

The Clerk's salary scales were not yet available.

1920 – 042.3 2019 Audit Follow Up Items.

- **Financial Regulations.** New version received from the NALC – to be reviewed at the November meeting
- **Standing Orders.** As above.
- **Grant Funding Policy.** Current version could not be traced.
Action: The Clerk to provide Councillors with the version used by her other Parishes.
- **2017 Publication Scheme.** The document had been amended to reflect current Clerk's details.
- **Complaints Policy.** Draft prepared for Councillors to consider.
Proposed by Councillor Mrs Shipperley to adopt and approve.
Seconded by Councillor Miss Hagenbroke. Unanimously agreed.
- **Contract of Employment.**
Action: The Clerk to amend the document to include sickness leave.

1920 – 042.4 Bank Mandate. Non signatory Councillors gave details to the Clerk to arrange for them to be cheque signatories.

1920 – 042.5 Morebath Play Area – Section 106 money. Councillor Mrs Reed suggested that an application is made for the area to be improved and enhanced.

Action: The Clerk to ascertain how much funding is available for this specific use and the time limit for use.

1920 – 043 Correspondence. Notices & publications were available for Councillors to see and read.

1920 – 043.1 Mr J Weir. Email regarding full fibre broadband plans near Morebath. Noted.

1920 – 043.2 MDDC. Email regarding the Local Government Boundary Commission review of warding patterns. Noted.

1920 – 043.3 MDDC. Email regarding s106 funding for an inclusive roundabout at Bampton play area. Morebath Parish Council's support had been requested.

Action: The Clerk to reply confirming that the Parish Council supported this.

1920 – 043.4 Devon Communities Together. Email regarding community emergency planning.

Action: The Clerk to forward the details to Councillor Mrs Shaw who was interested in progressing this.

1920 – 043.5 Brushford Parish Council. Enquiry if Morebath would share the cost of a defibrillator at Exebridge.

Action: The Clerk to reply that a funding application was being submitted and if this is successful, the Parish Council will support the project.

Enquiries to be made as to whether Brushford Parish Council is intending to organise any community events to help with the funding.

The Clerk to submit a Locality Grant Application to County Councillor Mrs Colthirpe for £500.00 from her Locality Grant fund.

1920 - 044 Other items to note only.

1920 – 044.1 Devon Highways Update. This relates to a report of damaged fencing on the road from Bonny Cross to Watchet Cross. The fence is to be replaced by Skanska.

Action: The Clerk to reply requesting warning tapes are placed at the site to prevent pedestrians from falling through the gap into the river below.

1920 – 045 Items for the next Agenda.

- ❖ Tree planting
- ❖ Decide on next steps for Parish Plan

1920 – 046 Next meeting:

Tuesday, 19 November 2019 at 7.30pm in Morebath Village Hall.
Councillor Mrs Shipperley gave her apologies in advance.

The meeting ended at 10.05pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- Co-option of Parish Councillors
- Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 August 2019
- Payments
- Complaints Policy

Chairman of Morebath Parish Council

Date