

**Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 November 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom.**

Meetings are being held remotely while the advice from the National Association of Local Councils remains that face to face meetings should not be held for the safety and protection of those attending.

**Present:** Councillors J Wescott (Chairman), Miss L Hagenbrock, Mrs P Reed, Mrs S Shaw, Mrs S Shipperley, A Wilson, County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe.

**2021 - 065 Apologies**

Councillor T Conway

**2021 – 066 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Wilson declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 2021 – 078.1

**2021 – 067 Dispensation to Councillors.** None

**2021 - 068 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 September 2020**

**Proposed by Councillor Mrs Reed as a correct record.**

**Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shipperley and unanimously agreed.**

Councillors were in favour of the Clerk sending the approved Minutes to date to the Chairman for signature.

**Actions Arising:**

**2021 - 069 Picnic Bench and Seat.**

Councillor Wilson had received a quotation of £138.60 including VAT to supply a bench from McVeigh Parker.

A quotation for installation of the bench to include a 4” concrete base to sit just proud of the ground with 4 metal bolt down points was £712 including VAT giving a final quotation estimate of £850.60 to supply and install.

Councillor Wescott suggested that the bench should be placed on slabs.

Councillor Mrs Shipperley felt that if the bench was on a base, there would be no maintenance.

**Councillor Hagenbrock proposed to accept the quotation for a bench on a concrete base.**

**Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shipperley.**

**Vote: In favour: 4 Carried**

**Against: 2**

**Action: AW to email the quotations to the Clerk for submission to MDDC together with an application for S106 funding towards the project.**

**2021 - 070 Definitive Map Review.**

It was noted that the Parish Council’s response had been submitted to Devon County Council.

It was noted that Councillor Conway obtained the response of the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) which had been submitted to Devon County Council.

**Action: To be an Agenda at the January 2021 meeting.**

### **2021 - 071 Overgrown vegetation at Roundhouse, Exebridge.**

The Clerk followed up the issue by enquiring the position from the Neighbourhood Highways Officer who advised that he was getting another hedge notice sent out to the homeowner and is also trying to establish with MDDC Planning Enforcement Officer if they are permitted to surround the property with fencing and hedging, it being a Listed Building.

### **2021 - 072 Open Forum:**

**2021 - 073 Sign on Timewell Hill.** The Clerk conveyed the Parish Council's response to the resident who had requested a concealed entrance sign.

After a number of emails, an amended request had been received for signs with the hamlet name of Timewell "Please Drive Slowly" to highlight awareness there are properties on the hill.

A similar request had been received from another resident to make motorists aware that they are passing the Timewell Hill hamlet and that there are concealed entrances of which to be aware.

**Action: County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe to take this request up with DCC Highways. The Clerk to reply to the residents suggesting that they also contact Highways to back up the request.**

### **2021 - 074 Reports.**

**2021 - 075** County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe. Written Report received and circulated to Councillors as follows:

So here we are again – Lockdown Mark 2. How right Dr. Norrey was to insist that Devon continue to hold every possible meeting via Teams (or Zoom or various other similar apps). It certainly has some advantages and at least we didn't have to start from scratch again this time - but watching the Remembrance Day service on television isn't the same as going to one of the lovely churches in Tiverton West.

Among other items on the Cabinet agenda for 11<sup>th</sup> November is the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay which seeks approval to go out to consultation with a view to further consideration next year prior to adoption. Aimed at reducing waste, reducing the carbon footprint of managing waste and conserving natural resources, there is concern that a third of all food waste still goes into our black bags and Lockdown Mark 1 increased the textiles to be found in them too. Oddly there seems to be a reluctance to recycle plastic bottles from bathroom products while kitchen plastics find their way safely into our green bins! The county as a whole remains one of the most highly-performing waste disposal authorities in the country but, as you can see from the above, there is still room for improvement! It might be pertinent to mention here that, despite Lockdown 2, waste and recycling sites remain open (as do job centres and garden centres).

26<sup>th</sup> November is 'Carers' Rights Day' so feel free to join Devon Carers who will be hosting talks and Q. & A. sessions on-line, covering everything you might need to know from legal advice through managing dementia to navigating your way through social care and the benefits system to how to obtain the right sort of mobility aids and adaptations. The sessions begin at 8.45 a.m. and are FREE but you are asked to book via email: [online@devoncarers.org.uk](mailto:online@devoncarers.org.uk)

One of the roles which falls to the county councillor for Tiverton West is sitting as a trustee on the board of Involve. If you aren't familiar with it, Involve is the local C.V.S. (Council for Voluntary Service) and works to promote and support charities, not-for-profit organisations, community groups and the wider voluntary sector in Mid Devon. Most recently it has been the vehicle for distributing money from the King's Fund to charities here – among them Home-Start, Age UK, the Mid Devon Messenger, C.H.A.T., Bounce, L.G.B.T. 3 and the Blackdown Support Group. Involve is seeking additional trustees so, if you or anyone you know is interested, please contact: [Karen@involve-middevon.org.uk](mailto:Karen@involve-middevon.org.uk) or telephone her on 07704 156 007

And finally, as of 1<sup>st</sup> November, the D. & S.F. & R.S. has re-introduced support to the South West Ambulance Trust in 'lending' some drivers for an additional number of ambulances. This arrangement will run for up to four months (with a review after two) and will support S.W.A.S.T. as it prepares for the coming winter - which is expected to be especially challenging given the usual seasonal pressures plus the extra pressures of coronavirus.

Stay safe, everybody, and in case I don't see you before – Happy Christmas.

County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe also added that during the second lockdown, Waste and Recycling Centres would be open, as would Job Centres and Garden Centres.

In addition, at this time of year, the Education Department at DCC has a consultation regarding transport and similar issues and if anyone had a strong feeling about this, there is an online consultation which can be completed.

Councillor Mrs Colthorpe advised she had approximately £3,000 of available funding in her Locality budget allocation which has to be spent by the beginning of February 2021 because of the DCC Elections in May 2021 when any left over money would not be rolled over to the next financial year.

Councillor Mrs Shipperley spoke about the poor condition of the bus shelter which could benefit from refurbishment.

**Action: Councillor Mrs Shipperley to obtain quotes and submit to County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe with an application form.**

**2021 - 076** District Councillors A Moore and R Stanley were not present.

**2021 - 077** Morebath Cricket Club. Written Report received and circulated to Councillors as follows:

Where does time go, the last time I emailed an update, Cricket was just commencing. Now we have completed work to the square, tidied the pavilion for the winter and cut the outfield whilst it is dry.

Following Covid procedure and guidance only friendly games were played this season. The Club however have been promoted to the 1st division of the West Somerset League, by virtue of finishing 3rd in the 2nd division during the 2019 season and a 1st division Team withdrawing to play in the Somerset League.

The Club have been well supported on and off the field due the shortened season and although fundraising has been limited the Club are looking to further improve the facilities to include painting the changing rooms, and fitting vertical blinds to the club house.

Subject to cost and the correct permission's being in place the Club are also exploring the purchase of a new scoreboard and the erection of a collapsable flag pole for match days.

Subject to Covid restriction's and guidance permitting, Club members will attend a Parish Council to update you on progress of these improvements.

### **2021 - 078 Planning.**

**2021 – 078.1 The following Applications were considered:**

- **20/01815/FULL – Erection of a single storey dwelling as holiday accommodation – Warmore Farm, Morebath.**

Councillor Wilson declared a Prejudicial Interest, left the room, turned the sound down on his computer and did not take part in the discussion, decision or voting thereon.

**Proposed by Councillor Miss Hagenbrock to respond as follows:**

**Morebath Parish Council is concerned that this is not appropriate use of the land. There are other holiday cottages nearby which are not used and have underbookings, especially in relation to the current Covid-19 situation, and other buildings are left vacant.**

**There is a narrow access road with limited passing places.**

**The Business Case states there is a niche market, however next door there is a three bedroom holiday home.**

**Seconded by Councillor Wescott and unanimously agreed.**

- **20/01806/FULL – Partial demolition and conversion of barn to dwelling and associated works at Higher Westwoods Farm, Shillingford.**

The deadline date for the Parish Council's response to reach MDDC is 2/12/20 and as the details had only recently been received, Councillors will view the details online and email the Clerk with their thoughts.

**The Parish Council's response was 'no comment'.**

**2021 – 079 Planning Correspondence:**

**2021 – 079.1 Planning Appeal in respect of erection of dwelling at Whitehall Farm, Morebath.**

Representations to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 16/11/20.

Councillors had been forwarded with the details and the view was that no comment should be made.

**2021 – 079.2 The following MDDC Decision Notice was noted:**

**APPROVAL for Application 20/00637/FULL** – Removal of condition 8 of planning permission 91/01529/OUT relating to an agricultural occupancy condition at Higher Moor Farm, Morebath.

**2021 – 080 Finance.**

**2021 – 080.1 Balances: NatWest Current Account as at 1/10/20: £18,459.51  
NatWest Savings Account as at 1/10/20: £6,229.39**

Reserves were tabled.

**2021 – 080.2 The following payments were approved and authorised:**

**Proposed by Councillor Mrs Shaw, seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.**

		Ch.No.	
<b>Mrs S Squire</b>	Salary and Expenses *	576	£265.95
<b>HMRC</b>	PAYE	577	£ 50.80
<b>S J Kelland and Son</b>	Grass Cutting	578	£312.00

\* The increase in photocopying and postage is due to additional paperwork being sent to Councillor Mrs Reed as a result of communications in connection with the coronavirus epidemic.

**2021 – 080.3 To set and agree the 2021/22 Budget and Precept.**

Part of this item included a review of the Clerk's salary.

Mrs Squire, as host of the meeting, turned the sound down on her computer effectively 'leaving the room' for this personnel Part II Confidential item.

**Proposed by Councillor Mrs Reed that the Precept should remain unaltered at £6,100 for the 2021/22 financial year.**

**Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shaw and unanimously agreed.**

**Proposed by Councillor Wescott to approve the 2021/22 Budget.**

**Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shipperley and unanimously agreed.**

**Action: Councillor Wescott to increase the reserves figure by rounding up.**

**2021 – 080.4 To address remaining items raised in the 2019/20 Audit.** This item was not discussed as it had been dealt with at a previous meeting.

**2021 - 081 Parish Paths Partnership Grant April 2020 – March 2021.**

DCC Public Rights of Way Department had invited the Clerk to apply for a grant of £600.00 which she had done and was expected to be received by the end of the current financial year.

The Clerk to ask the P3 local co-ordinator, Miss C Dawes, to identify the paths which required attention.

**2021 – 082 Correspondence.** None to consider.

**2021 - 083 Items raised by Councillors/Clerk:**

**2021 – 084.1 Cyber Crime Insurance.** Due to a number of scam emails being received purportedly from Chairmen of Parish Councils (not Morebath) the Clerk checked with the Parish Council's insurers to enquire if the Policy could be extended to include cyber crime insurance and has been advised that the Policy does not include it and the document cannot be extended to include it.

**2021 – 084.2 Clerk's Christmas Leave.** Thursday, 24 December 2020 to Sunday 3 January 2021 inclusive.

No other items had been requested for inclusion.

**2021 – 085 Next meeting:** Tuesday, 19 January 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom.

The meeting ended at 9.24pm.

**Summary of Decisions:**

- **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held by 22 September by Zoom**
- **Quotation accepted for a bench and concrete base for a public open space area with funding from MDDC S106 allocation**
- **Planning**
- **Payments**
- **2021/22 Precept to remain at £6,100.00**
- **2021/22 Budget**

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Chairman

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Date