

Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 21 January 2020 in Morebath Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors J Wescott (Chairman), T Conway, Mrs S Shipperley, A Wilson.
District Councillor R Stanley until Minute No. 1920 – 068.9.

9 Members of the public

1920 - 061 Apologies. Councillors Miss L Hagenbrock, Mrs P Reed and Mrs S Shaw, County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe, District Councillor A Moore.

1920 – 062 Declarations of Interest.
Councillor Wescott declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 1920 – 067.2, Planning, his own Application.

Councillor Conway declared a Personal Interest in Minute No. 1920 – 068.2, Finance, grant for village event to commemorate Trychay 500 at the end of August.

1920 - 063 Dispensation to Councillors. None.

1920 - 064 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 November 2019.

Approved and signed as a correct record after it was noted under Minute No. that the development was on Morebath Road, not in Morebath itself.

Actions Arising:

1920 – 064.1 Dog leg 30mph sign. The Clerk had obtained a quotation and the cost would be £235.00 + VAT.

Before proceeding, it was felt that Councillor Conway should seek the advice and opinion of the DCC Highways Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

Action: Councillor Conway

1920 – 064.3 Definitive Map Review. Councillors considered making representations following the two presentations, the deadline for which is 31/1/20.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson to send the following response: Court Track No. 6, have been asked, subject to consultation with landowners, a Bridleway throughout the entire length to join the Somerset Bridleway.

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shipperley. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk

1920 – 064.4 Vehicle restriction sign on the Morebath entry to Exebridge Lane.

The price for the sign would be £93.78 + VAT.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson to purchase a sign with the wording ‘Narrow lane, unsuitable for HGV and caravans. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shipperley. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to order and request delivery to Councillor Conway

1920 – 064.5 S106 Funding. MDCC had been advised that Morebath Parish Council wish to pursue an application for one picnic bench and two seats in the play area.

For this to progress, three quotations are required, preferably from local suppliers with the aim of keeping the money in the area.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr T Ellicott, Anstey Gates (Rob Setherton) and Cove Nurseries for quotations.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson that the Clerk is given delegatory powers to pursue the application following information by District Councillor Stanley that

it would be advisable not to wait until the next meeting to agree details due to the funding pot reducing all the time.

The delegatory powers to the Clerk are subject to her keeping Councillors informed at all times as to the process of the application.

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shipperley. Unanimously agreed.

1920 – 064.6 Community Emergency Planning. Councillor Mrs Shaw was not present and the matter was deferred to the March Meeting.

Action: March Agenda.

1920 – 064.7 Defibrillator at Exebridge – Brushford Parish Council. The Clerk had been in further communication with her counterpart at Brushford and arrangements are in hand for a Locality Grant for £500 from County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe's allocation.

Councillors stressed that the defibrillator must be fixed on the Devon side of the bridge.

1920 – 064.8 Damaged fencing on the road from Bonny Cross to Watchet Cross. It was noted that a letter of thanks had been sent to Highways.

1920 – 064.9 Tree Planting. To further discuss this initiative (location, type of tree) Deferred to the March meeting.

1920 – 064.10 Full Fibre Broadband Plans near Morebath. Councillors considered the email received.

Work is currently underway in the Shillington / Loyton / Timewell area and other areas could be connected with vouchers which can be downloaded.

Households in the intended route have been advised of the details.

1920 – 064.11 Development at Morebath. It was noted that confirmation had been received from MDDC that the final decision for the above is Whitehall Close, as preferred by the Parish Council.

1920 - 065 Open Forum:

1920 – 065.1 Representations were made regarding a Planning Application to be resubmitted for a development at Whitehall Farm Gardens.

It would address the concerns raised in responses to the previous Application, such as car parking, noise where certain rules would be in place, privacy and light pollution and the Application also addressed the only item the Planning Appeal failed on.

A Management Plan had been drawn up and there would be a maximum of two people in each of the proposed three units which were planned in stages.

The applicants stressed how steep the land drops away and the structures could not be seen.

1920 – 065.2 There were many potholes and sunken drains in the Parish to be addressed. There was concern that in the dark, potholes filled with water cannot be seen and queried why cones or warning signs could not be placed to alert motorists and cyclists.

Councillor Conway advised that he had left message for the Neighbourhood Highway Manager regarding the potholes and would cover this at his meeting regarding the 30mph sign.

Councillor Wilson spoke about the importance of reporting the potholes which must be of a certain size.

The meeting heard that pothole had been repaired and within days it was breaking up.

One pothole had been disputed as to whether it was a sunken manhole cover and the responsibility of the utility company.

1920 - 066 Reports

1920 - 066.1 County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe. Apologies given.

1920 – 066.2 District Councillor Stanley.

Since the new administration in May 2019, the regeneration of Tiverton had been rejected as it wants to open more of the High Street, but the Council do not own property in this area.

The regeneration was rejected as Tiverton Town Council were opposed to the plans. The details have been discussed at Cabinet level subsequently called to the Scrutiny Committee where the decision was not overturned.

Car parking. The Scrutiny Committee called it to be discussed.

Some car parking charges have been reduced and the details were given.

The current budget ending in March is currently overspent by £400,000 and if the accounts cannot be balanced it will have to be propped up using reserves.

The 2020/21 budget is £450,000 higher than the previous year with £80,000 having to be written off due to the Design Consultant's work on the regeneration plan, now rejected.

£1.4 million has to be saved from the 2021/22 budget.

MDDC has a private development company – Three Rivers and the idea is to build, sell with the profits going to the Council to help with the budget. One development is over £1 million overspent.

Conservative Members have refused to sit on the Cabinet.

1920 - 066.3 Police Follow up email to the group meeting on held 19/12/19 was read to the meeting.

Finance, Planning & other organisational matters

1920 - 067.Planning.

Planning Applications:

1920 – 067.1 Registered since the last meeting: None.

1920 – 067.2 Planning Application to consider:

- **19/02092/FULL – Erection of extension to agricultural livestock building – Brockhole Farm, Morebath.**

Councillor Wescott declared a Prejudicial Interest, left the room and did not take part in the discussion, decision or voting thereon.

This item of the meeting was chaired by Councillor Conway.

It was resolved to recommend approval.

An email from District Councillor Moore had been received regarding a Planning Application he had submitted but not yet given a number relating to Gilberts Lodge, a small property on his land which is currently occupied in line with a previous planning approval for 8 months of the year as residential but is restricted to holiday letting for the other 4 (summer) months.

The new Application seeks to allow residential use throughout the year with justification being given in the accompanying Planning Statement.

As a District Councillor, the Application will have to be considered a Full Planning Committee.

1920 – 067.3 Planning Correspondence: The following MDDC Decision Notices were noted:

APPROVALS for:

- **19/01901/LBC** – Listed Building Consent for alterations to kitchen fireplace – Willishayes Farm, Morebath
- **19/01719/LBC** – Listed Building Consent for repairs and reinstatement of walled garden – Timewell House, Morebath
- **19/01645/HOUSE** – erection of open front porch – Rafton Cottage, Morebath

REFUSAL for:

- **19/01673/PNCOU** – Prior notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling under Class Q – Southcombe Farm, Shillingford

1920 - 068 Finance 2019/20

1920 – 068.1 Update on current financial position.

Balances:

NatWest Current Account as at 31 December 2019: £16,410.48

NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 31 December 2019: £6,224.06

1920 – 068.2 To consider a request for £1,000 from St George’s Church towards a village event at the end of August 2020.

Councillor Conway declared a Personal Interest.

It was estimated that £3,500 - £4,000 would be required to stage the event and other people were being approached for help.

The event will be for local people and also outside the area, which could help promote Morebath and its surroundings.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson that the Parish Council supported the event by donating £1,000 provided the function takes place in the village as well as in the Church. Seconded by Councillor Mrs Shipperley.

Vote: In favour to support the event and give a grant of £1,000. 3. Carried.

Against: 1

1920 – 068.3 Payments to approve:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| • Mrs S Squire / HMRC wages | £266.96 |
| • Mrs S Squire expenses | £13.15 |
| • MDDC Grass Cutting | £411.19 |
| • MDDC Parish Election Expenses | £127.35 |

The Clerk advised that District Councillor Moore had been in touch with MDDC after the last meeting regarding the Parish Council’s difficulty of paying the two latter amounts other than by cheque, and also made representations about the charge for an uncontested election.

He had been advised that in respect of the election, there were certain administrative tasks that had been carried out, regardless of an election.

The Clerk had also been in correspondence with MDDC regarding payment, pointing out that she had tried to pay it in Lloyds Bank who could not accept it. Only NatWest or Barclays could accept it and there were no such banks in South Molton.

Accordingly a round trip of 15 miles plus car parking of £1.10 would have to be made to do the transaction in Barnstaple. The suggestion of using a post office was not viable as there was no Post Office in the Clerk’s village.

Councillor Wilson kindly offered to pay the cheque in at NatWest, Tiverton.

1920 – 068.4 2019 Audit Follow Up Items. Budget and Precept setting has been carried out at the same meeting.

1920 – 068.5 Financial Regulations. This was also a 2019 Audit follow up item.

Proposed by Councillor Wescott to adopt. Seconded by Councillor Conway. Unanimously agreed.

1920 – 068.6 Standing Orders. This was also a 2019 Audit follow up item.
Proposed by Councillor Wescott to adopt. Seconded by Councillor Conway. Unanimously agreed.

1920 – 068.7 Bank Mandate. The Clerk advised that it had not been possible to update the cheque signatories online and is waiting for NatWest to send a paper copy of the Variation Mandate which will be an item on the March Agenda.

1920 – 068.8 To set the budget and Precept for 2020/21.
Proposed by Councillor Wilson to agree the 2020/21 Budget. Seconded by Councillor Conway. Unanimously agreed.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson to increase the Precept from £5,926.66 to £6,100.00. Seconded by Councillor Conway. Unanimously agreed.

1920 – 068.9 Grass Cutting. To agree MDDC's quotation in the absence of others.
Proposed by Councillor Wescott to accept the quotation of £251.69. Seconded by Councillor Wilson. Unanimously agreed.

1920 – 069 Correspondence.

1920 – 069.1 DCC Highways. Temporary road closure from 20/1/20 to 27/3/20. B3227 road from Way Cottage to Petton Cross, Shillingford for retaining wall works.
Noted.

1920 – 069.2 Environment Agency. Email from the Flood Resilience Officer who wishes to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss how the EA can help the community to become more flood resilient.
Councillors were in agreement to invite the Officer to the March meeting.
Action: Clerk to extend the invitation and, nearer the time, prepare a notice for Councillor Conway to put up in The Anchor, Exebridge as this will be of interest to residents there.

1920 – 069.3 MDDC. It was noted that following requests for support from Morebath Parish Council, positive responses were given for s106 funding for (1) an orchard in Bampton and (2) restock of Motte and Bailey play area with replacement play equipment.



1920 – 069.4 MDDC. Mid Devon Local Plan Review – proposed main modifications consultation. Comments to be received by 17/2/20. *Noted.*




1920 – 069.5 Devon Association of Local Councils. Invitation to nominate a past Chairman to be entered into a draw to attend a Garden Party Buckingham Palace.
Proposed by Councillor Wilson to nominate Councillor Mrs Reed. Seconded by Councillor Shipperley. Unanimously agreed.
Action: Clerk to progress subject to Councillor Mrs Reed's agreement.

1920 - 070 Other items to note only.

1920 – 070.1 Clerk's training and CiLCA Qualification. Mrs Squire advised that this involved 200 hours of study to submit a portfolio, three training sessions and a planning training session.
The cost would be split equally between her Parishes, estimated to be in the region of £50 each.

1920 - 071 Items for the next Agenda.

-  Litter Pick
-  Dog leavings

-  Grass verge being driven over by vehicle(s)
-  Parish Plan
-  Environment Agency speaker

1920 - 072 Next meeting: Tuesday, 17 March 2020 at 7.30pm in Morebath Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.32pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Minutes of 19 November 2019**
- **Definitive Map Review response**
- **Purchase of vehicle restriction sign on the Morebath entry to Exebridge Lane**
- **Delegatory powers given to the Clerk to pursue three quotations for a picnic bench and two seats for the play area and then submit an application for 2106 funding to MDDC subject to Councillors being kept informed at every stage**
- **Planning**
- **Grant of £1,000 to the Trychay 500 celebrations at the end of August**
- **Payments**
- **Adoption of Standing Orders**
- **Adoption of Financial Regulations**
- **2020/21 Budget**
- **Precept to be increased from £5,926.66 to £6,100**
- **Grass cutting quote of £251.69 from MDDC accepted**
- **Councillor Mrs Reed to be nominated, if in agreement, to be put into the draw for the chance to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace**