

**Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 22 September 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom.**

**Remotely held meetings are being held 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), T Conway, Mrs P Reed, A Wilson, County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe, District Councillor A Moore.

**2021 – 041 Apologies**

Councillors Miss L Hagenbrock, Mrs S Shaw, Mrs S Shipperley

**2021 – 042 Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Wescott declared a Personal Interest in Minute No. 2021 – 056.1 – Application 20/01151/FULL – Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden to include the erection of a stable block/shed and widening of gateway at 1 West Timewell Cottage, Morebath.

**2021 – 043 Dispensation to Councillors.** None.

**2021 – 044 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 July 2020**  
**Agreed as a correct record.**

**Actions Arising:**

**2021 – 045 Annual Parish Council Meeting incorporating Election of Chairman.**

The Clerk has been in dialogue with Councillors and those who replied felt that this should be deferred to May 2021, and that the September meeting should be held by Zoom, the public having been given the opportunity to attend a face to face meeting in July.

A list of future Parish Council meetings to May 2021 has been provided for the notice board and will be included in the next edition of Signpost.

**2021 – 046 Picnic Bench and Seat.**

Councillor Wilson had obtained a written quote from McVey Parker of £138.60, delivered.

**Action: Councillor Wilson to obtain a written quote for installation**

Councillor Conway confirmed that he had contacted the land owner for permission to site the bench and seat on the land and this had been given.

**2021 - 047 Defibrillator in The Anchor Inn, Exbridge.**

Brushford Parish Council had been advised that the Parish Council felt the cost of the defibrillator was high and that a grant of £500 from County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe's Locality budget would be applied for towards it.

A reply had been received that Brushford Parish Council did not wish to work with Morebath Parish Council over the matter and it had been decided that Brushford Parish Council would pay for the defibrillator.

**2021 - 048 Definitive Map Review.**

Councillor Conway advised that historic Parish Minutes were not stored at the Bampton LARC and the whereabouts were not known.

The documents that were there comprised receipts and payments book from 1895 to 1991. Councillor Conway suggested this was passed to the Devon Record Office in Exeter after Councillors had first seen it.

A letter had been received from the Definitive Map Review Officer giving details of the Consultation on Proposals for Change and the details had been forwarded to Councillors to study ahead of the meeting.

The Parish Council's reply to the Definitive Map Review consultation was, on the first proposal: There is no feasible access near Southcombe and a site visit regarding the Bridleway / Southcombe is requested.

Second proposal comments. This has never been an official right of way and there is no benefit if the landowner does not wish it to be upgraded, which is currently a permissive path.

**Action: Councillor Conway to check with the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) local co-ordinator regarding a response on behalf of P3 to be submitted by the Parish Clerk.**

#### **2021 – 049 Councillor Advocate Scheme registration (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner).**

The Clerk has advised the organisation of Councillor Wilson's nomination and it was understood he would be contacted direct.

Councillor Wilson advised that he had heard nothing further but was on the mailing list. As a result of this, a warning was received on 20 August 2020 in connection with freak high winds making coastal conditions dangerous, and a promotional email regarding a Channel 4 documentary called 'Call the Cops'. Councillor Wilson will report at future meetings.

#### **2021 – 050 Off roading vehicles.**

Councillor Wescott advised that the lane in which vehicles became stuck is a Byway Open To All Traffic (BOAT).

There had been an increasing amount of vehicles in the last month.

Councillor Mrs Reed informed that four Land Rovers had become stuck and in trying to get it out, the hedge had to be taken out.

There are an increasing amount of 4 x 4 vehicles and motor bikes using the lane and it was known that groups of people had outings to drive on them. It did not appear that anything can be done.

#### **2021 – 051 Overgrown vegetation at Roundhouse, Exebridge.**

This had been reported to Highways by the Clerk.

Councillor Conway to confirm that the work has been done.

Not been done. 2 more complaints from parishioners.

Me to follow.

#### **2021 – 052 Website.**

Documents had been sent to the MDDC IT Department to bring the details up to date.

#### **2021 – 053 Open Forum:**

##### **2021 – 053.1 Sign on Timewell Hill.**

Representations from two parishioners requesting a 'concealed entrance' sign for safety purposes.

**Action: The Clerk to reply if a concealed entrance sign is required, they would need to obtain permission from DCC Highways.**

### **2021 – 053.2 Plans for a Pop Up Pub.**

A resident had supplied details which had been forwarded separately to Councillors for their thoughts.

**Action:** The Clerk to respond by advising that Councillors were receptive to the idea.

### **2021 – 054 Reports.**

**2021 – 054.1** County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe. The following written Report had been received:

In the early part of this year the U.K. had record employment levels and pay was rising. Since 23<sup>rd</sup> March, living standards have fallen and in May a typical working household's income was already 4.5% lower than in May 2019. In June, Devon-wide, there were 128,000 people on some form of income support and, as the end of the furlough scheme looms, unemployment is becoming a major concern with figures of between 9% -14% projected for the last quarter of the year. The county has seen an above average rise in universal credit claimants and, with numbers of furloughed workers also above the national average, is likely to see those numbers increasing. D.C.C.'s financial hardship fund (phase 1 set up in May) allocated £1m for initial crisis support which was distributed via the districts and I know from people who have contacted me how well Mid Devon played its part in that. D.C.C. has just renewed this fund (phase 2), pooling what is left of the initial sum with an additional grant of £757k from D.E.F.R.A. and revising its original purpose so that 'people and families whose economic circumstances are most impacted by Covid-19 can be supported through the pandemic and helped to regain their financial independence'. 50% of the phase 2 monies will again go to the districts to supplement their local support funds; 25% will be retained by D.C.C. as a contingency fund against the economic impact of any localised outbreaks and 25% will be available to support any shared delivery arrangements with, say, Involve or other C.V.S. partners.

As of 17<sup>th</sup> September, the last week's confirmed coronavirus cases totalled 33 across the county; 108 over the last fortnight. The latter is thought to be a better guide as it takes account of the slight delay in computing the test returns and, out of every 1,000 tests taken, only 5 or 6 prove positive. At the beginning of the month, confirmed cases were nearly all amongst those aged between 25 and 40 who had recently returned from abroad but reported cases now extend into the wider population. In the county's 330 care homes, however, there are only 2-3 current cases and frequent testing is now the norm. The only apparent hot-spot in Devon is Pennsylvania but 'local' cases there include former students who are still registered at addresses in the area but who have, in fact, moved away. I believe that Exeter University is unique in having its own testing facility; it also has a new vice chancellor who is a virologist by profession.

Unable to continue to meet in youth clubs or local halls, Devon's youth workers took to the streets in 19 out of the 23 'hub' towns. By mid-April they had set up a 'virtual' scheme based on a gaming platform (Discord) with youth workers in an adjacent 'room' for any of the young people needing to talk. An increased social media presence helped to keep them in contact and a grant of £140,000 from the National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund is being aimed at developing their digital programme for young people across Devon. With help from councillors' locality budgets and a donation of tablets from Microsoft, they were able to deliver £15,000-pounds' worth of 'tech' to over 90 young people to help them access education and other services and to reduce isolation during the pandemic. Some 2,000 plus devices have also been provided by schools. In the last fortnight some clubs are re-opening to groups of up to 15 (in Exeter); central government has re-classified this youth work as 'education' so that such groups may continue to meet under the new restrictions.

Schools across the county have been welcoming their pupils and students back over the past few days and, though arrangements may differ from school to school, all report 90% attendance or higher – in some cases 92.5 % against a norm of 96%. I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all a successful and uninterrupted term!

County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe followed up the Report by advising that since writing it, some School Year Groups have had to self isolate.

### **2021 – 054.2** District Councillor A Moore.

The Budget for this year was in order. Next year's preparation cannot commence until details of the government grant is notified to first and second tier Councils, usually by Christmas.

There has been a Cabinet reshuffle at MDDC at which some Conservative Members have been included. District Councillor Moore is the Cabinet Member for Finance.

There are shortfalls within the MDDC budget but as a result of the income protection scheme, Members hope that the Council will be back to where they started at the end of the year, meaning a shortfall of £1/4 million.

The 2021/22 is more problematic with a £1.4 million shortfall predicated.

An extraordinary meeting has been called with one item on the Agenda, to discuss the Cabinet reshuffle.

**Covid19.** The DCC website provides very good information including a summary for Mid Devon.

There had been 241 confirmed cases so far, with 2 in the last seven days.

Everyone needs to be vigilant and follow government guidance.

A spin off is that Mid Devon has a collection and payments responsibility to distribute to Devon County, Police and others.

A team at Mid Devon is responsible for giving out government grants of £20 million who have been heavily involved in distributing to businesses and local people, including Morebath parishioners.

With restrictions easing, the Leisure Centre can re-open which is an income stream for the Council, and its biggest loss as a consequence of Covid 19.

Regarding the Planning White Paper issued by government, Members are having a briefing and the Planning Advisory Group will comment.

Councillor Wilson asked why the White Paper was controversial, and District Councillor Moore gave the reasons, including the government's desire to hit the annual housing target. It is difficult to identify sites in Mid Devon to meet the target and there is much concern about what the Paper is trying to do.

### **2021 – 055 Planning.**

**2021 – 055.1 Planning Applications to consider.** There were no Applications to consider.

### **2021 – 056 Planning Correspondence:**

**2021 – 56.1** The following Planning Applications had been received between meetings, considered by Councillors and a response sent under the terms of the Business Continuity Plan.

- **Application 20/00969/FULL – widening of gate entrance at Fourwinds, Hukeleyhead Cross, Morebath.**  
A reply of 'no objections' was submitted to MDDC by the deadline date of 12/8/20. District Councillor Moore advised he had received representations and could draw the planning officer's attention to these if required.
- **Application 20/01151/FULL – Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden to include the erection of a stable block/shed and widening of gateway at 1 West Timewell Cottage, Morebath.**  
A reply of 'no objections' was submitted to MDDC by the deadline date of 3/9/20. Councillor Wescott had raised concerns about water course services and access ahead of this meeting and District Councillor Moore advised he would raise this with the planning officer.

**2021 – 056.2** The following MDDC Planning Approval Decision Notices were noted:

- **20/00800/FULL – conversion of storage building to studio / holiday let at Whitehall Farm, Morebath.**
- **20/00807/FULL – conversion of building to dwelling at Store, Morebath.**

**2021 – 057 Finance.**

**2021 – 058 Balances:**

Reserves had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

**2021 – 058.1 The following payments were approved and authorised:**

	Ch.No.	
• Mrs S Squire Salary and Expenses *	572	£265.95
• HMRC PAYE	573	£ 50.80
• Mr S J Kelland 2 grass cuts on 7 & 28 May. £50 and £60 each	574	£132.00 + VAT
• Sandra Shipperley Reimbursement for hand sanitiser for the physical meeting held in July	575	£ 6.00

\* 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 – 058.2 To address items raised in the 2019/20 Audit.**

- **Financial Regulations document adoption date had been clarified**
- **Standing Orders to be reviewed.** Copy will be sent to Councillors to study with a view to agreeing at the November meeting, it being a large document to review
- **Website.** In hand
- **Income and Expenditure headings on the accounts changed to Receipts and Payments for the accounts ending on 31 March 2021**
- **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).** Data Privacy Notice recommended – a copy will be circulated to Councillors for studying with a view to agreeing and adopting at the November meeting.

**2021 – 059 2020/21 Audit.**

Approval of the internal auditor for the 2020/21 financial year.

A quotation of £100 had been given from Mrs Julie Snooks, ex-employee of the Audit Commission and South West Internal Audit and current auditor for numerous District, Town and Parish Councils and Northern Devon Healthcare Trust, who audits the Clerk's other Parishes.

**Proposed by Councillor Wescott that Mrs Snooks was appointed.**

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

**Action: The Clerk to advise Mrs Snooks**

**2021 – 060 Information Commissioner's Office.**

It was noted that the Data Protection Fee renewal of £35.00 was due on 21/9/20 and had been collected by direct debit.

The renewal Certificate up to September 2021 has been received.

**2021 – 061 Correspondence.**

**2021 – 061.1 Devon Association of Local Councils Board of Directors.** Councillors had been informed that further information may be received in connection with voting, but as no further details have been received, this matter did not require discussion.

**2021 – 061.2 MDDC. Adoption Statement: Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033.**

Details had been circulated to Councillors on 14/8/20.

Councillors decided not to submit a response.

Councillor Wilson was concerned that the public would not have so much of an opportunity to make representations.

**2021 – 061.3 DCC Public Consultation of the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.** The email dated 24/8/20 was forwarded to Councillors on 1/9/20 after the Clerk's leave.

Councillors decided not to submit a response.

**2021 – 061.3 What3Words.** Email received highlighting this facility.

- What3Words is a geocode system for the communication of locations with a resolution of three metres.
- What3Words encodes geographic coordinates into three dictionary words - the encoding is permanently fixed.
- What3Words is an App that can be downloaded onto a phone and can easily identify precise locations which could be useful if anyone became lost or, more importantly, save a life. It is free for both iPhones and Android devices.

The Clerk had sent the details for inclusion in the Signpost Magazine.

**2021 – 061.4 Buy Less Wear More Campaign.** An email promoting this initiative was circulated to Councillors on 7/9/20 and was noted.

**2021 – 062 Items raised by Councillors/Clerk:**

**2021 – 063.1 Grit Salt.** There was a sufficient supply for the coming Winter. Councillor Conway thought the salt should be stored in a different location. At present the salt is stored in the car park under broken pallets and requires tidying up.

**2021 – 063.2 Clerk's Autumn Leave – Thursday 8/10/20 – Monday 12/10/20.**

No other items had been requested for inclusion.

**2021 – 064 Next meeting:** Tuesday, 17 November 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom.

The meeting ended at 9.09pm.

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Chairman

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Date