

**Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 January 2021 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), T Conway, Miss L Hagenbrock, Mrs P Reed, Mrs S Shipperley, A Wilson, District Councillor R Stanley.

**2021 – 086 Apologies**

Councillor Mrs S Shaw and County Councillor Mrs P Colthorpe.

**2021 – 087 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Reed declared a Personal Interest in Minute No. 2021 – 100.1, Planning Application 20/01151/FULL being a neighbour.

Councillor Wescott declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 2021 – 100.1, Planning Application 20/01151/FULL.

Councillor Miss Hagenbrock declared a Personal Interest in Minute No. 2021 – 1001, Planning Application 20/01151/FULL – as she knew a neighbour.

**2021 – 088 Dispensation to Councillors**

None

**2021 – 089 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 November 2020**  
**Approved as a correct record.**

**Proposed by Councillor Mrs Reed**

**Seconded by Councillor Miss Hagenbrock and unanimously agreed**

Councillors noted that all approved Minutes had been signed by the Chairman and were filed up to date.

**Actions Arising / Updates.**

**2021 – 090 Picnic Bench and Seat**

Councillor Wilson had provided a quotation for a bench and concrete base.

The Clerk had completed a S106 application, subject to written consent by the landowner for the bench to be placed at that location. When the details were received, the paperwork would be submitted to MDDC for consideration.

**2021 – 091 Definitive Map Review**

Comments had been submitted.

There had been no feedback from DCC Public Rights of Way Department.

**Action: The Clerk to ask the position from the Public Rights of Way Officer.**

**2021 – 092 Overgrown vegetation at Roundhouse, Exebridge**

The fencing had been removed following Mid Devon enforcing listed building conditions and the vegetation cut to approximately 1m to improve visibility.

**2021 – 093 Sign on Timewell Hill**

The two parishioners had been advised that their request had been taken up by County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe and to back this up, the suggestion was made that they also make representations to DCC Highways.

### **2021 – 094 Parish Paths Partnership (P3)**

The following Report had been received from Miss C Dawes, the P3 Co-ordinator: Morebath Parish has 12 public rights of way plus 4 non-tarmaced County roads. I am in the process of doing an 'inspection walk' on as many of the routes as I can. I will complete the Annual Survey Form and Sue Squire the Summary of Expenditure by Devon County by 15 February, in order to receive the P3 grant.

The Winter months are a good time to see how well the paths have stood up to heavy rainfall and lashing gales. I have picked up fallen branches, cut bac on overgrowth (particularly brambles) and checked way markers are in place and visible.

Due to the pandemic, very little maintenance work requiring a contractor has been achieved. I generally ask assistance from Tom Ellicott. Hopefully the unspent funds for 2020 can be carried forward so that substantially upgrading some parish paths can be undertaken when Covid restrictions ease.

Please do phone me (number given and redacted due to GDPR) to report any comments / concerns you are aware of.

- Church path currently has 2 very muddy sections caused by vehicular access to two fields off the by way and running surface water
- The path from Ashtown Farm to Surreidge Farm has a very deep mud and waterlogged stretch which needs attention. It is only passable in wellingtons at present
- On the route from Keens Lane to Loyton there is a seriously deep boggy stretch at the bottom of a field – and nothing to cling on to!
- Finally, the country road path running to the right of the drive up to 'Little Timewell' at Claypit is completely blocked by 2 very large fallen trees. Carla Dawes, P3 Co-ordinator.

Councillors spoke about a big litter problem in the Parish. District Councillor Stanley advised that MDDC will support litter picks by supplying equipment and pick up the collected rubbish afterwards.

### **2021 – 095 New HGV Traffic Signs**

Councillor Conway recalled that this had been ordered over a year ago.

**Action: The Clerk to remind JAG Signs.**

### **2021 – 096 Webpage on MDDC website**

All the documents had been sent as a PDF file as opposed to a Word document for inclusion.

### **2021 – 097 Bus Shelter.**

Councillor Mrs Shipperley had obtained a Locality Grant application form and a quotation from a builder which was as follows:

To renew portable benches quote £295 + £30 for cleaning costs.

The benches on the other shelter are in order.

Councillors were in agreement for Councillor Mrs Shipperley to proceed with submitting the Locality Grant application form from County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe's fund.

**Action: Councillor Mrs Shipperley to submit the application form to DCC.**

### **2021 – 098 Open Forum.**

#### **2021 – 098.1**

Councillor Miss Hagenbrock spoke about the Whitehall Farm Garden Planning Application and had noticed that copper had been put on the roof. She was of the opinion that in the planning documents, it had been stated that the material to be used should be wood.

During the meeting, District Councillor Stanley had referred to the planning permission and noted that in Section 7 of the application form, the material stated was cedar tiles, and he would take this up with the Enforcement Department.

### **20221 – 098.2**

Councillor Conway had noticed that the lids from two inspection chambers were no longer in place and was concerned that anyone walking in the dark would not notice this, and there could be a serious accident. There is also a third raised inspection cover requiring attention.

**Action: Councillor Conway to advise the precise details to the Clerk for reporting to DCC Highways.**

### **2021 – 099 Reports**

**2021 – 099.1 County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe.** Apologies sent. The following written Report had been circulated to Councillors:

First of all, may I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy new year and I hope that, in spite of the restrictions, you were able to enjoy Christmas, even if it wasn't quite the Christmas you were planning!

Sadly, the latest lockdown will have come as no surprise and 2021 has started much as 2020 ended - even in Mid Devon cases of coronavirus are on the rise, though our numbers are still relatively low compared with other parts of the country. This time, however, the prospect of mass vaccination is a reality, with three different vaccines now licensed and distribution underway. All four of the county's main hospitals are offering an injection to in-patients in priority groups as well as to frontline staff, and G.P. practices are working to set up local vaccination centres - there are 16 already in operation serving 104 surgeries, with more to follow. Larger scale centres to cover wider areas are also planned and the easier-to-use AstraZeneca vaccine was delivered to – and put to good use by - some G.P. practices in Devon by 8<sup>th</sup> January.

I know it's been said before but it's worth saying again: please don't make things harder for the N.H.S. by calling your local hospital or G.P. practice about getting vaccinated – the N.H.S. will contact you when it's your turn.

The effect the pandemic is having on Devon's traffic has thrown up some interesting statistics. During the first lockdown (23<sup>rd</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020) 24 hour weekday traffic flows were down about 70% on the same period in 2019 while Lockdown No.2 (5<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December) saw reductions of around 25%. On Christmas Eve the roads were busier than usual but only by a single percent and on Christmas Day traffic was down by 11% and it was the same on New Year's Eve, while New Year's Day saw a drop of 32%. Even on 4<sup>th</sup> January when working as 'normal' ('normal for Tier 3' that is) was very briefly resumed, traffic flows were down 20% on 2019's figures and, with Lockdown No.3 imposed on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>, were down 32% by the end of the working week.

Which brings me to the (draft) Interim Devon Carbon Plan. Open for consultation responses until 15<sup>th</sup> February at: [www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk](http://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk), there is also a series of free webinars which anyone may join although you do need to sign up at [www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/interim-devon-carbon-plan-webinar-series/](http://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/interim-devon-carbon-plan-webinar-series/) in advance. Had it not been for the fact that the lockdown has (temporarily) closed the libraries again, hard copies of the interim carbon plan would be available for you to see. The mobile library service and the home library service are also temporarily suspended so, if you currently have a book, C.D. or D.V.D. on loan, you will be glad to know you may safely retain it until the libraries re-open! All loans have been extended until 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and will be extended again if necessary.

Next week sees the start of the budget scrutiny round with Children's Scrutiny on 25<sup>th</sup> January (on-line this year, of course), Health and Adult Care on 26<sup>th</sup> and C.I.R.S. on 28<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget you can still join all or any of them if you wish.

County Councillor Mrs Colthorpe had sent an updated message informing that Covid-19 cases had seen a reduction in Devon.

### **2021 – 099.2 District Councillor Stanley reported as follows:**

- Covid-19 infection rates. The area is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in the country

- MDDC is about to pilot a 3 week waste collection on 1,000 units in Mid Devon to save in the region of £75,000 – if it covers half the District. Recycling collections are unaltered
- 2021/22 Budget. The government has paid nearly all the debt incurred because of the Covid pandemic, just over £1.5 million and currently Mid Devon is £400,000 short of balancing the budget. Councillors continue to find ways of saving money for the 2022/23 budget, which may have to come out of reserves
- The government has sent £7.3 million for support of businesses which are closed under statutory regulations because of coronavirus. Over £1 million has been allocated to date
- All officers are working out of the office. There have been 2 staff members who have been infected.

Councillor Conway enquired about a further grant he had heard about for Village Halls and was advised by District Councillor Stanley that it would be necessary to apply separately for this.

### **2021 – 100 Planning**

**2021 – 100.1 The following Application was received the day before the meeting:**

**20/01151/FULL Additional information on change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden to include the rection of a stable block / shed and widening of gateway at 1 West Timewell Hill Cottage, Morebath - revised drawings and additional information.**

**It was resolved to reply as follows:**

**Morebath Parish Council recommends refusal of this Application on the following grounds:**

- 1. Work proposed on the access will still not meet highways requirements to support a new entrance and it is believed that what the applicant is proposing would not comply with highways at this dangerous location.**
- 2. The Parish Council is aware of the potential disruption to the water and electricity supply to the nearby properties which must be taken into account when the Application is determined. Understandably residents are worried about this and have not experienced any problems in the past but do fear about the situation for the future.**
- 3. Loss of amenity to the neighbours as a result of noise**
- 4. The previous positive environmental impact has been degraded from what has been there in the past.**
- 5. It is assumed an Ecological Impact Assessment has been carried out.**
- 6. There are concerns about the loss of amenity of the surroundings, in particular the aesthetics of the area which would have a negative impact on the enjoyment of neighbours lives.**
- 7. Although not a material planning consideration, Morebath Parish Council wants to support the public who have objected and raised concerns about this Application.**

**2021 – 100.2 Planning Correspondence.**

The following Planning Applications had been considered between meetings and responses sent to MDDC as follows:

- ◆ **20/00969/FULL – Fourwinds, Morebath.** The Parish Council did not wish to amend it's original response to this Application.
- ◆ **20/01789/FULL - Duval Priory, Bampton.** Morebath Parish Council wish to support Bampton Town Council's response to this Application.
- ◆ **20/02025/HOUSE – Combeland.** A reply of 'no comment' was submitted.
- ◆ **20/01806/FULL – Higher Westwoods Farm, Shllingford.** A reply of 'no comment' was submitted.

### **2021 – 100.3 Planning Appeal.**

It was noted that the Appeal made under Section 78 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 against a failure to give notice within the prescribed period of a decision on an application for planning permission in respect of land adjoining and to the east of The Old Shippen fronting the B3190, Whitehall Farm, Morebath had been dismissed and planning permission to construct one new dwelling is refused, the main issues being:

- (i) the effect on the character and appearance of the area
- (ii) the effect on the living conditions of adjoining residents with regard to privacy; and
- (iii) whether the site is in an appropriate location with regard to local and national planning policy

Councillors noted that the first and second issues were found to be surmountable. It was the fact that the Local Plan had just been adopted and considered it was a significant loss on the basis of the new Local Plan and how it is designated.

### **2021 – 101 Finance**

**2021 – 101.1 Balances: NatWest Current Account as at 31/12/20: £18,604.76**  
**NatWest Savings Account as at 31/12/20: £6,229.54**

Updated reserves as a result of the 2021/22 budget setting had been circulated to Councillors.

### **2021 – 101.2 Councillors considered a request for a donation from **Torrige, North, Mid & West Devon Citizens Advice.****

A letter of request and a copy of the latest set of accounts have been provided and had been circulated to Councillors.

### **Proposed by Councillor Conway**

**Seconded by Councillor Wilson and unanimously agreed**

**2021 – 101.3 Payments. The following payments were approved and authorised:**  
**Proposed by Councillor Conway , seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.**

		Ch.No.	
<b>Mrs S Squire</b>	Salary and Expenses	579	£225.60
<b>HMRC</b>	PAYE	580	£ 50.80
<b>Morebath Village Hall</b>	Hire of Village Hall on 21/7/20	581	£ 20.00
<b>MDDC</b>	Grass cutting	582	£302.03

### **2021 – 101.4 Grass Cutting**

A quotation of £259.24 ex VAT had been received from MDDC.

Details of the areas cut by MDDC had been forwarded to Councillor Conway by the Clerk, which he disputed, and he suggested that Mr S Kelland is asked to cut these areas.

The Grass Cutting Contract to be agreed at the March 2021 meeting.

### **2021 – 102 Correspondence**

#### **2021 – 102.1 MDDC – New Premises Licence Application – The Cottage Beer Project Ltd.**

Councillors' thoughts had been requested and a response was sent to MDDC by the deadline date of 15/1/21 as follows:

- 1. The premises is situated on a very fast road for delivery stops and little room to turn vehicles around, to avoid backing out on to oncoming traffic on the B3190. The Parish Council feel that there should be a specific reply from Highways and not just the standard consultation reply.*
- 2. The building being used has never had any planning permission granted for its construction*
- 3. There are no proper drains constructed for effluent and washdown from the beer production facility*
- 4. If a poor batch was made, how would it be disposed of?*
- 5. In connection with points 4 and 5 above, there is concern for the neighbours and the resulting smell which would be caused*
- 6. There should be a condition to cap the number of litres a micro brewery can produce in order to ensure the business does not grow beyond micro status, purely because of its location and the issues previously raised*

**2021 – 102.2 Office for National Statistics.** Details of the forthcoming 2021 Census on 21/3/21 had been circulated to councillors.

#### **2021 – 102.3 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).**

Details of the final recommendations for Mid Devon had been published and circulated to Councillors:

- ◆ It is proposed that Mid Devon District Council should have 42 Councillors
- ◆ Those Councillors should represent give three-Councillor Wards, 10 two- Councillor Wards and seven single-Councillor Wards, across the District.
- ◆ It is proposed that the boundaries of all Wards should change, except for Silverton and Upper Culm.

The draft Order – the legal document which brings into force the LGBCE's recommendations will now be laid before Parliament.

The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements for MDDC to be implemented at the local elections in 2023.

District Councillor Stanley advised that the recommendations would affect the Clare and Shuttern area which would come into the Cove and Bolham area.

#### **2021 – 102.4 Devon Climate Emergency. Interim Devon Carbon Plan.**

Councillors had been circulated with the details. A consultation is running from 7/12/20 – 15/2/21 and Councillors decided to respond individually.

**2021 – 102.5 Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).** DCC had confirmed that the use of these signs are acceptable, subject to the location being agreed with Highways.

The Clerk had forwarded details of the signs available to Councillors for information.

Councillor Mrs Shipperley had received complaints from neighbours about vehicles speeding through the village. A Survey she had carried out had resulted in 250 cars, lorries, vans, caravans and articulated lorries going from North to South in an hour.

**2021 – 103 Items raised by Councillors / Clerk.**

**2021 – 103.1 Councillor Mrs Shipperley – increase of dog fouling in the village.**

The Clerk had contacted MDDC with a request that the Dog Warden contacts Councillor Mrs Shipperley to discuss the problem further. The request has been given the reference number of MDIE-77914 and passed to the Street Scene Section.

Councillor Mrs Shipperley confirmed that the Dog Warden had left a message for her to return the call and she would ask for stickers.

**Action: Councillor Mrs Shipperley**

**2021 – 103.2 Talk by the Environment Agency Officer on Flooding.**

It was noted that the Clerk had been in email correspondence with Mr C Khan regarding a presentation which was planned for the January 2021 meeting after being postponed from the March 2020 meeting.

Due to the continued lockdown restrictions, his talk has again been postponed and it is hoped that, subject to restrictions, he may be able to attend the July or September meeting.

**2021 – 104 Next meeting:** Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 7.30pm by Zoom.

The meeting ended at 9.02pm

**Summary of Decisions:**

- **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 November 2020**
- **Planning**
- **Donation of £50.00 to Torridge, North, West and Mid Devon Citizens Advice**
- **Payments**

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Chairman