

Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 in Morebath Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting was amended from 16 November 2021 with the agreement of the Chairman and Councillors due to the unavailability of the Clerk.

Covid-19 Risk Assessments had been carried out.

Present: Councillors A Wilson (Chairman), T Conway, Mrs P Reed, Mrs S Shipperly, J Wescott.

Also present: District Councillor R Stanley
Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

2122 – 047 Apologies. Councillor Mrs S Shaw, County Councillor R Chesterton.

2122 – 048 Declarations of Interest.
Councillor Wescott declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute No. 2122 – 064.3.
Councillor Wilson declared a Personal Interest in Minute No. 2122 – 064.6.

2122 – 049 Dispensation to Councillors. None.

2122 – 050 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 September 2021.
Approved and signed as a correct record.
Proposed by Councillor Mrs Reed, seconded by Councillor Wescott and unanimously agreed.

2122 – 051 Actions Arising / Updates.

2122 – 051.1 S106 funding – picnic bench and seat.

Councillor Wilson advised that MDDC will not accept a letter of consent from the landowner in respect of the land where the proposed picnic bench and seat is proposed to be sited. Instead, a Lease on the land for the expected life of the bench is required due to the fact that the S106 funding which is being requested is public money and furthermore, access to the public must be maintained all the time with a minimum 10 year timespan.

MDDC is happy to support the Parish Council in obtaining land to be used for a public open space if any is identified.

It was noted that the Village Hall purchased the freehold in 1970 for £1. There is a 1.5 metre of freehold land from the hedge to the land in question.

Action: Councillor Wilson to investigate a Lease on the ground.

2122 – 051.2 Webpage on MDDC website. Further documents have been sent for inclusion.

2122 – 051.3 Communications including quotations for a new website.

This item was deferred until Councillor Mrs Shaw is present and had circulated her Report for Councillors to study.

2122 – 051.4 Grass Cutting.

Councillor Conway had obtained a quotation from Mr N Page, who does work for MDDC Devon. The price was £70 per cut which was cheaper than the current contractor and MDDC contractors.

Councillor Conway had shown Mr Page the areas involved and was willing to accompany the contractor on the first cut.

Others had been offered the opportunity to quote and had chosen not to.

**Proposed by Councillor Conway to accept the quotation.
Seconded by Councillor Wescott and unanimously agreed.**

**Action: Councillor Conway to verbally advise Mr Page.
The Clerk to advise in writing.**

2122 – 051.5 Overgrown vegetation at The Round House, Exebridge.

DCC Highways had replied that their most experienced officer had attended the site and checked all approaches to the junctions at the Round House. He reported that there was no significant issue at the Round House and no further action will be taken.

Action: The Clerk to request a site meeting with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, pointing out that the response was not satisfactory as there continued to be an excess of vegetation at The Roundhouse causing problems for motorists.

Separately, DCC had emailed advising that Mr Stephen Leigh is the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, yet it was known he was on sick leave and about to retire.

Action: The Clerk to clarify the situation with DCC Highways.

2122 – 051.6 Buildings at Risk Survey and Register.

The Clerk had advised MDDC that the Pack Horse Bridge, Skilgate Wood should be on the Register.

2122 – 051.7 Provision of grit salt for residents.

Councillor Wilson informed that a further supply of grit salt he had ordered had been delivered which he would deliver to the salt bin in the Parish Council car park, ensuring that it is kept topped up for the personal use of Morebath.

Councillor Wilson had not received his Snow Warden training.

Action: The Clerk to inform County Councillor Chesterton for him to follow up.

2122 – 051.8 Asset Management Checks. A diary note has been made for March 2022 for the next check to take place.

2122 – 051.9 Litter Picking events around Morebath.

Councillor Mrs Shipperley had sent details for inclusion in the Signpost Magazine in relation to a Village Hall event where a free breakfast will be provided on the morning of the litter pick.

2122 – 060 Open Forum. No members of the public were present and no representations had been received.

2122 – 061 Reports.

County Councillor Chesterton. Apologies sent.

District Councillor R Stanley.

Litter. The Environment Policy Group at MDDC refused to pass the policy document due to lack of proof of who dropped the letter. The exercise will be repeated when it is hoped that the document will be accepted.

It will be the responsibility of villages to do their own litter picks, where the relevant equipment is available from MDDC which he will obtain for the event. MDDC will collect the rubbish accumulated as a result of the litter pick.

Budget. In next year's budget, MDDC is looking to save £600,000 and in the 5 year period to 2027, there has to be savings of £1.6 million. £5 million pounds worth of government grants has ceased over the years. There is likely to be a change to the schedule of waste collection and the details are still being looked at.

Parish Boundary Review. The Boundary Commission are looking at the Ward. Clare and Shuttern will stay, with Templeton being moved into the West Tiverton boundary. There will be a Parish review where all will be consulted.

2122 – 062 Planning. The following Application was considered:

2122 – 062.1 21/00817/HOUSE – Erection of two storey side extension – Fern, Morebath.

Councillor Mrs Reed proposed that the response was no objections. Seconded by Councillor Wescott and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk

2122 – 062.2 Planning Correspondence. The following was noted:

Planning Permission granted for 21/01462/HOUSE – Erection of rear and side extension at Jays Lodge, Morebath.

Change of use Approval of Prior Approval granted for 21/01480/PNCOU – prior notification for the change of use of offices (Class B1 (a)) to 2 residential dwellings (Class C3) under Class) – Loyton Estate Offices, Morebath.

Application 20/01151/FULL – Change of use of agricultural land to a mixed agricultural and equestrian use to include the erection of a stable block / shed and formation of new vehicular access – 1 West Timewell Hill Cottage, Morebath. It was noted that this Application had been withdrawn.

2122 – 062.3 Introduction from new Planning Development Management Manager.

Angharad Williams wishes to engage with everyone regarding any training that it is considered would be helpful in the consideration of planning applications.

The Clerk is booked into the introductory Parish Council Planning event on Thursday, 25 November.

2122 – 064 Finance.

**2122 – 064.1 Balances: NatWest Current Account as at 1/11/21: £22,612.79
NatWest Business Reserve Account as at 1/11/21: £6,230.06**

Reserves to the end of October were circulated.

2122 – 064.2 Replacement Defibrillator Pads. Under the Scheme of Delegation, Councillors approved the purchase of these on the grounds of health and safety. The cost of £36.00 to be approved under the next item.

2122 – 064.3 Payments to approve:

Councillor Wescott declared a Prejudicial Interest and did not vote.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Reed to approve and authorise the payments.

Seconded by Councillor Wilson and agreed.

	Ch.No.	
• Mrs S Squire Salary and Expenses	603	£255.85

- HMRC PAYE 604 £ 47.80
 - Hire of Morebath Village Hall for the July and November Meetings 605 £ 40.00
 - Cllr J Wescott. Reimbursement for defibrillator pads 606 £ 36.00
- Action: Clerk

As Councillor Wescott is a cheque signatory, Councillors instructed him to sign his cheque.

2122 – 064.4 2020/21 Audit.

The External Auditor has acknowledged receipt of documents under the exempt status.

To address the items raised in the internal auditor's report.

- ◆ Asset Register. This totals £11,514.30 where the Annual Return notes £9,559.

The document was updated to agree with the figure on the Annual Return which included the deletion of the Parish Council Acer Laptop.

In this connection, District Councillor Stanley suggested that the Clerk contacts MDDC to enquire when they are next having a crushing session of devices.

Action: Clerk

2122 – 064.5 Parish Council Reserves. The Clerk has ascertained that Folk2Folk deal with Parish Councils. The DALC had not replied to the Parish Council's enquiry as to whether it was recommended to invest money in this way.

Some of the reserves could be used to undertake a consultation to review the Parish Plan.

Action: The Clerk to obtain the document on how to consult.

2122 – 064.6 To discuss the resurfacing of the Parish Council car park.

Councillors considered that the entrance required attention, but the remainder of the surface could be repaired.

Action: Councillors Wilson and Conway to liaise and draw up a specification to include repair work around the edges of the car park, with weeds requiring spraying.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Wilson declared a Personal Interest as he is qualified to do this work but does not have permission to work on the highway.

Action: The Clerk to send the specification to Lynch, Minehead; Penfold, South Molton and JTT, Exeter with quotations to be available at the next meeting with a view to making a decision.

Action: Councillor Conway to check if an employee at Loyton has a spraying licence.

2122 – 064.7 P3 Grants. It was noted that the sum of £500 was credited to the bank accounts on 24/9/21 to bring the grant situation up to date.

2122 – 064.8 Specification for weeding work to be agreed.

80m from village hall to Whitehall corner, path side. The contractor must be Chapter 8 trained.

Action: Councillor Mrs Shipperley to let the Clerk have the names of three contractors and a map to enclose with the specification.

2122 – 065 Correspondence.

2122 – 065.1 Arrangements for a beacon or bonfire to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on 2 June 2022.

Action: To be an item on the May 2022 Agenda.

2122 – 065.2 Business Info Point. Leaflet regarding future farming resilience. Free, tailored one to one advice, webinars and business skills development workshops to help farmers and land managers navigate the changes brought about by the Agricultural Transition. *Noted.*

2122 – 065.3 Free Trees for Planting Projects. *Noted.*

2122 – 065.4 MDDC. Bulb planting. Allies Mid Devon is a community group based in Tiverton and they are planning to co-ordinate a project across the whole of Mid Devon to plant 130k + of mixed daffodils as a way of remembering those people who have been lost to Covid 19. This is a project that could include small patches of land, or large swathes. Could this be a community activity? Allies Mid Devon will be happy to supply collecting tins for donations towards the costs and would then supply the bulbs to benefit from bulk purchasing.

Councillors decided not to follow this up as there are already Spring flowering bulbs which have been planted.

2122 - 066 Items raised by Councillors / Clerk:

2122 – 066.1 Clerk’s Training. Report Writing for Councils on 15/11/21. The tabling of written reports to accompany agenda items is an increasingly common method of ensuring that Councillors not only take fully informed decisions, but also that there is an audit trail showing that they have acted properly when taking such decisions. Reports also provide a snapshot of the Council’s thinking at the time that proposals were considered and are also a useful tool for considering confidential matters properly.

2122 – 066.2 To discuss changing the dates of future Council meetings.

Councillors agreed to change to the last Tuesday of the month (January, March, May, July, September, November)

2122 - 067 Next meeting: Tuesday, 25/1/22 in Morebath Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 September 2021**
- **2022 grass cutting contract awarded to Mr N Page**
- **Planning**
- **Payments**

Chairman

Date