

Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 January 2022 at 7.30pm by Zoom, due to the high infection rate of the current Omicron variant of Covid-19, for the safety and protection of all.

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

Also present: County Councillor R Chesterton
Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

2122 – 068 Apologies.

Councillors Mrs S Shaw & Mrs S Shipperley, who had both tendered their resignation.

The Clerk advised the procedure as a result of the vacancies.

A email of thanks had been sent to Mrs Shaw, the resignation being received by the Clerk.

Mrs Shipperley's resignation had been sent to the Chairman.

Action: Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Shipperley.

District Councillors A Moore and R Stanley

2122 – 069 Declarations of Interest. None.

2122 – 070 Dispensation to Councillors. None

2122 – 071 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 November 2021 will be approved at the next face to face meeting, along with the Minutes of this meeting.

Councillor Conway requested that Minute No. 2022/23 – 051.1 was amended to read that the Village Hall did not purchase a Lease, but the freehold in 1970 for £1. In addition, there is 1.5 metre of freehold land from the hedge to the land in question.

Action: Clerk

2122 – 072 Actions Arising / Updates:

2122 – 072.1 Picnic Bench and Seat. This item was deferred until the next face to face meeting.

Action: March 2022 Agenda

2122 – 072.2 Webpage on MDDC Website. Details had been sent to MDDC for the website to be up to date.

2122 – 072.3 DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

Clarification had been obtained regarding Mr Stephen Leigh, who retired on 31/12/21. His replacement is Mr Russell Hookway who commences on 15 February 2022.

2122 – 072.4 Snow Warden Training for Councillor Wilson.

DCC Highways has been requested, with County Councillor Chesterton copied in, to follow this up.

Councillor Wilson advised that he had not been contacted as yet.

Action: Councillor Wilson will ensure that the grit salt is topped up in the car park grit bin.

2122 – 072.5 Communications including quotations for a new website for consideration.

Councillor Mrs Shaw had not had opportunity to carry out research on this.

She and the Clerk had liaised regarding a quotation for a new website and separately, the Clerk had obtained a quotation for a new website from Croyde Media who were currently doing a new website for another of her Parishes. The quotation was as follows:

- purchase of URL morebathparishcouncil.org for 5 years = £100

Webhosting (annual payment) = £120

SEO = £0

Creation of five pages with integration of public documents = £300

Total quote £520

All of the images and text/content must be provided in advance, but we estimate the lead time for the website to be up and running would be one week after all the images/content required for the website is received. Our design would limit the need for regular updates as we would integrate files directly from cloud storage (we can explain all of this). We can also create an account so that news can easily be created and regularly updated. Free training will be provided for this.

Proposed by Councillor Conway to proceed with the new Parish Council website at the quoted price of £520.00.

Seconded by Councillor Wescott and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to progress

2122 – 072.6 Grass Cutting.

Councillor Conway had advised the new contractor, Mr N Page, verbally that the contract has been awarded to him, and the Clerk has followed this up in writing.

Action: Councillor Conway will contact Mr Page to arrange the first cut in March 2022 and will accompany him at that time.

2122 – 072.7 Overgrown vegetation at The Round House, Exebridge.

A site visit had been requested with DCC Highways and Tuesday, 11 January was offered but would not be followed up until the Spring when the vegetation began to grow again.

County Councillor Chesterton also wished to be in attendance when the site visit was made.

Action: Clerk to make diary note to contact the new Neighbourhood Highway Manager to arrange a site visit in late April.

2122 – 072.8 Buildings at Risk Survey and Register.

MDDC has been advised that the Pack Horse Bridge should be added to the Register and a reply received that the Conservation Officer had visited the site. The bridge (mid/late 19th century) is of sufficient architectural and historic interest to be a non-designated heritage asset. It has suffered some inappropriate cement mortar pointing and shows some movement in the stone work but it would not appear at this stage to be a building that could be considered at risk.

The structure is to be added to the list with the photos taken at the site visit and added to the record to keep a watch on it, but there is no evidence of any actions required at this time.

2122 – 079 Open Forum. No items had been raised and there were no members of the public present.

2122 – 080 Reports.
County Councillor Chesterton. The 2022/23 budget would be fixed in the next few weeks.

District Councillors. Not present, apologies given.

2122 – 081 Planning. The following Planning Application was considered:

- **22/00015/FULL – Removal of condition 7 planning permission 05/01589/FULL relating to holiday occupancy to allow full residential use – Conversion of barns to 2 units of holiday accommodation – The Old Granary, Wilsons Farm, Exebridge.**

Proposed by Councillor Conway to respond: No objections.
Seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.
Action: Clerk

Planning Correspondence.

The following MDDC Decision Notice was noted:
Approval for Application 21/00817/HOUSE – Erection of two storey side extension at Fern, Morebath.

Planning Training. Thursday, 20 January at 2pm via Zoom. The subject to be covered is Material Planning Considerations. Details were included in the Town and Parish Newsletter December 2021 circulated on 1 December 2021. The Clerk is booked to attend.

Action: Clerk

2122 – 082 Finance.

2122 – 082.1 Balances: NatWest Current Account as at 1 December 2021: £22,572.79
NatWest Savings Account as at 1 December 2021: £ 6,230.11

Reserves as at the end of December 2021 had been circulated to Councillors.

2122 – 082.2 Request for a donations from the following, who had provided a letter of request and a copy of the latest set of accounts to meet the criteria laid down for Parish Councils to follow and had been circulated separately to Councillors.

Citizens Advice.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson not to give a donation.
Seconded by Councillor Wescott and unanimously agreed.
Action: Clerk to advise Citizens Advice of the decision

CHAT – Churches Housing Action Team (Mid Devon).

Proposed by Councillor Wilson not to give a donation.
Seconded by Councillor Wescott and unanimously agreed.
Action: Clerk to advise CHAT of the decision

2122 – 082.3 Payments.

The following payments were approved and authorised.
Proposed by Councillor Conway, seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.

	Ch.No.	
▪ Mrs S Squire Salary and Expenses	607	£227.91
This included £16.98 for sending laptop to MDDC for crushing		
▪ HMRC	608	£51.60
▪ S J Kelland 2021 Grass Cutting	609	£420.00
▪ Citizens Advice		£----
▪ CHAT		£----

Action: The Clerk to thank Mr Kelland for his work when sending the cheque, this being his last year of working for the Parish Council

2122 – 082.4 2020/21 Audit.

Asset Register. The revised document had been circulated to Councillors to note the deletion of the seat at Chilthorne and the laptop and was considered in order.

2122 – 082.5 Bank Account. The Clerk is continuing to arrange for the Bank's system to be updated with new signatories and asked Councillors to consider internet banking in place of cheques.

It was noted that Councillors Wilson and Conway would be the named Councillors on the system.

2122 – 082.6 Resurfacing of the Parish Council car park.

This item was deferred until a face to face meeting takes place.

2122 – 082.7 Parish Paths Partnership (P3).

The Survey forms had been forwarded to the local co-ordinator for completion and return to DCC Public Rights of Way Department by mid February 2022.

The Clerk had completed and returned the expenditure form to DCC.

2122 – 082.8 To set the 2022/23 Budget and Precept.

Clerk's Salary. A review would take place when an in person meeting was held.

Precept. Proposed by Councillor Wescott that the Precept remains unaltered at £6,100.00.

Seconded by Councillor Conway and unanimously agreed.

Budget. Proposed by Councillor Wescott that the 2022/23 is agreed.

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to submit form to MDDC after the above decision has been ratified at a specially convened meeting for this purpose on 18 January 2022 in the Parish Council Car Park at 7.30pm.

2122 – 082.9 Parish Council Reserves to invest.

A reply had been received from the DALC who sought advice from The Parkinson Partnership, the details of which were circulated to Councillors on 24/11/21.

This item was deferred until a face to face meeting takes place.

2122 – 082.10 Weeding. Due to former Councillor Mrs Shipperley's resignation, this item had not progressed.

Action: Deferred to the next meeting

2122 – 083 Corrspondence

2122 – 083.1 Airband. An email from the local co-ordinator regarding Broadband in the Parish had been circulated to Councillors.

Further details on the installation of this facility in the Parish by Airband and Openreach was given by Councillor Wilson and County Councillor Chesterton.

Action: Councillor Conway to put a copy of the email received from Airband on the notice board for parishioners' attention.

2122 – 083.2 DCC Highways – road closures:

- From 31 January to 11 February, 24 hour closure. Road from Hukeley Head Cross to Shillingford Garage and road from South View to The Old Chapel, Shillingford for safety access for BT to install new fibre cabling on behalf of Openreach.
- From 14 – 25 February, 8am to 6pm. Road from Hukeley Bridge to Hukeleyhead Cross, Shillingford for safety access for BT to install new fibre cabling on behalf of Openreach.

2122 – 084 Items raised by Councillors / Clerk.

2122 – 084.1 Clerk's Leave. Thursday, 17 – 27 March 2022 inclusive.

2122 – 085 Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 29 March 2022 at 7.30pm in Morebath Village Hall.

Decisions made at this meeting will be ratified at the meeting on 29/3/22, subject to the Covid-19 situation with the exception of the Precept / Budget which will be ratified at an in person meeting on Tuesday, 18 January 2022 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council car park.

The meeting ended at 8.32pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **New Parish Council website to be constructed by Croyde Media**
- **Planning**
- **No donation to be given to Citizens Advice or Churches Housing Action Team (Mid Devon)**
- **Payments**
- **2022/23 Precept to remain unaltered at £6,100.00**
- **2022/23 Budget**

Chairman

Date