

Minutes of Morebath Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 29 March 2022 in Morebath Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Also present: District Councillor R Stanley
The Chairman of Bampton Parish Council, Simon Fouracres
No Members of the public
Mrs S Squire, Parish Clerk

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Conway until the arrival of Councillor Wilson, at Minute No. 2122 – 093.5.

2122 - 088 Co-option of Parish Councillors. Due to the resignation of Councillors Mrs Shaw, Mrs Shipperley and Mrs Veltink there are three vacancies on the Parish Council and confirmation is awaited from MDDC that an election has not been requested by parishioners and that the Parish Council can co-opt three people.

2122 - 089 Apologies.
County Councillor R Chesterton

2122 - 090 Declarations of Interest. None.

2122 - 091 Dispensation to Councillors. None.

2122 - 092 Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 23 November 2021 and 11 January 2022.
The 2022/23 Budget and Precept agreed at the meeting on 11 January 2022 was ratified at a meeting on 18 January 2022 and the Minutes of this meeting will also be agreed.

Approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor Wescott

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed

Unanimously agreed

2122 - 093 Actions Arising / Updates:

2122 – 093.1 Letters of thanks sent to Mrs S Shaw, Mrs S Shipperley and Mrs Veltink following their resignation from the Parish Council.

2122 – 093.2 Picnic Bench and Seat. Councillor Wilson advised that due to another organisation who had submitted an application for the funding, this matter would need to be dealt with in the next financial year.

2122 – 093.3 Snow Warden Training. Councillor Wilson confirmed no training had been given.

2122 – 093.4 Grit Salt. Councillor Wilson advised that the area where this is stored had been cleared up and was tidy. Grit salt was in the bin.
A tree branch fell during a storm and although the main part had been removed, some small branches need to be taken away.

2122 – 093.5 Website. The Clerk advised the questions raised by Croyde Media with regard to preparing a new website.

Action: The Clerk to reply with the details.

- 2122 – 093.5 2022 Grass Cutting.** Councillor Conway advised that the new contractor would be starting the following week.
Mr Dart is willing to continue cutting the area he has done in the past but would not object if the new contractor wanted to take this on.
- 2122 – 093.6 Overgrown vegetation at The Round House, Exebridge**
Action: To be an item on the next Agenda.
- 2122 – 093.7 Airband Broadband.** Councillor Conway to confirm he had posted the email on the notice board.
- 2122 – 094 Open Forum:** No members of the public were present.
- 2122 – 095 Reports.**
- 2122 – 095.1** County Councillor R Chesterton. Apologies given. Written Report sent as follows:
- Council Tax**
DCC passed their 2022/23 budget in February. The Government has announced that the Adult Social Care Precept is continuing for next year – this budget recommends to Council that a 1% Adult Social Care Precept is set to help fund valuable services. This increase along with a general council tax increase of 1.99% will mean an overall council tax increase of 2.99% next year which is an extra £45.18 for a Band D property.
This budget was one of the most challenging the authority has ever faced. Investment of over £87 million is needed for our services next year and even with the increase in funding from Government that level of investment is not affordable without making significant savings and taking money from our reserves to support the young, the elderly and the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Tiverton High School**
DCC are in the process of putting a bid into government for the relocation and rebuilding of THS, this is being applied for as an 'exceptional case' due to flood risk. The first stage "Nomination" was submitted at the end of last month, which allows us to put in the "Bid", which is the additional evidence needed, including evidence of the exceptional case. At this point design or masterplans are not requested and do not form part of the selection process.
If successful, the delivering body (the Department for Education) would engage/consult with school stakeholders on the delivery proposal.
- Broadband**
Airband, who are contracted by CDS, are targeting how they can meet 'hard to reach properties' across Mid Devon with a fibre to the property roll out.
They will be meeting with County and District councillors to discuss the problem areas on a ward-by-ward basis, to try to get local knowledge to help with creating as many solutions as possible. Please email me to highlight problem areas in Tiverton West so we can raise as many as possible.
- Neighbourhood Highways Officer**
Following Steve Leigh's retirement last year, we now have a new NHO to cover Tiverton West, Russell Hookway (russell.hookway@devon.gov.uk) who started in the middle of February.
- Recent Storms**
A very busy few days in the Network Operations Control Centre. The majority of the call outs were to fallen or leaning trees, with some road closures for fallen trees, or risk of falling trees/ roofs/ other debris.
Wind gusts at Taw Bridge Barnstaple reached 98.9mph (on the Friday morning) with the bridge being closed to all vehicles for a while and closed to high sided vehicles on and off over the weekend.
Thousands of homes across the county saw power cuts for large parts of the weekend.
Routes most affected by tree related closures:
A377 saw trees down at Half Moon, Lapford, Chulmleigh, Cowley Bridge across the weekend.

Barrack Road, Exeter Friday

Northern end of the A39 blocked multiple times over the course of the weekend with large trees at Shirwell, Lynton, Watersmeet.

A396 Stoke Canon blocked on Friday and again Saturday.

A396 Bampton/Cove area also blocked multiple times by large trees across the weekend.

Roads in Exmouth, Topsham, Kingsbridge, Kingskerswell, Northam and Woolacombe to name a few, closed for periods due to fallen/ loose roofing materials/ chimneys.

Over 700 calls taken and over 400 trees uprooted on our road network!

20 mph Zones

DCC has a bid process open to allow local communities to request 20 mph zones in their area, these bids must be supported by town/parish councils and their local county councillor. Closing date is 31st March 2022.

More info can be found from the below link to the report that went to Cabinet.

[Approval of a framework for prioritising 20mph projects.pdf \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

The application form can be found at this link

[20mph Community Self Assessment form \(office.com\)](#)

Locality Budget

I still have money in the 2021/22 Locality budget pot, please ask any potential beneficiaries to contact me if they are looking for funding.

The 22/23 pot is being reduced from £10,000 to £8,000 per division, any unused money from this year will be rolled over.

2122 – 095.2 District Councillor R Stanley

The budget for last year had been balanced. As a consequence there will be a 3 week recycling system for black bags from October, saving £300,000 a year. Food and glass collections will be unaltered. Efforts are being made for everyone to have a wheelie bin.

He had a meeting with Airband about the provision of broadband in the area. Councillor Wilson spoke of his frustration with the company.

2122 – 096 Planning.

2122 – 096.1 Planning Correspondence: The following Applications had been considered between meetings:

- **22/00098/FULL** – Conversion of outbuilding to public house, erection of side and rear extensions and provision of car parking – Velthams Court, Morebath

Response: Morebath Parish Council has no objections but would like it noted that some residents have raised concerns regarding adequate parking and any large functions taking place. We would request MDDC look at these areas and, if relevant, control them with appropriate conditions.

Councillor Wilson had received representations in favour and not in favour of the proposal.

District Councillor Stanley advised that the applicant had been requested to withdraw the application due to a number of questions about how they are going to operate.

- **22/00294/CLU** – land & buildings adjacent 1 Rose Cottages, Exbridge

Response: Morebath Parish Council has no comments to make as the application is down to judgement of evidence submitted.

- **22/00380/HOUSE** – Higher Warmore Cottage, Morebath

Response: Morebath Parish Council wish to respond 'no objections'.

- **21/02306/FULL** – Morebath Cricket Club

Response: Morebath Parish Council supports this application as it will enhance the Cricket Club and as such a village activity.

The following MDDC Decision Notice was noted:

- **Approval for 22/00015/FULL** – Variation of condition 7 at The Old Granary, Wilsons Farm, Exebridge

Planning Training – The Parish Clerk had attended a Zoom session entitled Material Planning Considerations and a written Report had been circulated to Councillors.

2122 – 097 Finance.

2122 – 097.1 Balances:

NatWest Current Account as at 1/3/22: £22,001.43

NatWest Savings Account as at 1/3/22: £6,230.26

Reserves as at the end of February 2022 were tabled.

2122 – 097.2 Payments to approve:

Proposed by Councillor Conway

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.

	Ch.No.	
• Mrs S Squire Salary and Expenses	610	£227.31
• HMRC	611	£ 51.60
• Mr W Dart	613	£198.00
• Croyde Media		£-----
• DALC Subscription	612	£81.41

2122 – 097.3 Bank Account. There was no further information to give.

2122 – 097.4 To discuss the resurfacing of the Parish Council car park.

Action: Councillors Conway and Wilson will meet and prepare a document of requirement.

2122 – 097.5 Request for donations. Citizens Advice and Churches Housing Action Team (Mid Devon) had been advised that it had been decided not to give a donation.

2122 – 097.6 Mr S Kelland, former grass cutting contractor, had been thanked for his past work.

2122 – 097.7 Parish Council Reserves to invest.

This would not be taken up as funds would be required for work on the car park.

2122 – 097.8 Weeding.

Action: Councillor Conway will obtain a quotation from the contractor who works on the Parish Council's behalf in the car park.

2122 – 097.9 2021/22 Internal Audit. The Clerk requested Councillors to agree that this should be carried out by IAC Audit and Consultancy Ltd whose fee is the same as that paid last year. It is felt that this firm will be easier and more co operative to work with.

Proposed by Councillor Wescott, seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.

2122 – 098 Asset Management

Action: Councillor Conway was willing to check the items on the Asset Register and would report back at the next meeting.

2122 – 099 Correspondence.

2122 – 099.1 Letter from Ian Fraser on behalf of ‘Fund our Tivvy High Group’.

Parish Councils are being requested to discuss this topic and endorse the Group’s campaign. The group is an apolitical, broadly based set of individuals who wish to bring pressure to bear on those who will decide whether or not Tiverton will have a new High School under the School Rebuilding Programme. DCC has put forward a proposal to central government that Tiverton needs such a new built urgently. Currently there are two prime reasons why this should be the case. Firstly, the condition of the existing school is such that it is increasingly difficult to offer the quality of education that our young people deserve. Secondly Tiverton High School is set on a flood plain. The judgement is that sooner or later the buildings will be flooded. This will threaten the lives of all members of the school community.

Proposed by Councillor Conway to support the idea.

Seconded by Councillor Mrs Reed and unanimously agreed.

Action: Clerk to advise Mr Fraser.

2122 – 099.2 MDDC. Application for a new premises licence from James Mason Ltd, Masons Kings, Exebridge Industrial Estate, Exbridge.

The details had been circulated to Councillors as a response was required by 10/3/22.

Response: No objections.

2122 – 100 Items raised by Councillors / Clerk:

2122 – 100.1 Councillor Conway. In connection with a Parish Review currently being undertaken by Mid Devon, it was proposed that Morebath is merged into the Parish of Bampton with effect from the May 2023 elections on the grounds that Morebath is only 2 miles from Bampton and the difficulty of keeping the Parish Council up to full strength in numbers, as seen in Minute No. 2122 088.

The Council Tax for a Band D property in Morebath was £3.40 per month. Bampton’s Precept was £59,750 and the Council Tax for a Band D property in Bampton was £6.58 a month, an increase of £36.80 a year.

Bampton Parish Council wish to have a lengthsmen / handyman and they could be a community road warden.

Councillor Conway gave the historic details, citing the Parish of Shillingford who merged with Bampton when the last review was undertaken in the 1960s.

The Chairman of Bampton Parish Council suggested there would be more advantages of having additional Councillors and with the government likely to devolve more power to local Councils, they will have more power.

In addition, Morebath and Bampton are closely allied and there would only be a slight increase in Council Tax. While it would seem Morebath residents would be paying more for services, together the merged Parishes could produce better services and good value.

Councillor Wescott did not agree and described Morebath as being the 'poor cousin', with funding going to Bampton and other areas, where the bulk of the population is housed.

Councillor Wilson spoke about s106 applications and the biggest liability being the car park.

The local parish contribution is 4% of Council Tax bills for parishes.

Action: District Councillor Stanley will obtain advice from MDDC regarding a Referendum.

2122 – 101 **Next meeting:** Tuesday, 31 May 2022 at 7.30pm in Morebath Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM).

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 23 November 2021 and 11 January 2022 and ratification of the meeting held on 18 January 2022 specifically convened in relation to the 2022/23 budget**
- **Payments**
- **That IAC be appointed as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2022/23**
- **Support for 'Fund our Tivvy High' Group (no financial implications for the Parish Council)**

Chairman

Date