

**DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr A. Clark, Mr M. Austin, Mr A. Baker, Mrs J Bennett, Mrs J. Towells, Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch, Mrs. M. Squires and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

In attendance: Mr W. Jones, Mrs D.Cridland, Mrs J. Barns, Mrs T. Pluck, Mrs S. Yarwood, Mr C. Yarwood, Mrs S. Jones, Mrs S. Corfield, Mrs V. Thomas, Mrs M. Roberts, Mr E. Barns, Mr A. Mugleston, Mrs M. Phillips, Mrs J. Milton, Mr D. Winsor, Mr R. Thomas, Mr J. Bennett, Mrs C. Tonkin

[2024/8/1] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 had been circulated. There were not enough members still on the council to approve the minutes. The Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July had been postponed.

[2] The new councillors signed their declarations of acceptance and introduced themselves

[3] **Election of Chairman:** Mr Clark said that he was prepared to act for the present. He was seconded by Mr Austin and the election was agreed by all present. Mr Austin was proposed as Vice Chair by Mr Clark, seconded by Mrs Bennett and this was agreed by all present.

[4] Ms Towells disclosed an interest in the Planning Application for Bramley House

[5] **Public Question Time:** There were two questions about roads which would be dealt with later on the agenda. Further questions were raised about footpaths. Cockraddle Lane had not been cut. The bridleway on Lamacott Lane had blocked. Gateposts and footpaths were not being maintained.

[6] Co-option of councillors to fill two vacant places. Letters had been received from Mr W. Jones and Mrs D. Cridland. These were read out and they were elected on a motion proposed by Mr Austin, seconded by Mr Clark and agreed by all present.

[7] **Public Conveniences:** Mr White had been chasing this issue. There should be a reduced cost since it was partly closed. One option was to re-open the whole block. Other options included renting or selling part of the building. Mr Austin said that the contribution would have to be reassessed and asked for information on the question of business rates. It was pointed out that the conveniences were used by train and bus users. They were a benefit to a lot of people who were not from the village. Proper consultation with MDDC was necessary. Possible futures needed to be advertised to the village.

Signed .....

Date .....

[8] **Village Green etc:** The grass had been cut in June. Mr Leach was eager to carry on doing the work. There was a need to discuss with him the amount of the cuts wanted for next year. The donated oak tree needed to be installed.

[9] **Bus Shelter:** The shelter was still in need of maintenance. The contractor had let the council down. The plaster was in need of repair. The car park was in need of resurfacing. It was decided to hold a site visit after the next meeting.

[10] **Marquee:** The marquee had been bought for the Platinum Jubilee. It was presently stored by Mr Tucker and Mr Hodgson. They had suggested charging a fee for the storage. It was questioned whether the marquee had been a liability. The Council could consider selling it.

[11] **Roads:** This was the responsibility of Devon County Council. They never had enough money. It was reported that there were engineering problems on the roads of Zeal. Mrs Squires promised to chase up reports of potholes. She was planning to visit with the neighbourhood highway officer. There were problems with the speed limit around the village. There had recently been repairs on Barn Hill but there were no signs to say that the road was closed. The roads needed to be properly surfaced.

Other comments included a need to look at the speed limit on the A377. Repairs to white lines and signs were also needed.

[12] **Rights of Way:** There was now a Parish Paths Partnership. Details to be obtained. Problems with gates needed to be discussed with the landlords. Someone to look over the footpaths was needed.

[13] Finance:

Current Account Balance as at 1/5/2024 .....£21,251.23

INCOME: None

EXPENDITURE: Cheques cashed:

427 Community First Insurance .....£189.85

Current Account Balance as at 1/8/2024 .....£21,061.38

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/5/2024 .....£11,789.72

Signed .....

Date .....

Interest:

May.....£14.54, June.....£13.13

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 5/7/2024 .....£11,817.37

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

Stapletons [Accountants] ..... £102.00

DALC [VAT on membership fee] ..... £19.90

MDDC [Public Conveniences] .....£830.00

It was agreed that Mr Clark and Mrs Bennett should become bank signatories.

- [14] **Planning:** [i] Removal of condition 4 of planning permission 01/00822/FULL (Erection of building for stabling, hay/straw and general storage. Bramley House Morchard Road Crediton Devon EX17 5LH Ref. No: 24/00764/FULL  
[ii] Erection of domestic storage building. Former Timber Storage Yard Laburnum, Morchard Road, Devon Ref. No: 24/00895/FULL  
[iii] Change of Use of forestry barn for timber processing. Land at NGR 275981 103774 North of Water Bridge Cross Morchard Road, Devon. Ref No. 24/01036/FULL  
[iv] Erection of single storey extension to South Elevation and single storey extension to north following demolition of existing conservatory. 2 Ellicombe Cottages, Morchard Road EX17 5LS. Ref No. 24/01111/HOUSE  
No objection was raised to any of these applications.

[15] Joining Gov.uk ; Further research needed

[16] Annual Review of Statutory Documents. : FINANCIAL REGULATIONS, STANDING ORDERS, RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE, COMPLAINTS POLICY, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY, DATA PROTECTION POLICY, ASSET REGISTER. These were available to be checked. The marquee needed to be added to the asset register

The members of the public were thanked for their attendance

[17] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th September  
Future Meetings:, Tuesday 8th October, Tuesday 12th November, Tuesday 10th December

Anthony Martin, Clerk                      7/9/2024

Signed .....

Date .....