

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs T. Pluck, Mrs S. Yarwood, Mrs S. Jones, Mrs S. Corfield, Mrs V. Thomas, Mrs M. Phillips, Mrs J. Milton, Mr R. Thomas, Mr J. Bennett

Apologies: Miss J. Towells

[2024/9/1] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 20th August 2024 which had been circulated were approved and signed.

[2] The newly co-opted councillors signed their declarations of acceptance and introduced themselves

[3] **Public Question Time:** Mrs Pluck asked for an acknowledgement of her letter to the council about the green. Mrs Milton asked about the marquee. Mr Tucker had asked for it to be moved by the Friday. It needed a fork lift to move it.

[4] **Public Conveniences:** There was a need to open discussion with MDDC. It had been suggested that the council asked the village to comment. Mrs Bennett suggested a sub-committee to organise this and liaise with MDDC. It was felt that everyone wanted at least one toilet to be kept open. A decision needed to be taken on the future use of the rest. The Parish Council had not been consulted so far and wanted a say in what happened. Sub-Committee to consist of Mrs Bennett, Mr Austin and Mrs Cridland. Mr. White was a point of contact with MDDC.

[5] **Village Green etc:** Mr Leach had been cutting the grass. He needed to be given a written annual contract. There should be 6 – 8 cuttings per year depending on the weather. The donated oak tree needed to be installed. It needed to be checked for condition. There was a complaint about a car being parked on the green and a letter needed to be sent to the owner. Mr Austin was digging out the drainage ditch. The Council should be paying for the digger [Estimated cost £130]

[6] **Bus Shelter:** The shelter was still in need of maintenance. The plaster was in need of repair. Quotes were to be obtained. The car park was in need of resurfacing and having the gravel replaced. This should be done in the spring. This needed to be costed.

[7] **Roads:** Mrs Squires reported on her visit with the roads officer to Zeal. The road from Down to Zeal was in a bad condition. Some work had been done on Barn Hill but it was not completely satisfactory. She offered to arrange for a meeting with the Parish Council.

There was a continued problem with speeding on the narrow lanes. Mr Austin said he would replace the “20 is plenty” signs. It was agreed to obtain signs in reflective metal.

[8] **Paths and Rights of Way:** It was the owners’ responsibility to keep these clear. DCC had a contact Jonboyd@devon.gov.uk. The Parish Paths Partnership can help in getting the gates replaced.

Signed

Date

10) [9] **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

Cheques issued: None

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

Interest:

July.....£15.49

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/8/2024£11,832.86

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

Stapletons [Accountants] £102.00

DALC [VAT on membership fee] £19.90

MDDC [Public Conveniences]£830.00

M. Leach [Grasscutting June] paid by Mr Austin£352.00

The application for online banking needed to be chased.

[10] **Planning**

[i] 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 | Validated Wed 24 Jul 2024 Status Awaiting decision

[iii] 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 | Validated: Fri 26 Jul 2024 | Status: Awaiting decision

[11] Joining Gov.uk ; It was agreed that this was not necessary.

[12] The Marquee had been purchased in May 2022 for £2389. It was agreed to sell it. Meanwhile, it could be put into storage.

The members of the public were thanked for their attendance

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th October

Future Meetings: Tuesday 12th November, Tuesday 10th December

Signed

Date

ACTION PLAN

Reply to Letter from Mrs Pluck.....Clerk

Public Conveniences. Negotiation to begin with MDDC. Notice to be placed asking for comments.

.....Sub-Committee

Draft contract to be obtained from DALCClerk

Letter to be written to owner of car parked on the GreenClerk

Digging out drainage ditchMr Baker & Mr Austin

Quotes needed for repairs to bus shelter and car park Mr Baker, Mrs Coggins & Mrs Bennett

Potholes can be reported on the DCC Website

Overgrown footpaths should be reported to DCC

Please drive carefully notices to be installedMr Austin

Further contact to be made with NatWest bankClerk

Website to be updated Clerk

Planning: Links must be sent on time.

Councillors must declare their interest if the applicant is a friend or an enemy.

Anthony Martin, Clerk

25/9/2024

Signed

Date