

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 in the Village Hall

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

Apologies: Mr A. White, Miss J. Towells, Mrs. N. Letch, Mrs. M. Squires.

[2024/11/1] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th October 2024 which had been circulated were approved and signed. There was an amendment that the overgrown hedge was on the road to Middle Yeo Farm.

[2] **Public Conveniences:** The Council expressed their dissatisfaction with the response from MDDC. The building was in a poor condition and needed a proper sign. It was necessary for Mrs Letch to find out more about the council's plans. Mr Baker said that a proper response from MDDC was needed. Mrs Bennett said that our council still hope to keep one toilet open. Mr Clark said that DSM had paid the agreed fee until 2022. Since then the block had been advertised for rent in Helmores. Mr Baker said that DSM should offer to make a new payment on condition that one toilet remained open. If the council paid a contribution of perhaps £400, it would be in a position to ask for the repairs. Mrs Bennett said in its present state it was a bad advertisement for the village. Mr Austin said that the bus shelter was also in a mess.

Action point: Clerk to contact Mrs Letch and MDDC. Mr Baker to provide photographs .

A cleaning company was advertising their services and they might provide a quote.

[3] **Village Green:** Mr Austin had paid the digger driver for his work. A car was still being parked on the green at night. No parking signs were still needed. It was important that the junctions were kept clear.

It was agreed that the offer of a free tree should be declined since there was no place to put it. The contract for grasscutting needed to be sorted out with Mr Leach.

Action point: Mr Jones to talk to Mr Leach about the contract.

[4] **Bus Shelter:** Mr Baker was obtaining quotes for the repairs to the shelter. There were gaps between the tiles leading to leaks and the growth of moss. Woodworm needed to be treated. The notice board was in a poor condition. Some of the plaster inside was damp. A specialist builder should be able to tell if there were any grants available.

Signed

Date

[5] **Roads:** Mrs Squires had shown Mr Tucker the state of the rod towards Zeal. Barn Hill had received a temporary repair. This did not seem satisfactory. A pipe was needed to take away water. There was subsidence and structural problems. This meant that the repair was not enough.

Action point: Clerk to prepare a letter to DCC.

[6] **Finance:**

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

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 6/9/2024£11,846.96

Interest:

September.....£14.59

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/10/24£11,861.55

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

Stapletons [Accountants] £102.00

DALC [VAT on membership fee] £19.90

MDDC [Public Conveniences]£830.00

[This request has been put on hold]

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

Fee for Digger [paid by Mr Austin]£230.00

The precept for 2025/6 was discussed. An increase of 4% was suggested. To be formally decided at the next meeting.

Mr Clark had raised a complaint with NatWest about the slow progress of the application for change of signatories. He proposed that the council could approach Lloyds and discuss transferring the accounts. This was agreed.

[7] **Planning :** Erection of single storey rear extension_Barn Close Morchard Road Crediton Devon EX17 Validated 12/11/2024

Details of this application are available on the MDDC website.

Signed

Date

[8] The Marquee needed to be sold. Details to be discussed at the February meeting.

[9] Emergency Planning: There would need to be a list of possible emergencies. The Village Hall could be used as a base. A list of people who could bring blankets etc. would be useful. A co-ordinator would be needed.

Action Point: . Mrs Cridland to bring a list of suggestions on what should be included to the next meeting

[10] Defibrillators: The existing contract expires in 2026. There was a report that the pads had expired. Mr Baker suggested that Mr Sellar should be invited to the next meeting so that his role in checking the defibrillators could be minuted. A deputy should be appointed to fill any gaps. The Council needed to know that the defibrillators were still in working order.

[11] Grit bin. The Salt bin on Union Hill had been replaced.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th December

Future Meetings: List of provisional dates for 2025: Tuesday 14th January, Tuesday 11th February, Tuesday 11th March, Tuesday 8th April, Tuesday 13th May, Tuesday 8th July, Tuesday 9th September, Tuesday 14th October, Tuesday 11th November, Tuesday 9th December

Anthony Martin, Clerk

19/11/2024

Signed

Date