

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 in the Village Hall

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

In attendance were two parishioners

Apologies: Mr A. Baker, Mr A. White

[2024/10/1] The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024 which had been circulated were approved and signed. Mrs Cridland said that a note should be added to say that Mr Tucker had contacted Will Jones and asked for the marquee to be removed by the Friday of the meeting. Will Jones had agreed to remove it using his fork lift truck. Alan Clark agreed to look into storage in Lapford and Crediton, which he did and gave the prices. However Andrew Baker agreed to store the marquee at his premises in the short term but this needs to be discussed at this meeting as to the sale of the marquee.

[2] Public Conveniences: Mrs. Letch congratulated the sub-committee on producing the poster asking for residents’ opinion on the future of the toilet block. The business rates remained the same pending the government’s decision on the future. The block would have to be revalued if there were to be a change of use. This was dependant on finding someone willing to invest. Mr Jones said that if MDDC did wish to rent out part of the block, there would need to be a proper advertising board on the site. Mr Austin pointed out that there was no notice to show which toilet was open. Mrs Bennett said that the building was in a bad condition. Mrs Cridland added that the council were still waiting for MDDC to suggest an appropriate fee.

Action Point: Clerk to write to MDDC & the District Councillors to ask what the council’s intention was and whether it was to be advertised.

[3] Village Green etc: Mr Leach needed to be given a formal letter and a draft contract. The ditch had been dug out and the digger driver needed to be paid.

Action Point: Clerk to devise an appropriate contract. Copy of previous invoices to be circulated. Mr Jones to check on the condition of the oak tree.

Signed

Date

[4] Bus Shelter: The shelter was still in need of maintenance. Mr Baker listed what work needed to be done. The plaster was in need of repair. The right paint needed to be used. Quotes were to be obtained. One quote to resurface the car park at a cost of £550.

Action point: Three quotes to be obtained and checked by Mr Baker.

[5] Roads: Potholes should be reported via the DCC website. New “20 is plenty” are ready to be installed. The possibility of installing LED speed warning signs was discussed. Complaint passed to Mrs Squires about the dangerous Network Rail worksite signage on the A377 near the Knowle turnoff.

Action point: Mr Austin to install the new signs and investigate further road signs to slow motorists down.

[6] Finance:

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

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

Interest: August.....£14.10

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

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

The application for online banking was continuing. The bank was in process of checking identities of signatories.

Action Point: Mr Clark to check on progress and to ask if cheques would be acceptable with one signature. Further advice on internet banking could be sought from Coldridge Parish Council

[7] Planning : Formation of vehicular access and hardstanding for sole use of Thorne Farm Barn. Land at NGR 273922 104854 (Thorne Farm) Down St Mary Devon. Ref No. 24/01362/FULL

Signed

Date

A copy of an objection to the plan was circulated. The council had no comment to make on the plan.

[8] The Marquee had been put into storage at Mr Baker's farm. It did need to be steam cleaned. At present all the parts were folded up in a crate.

[9] Emergency Planning: The parish ought to have an emergency plan. MDDC were devising a template. There would need to be a list of possible emergencies, a list of contacts and potential first aiders and a list of available supplies and equipment. There was a possibility of arranging a first aid course.

Action Point: . Suggestions to be brought to the next meeting

[10] Defibrillators: There had been a complaint that the defibrillator at Morchard Road was not working. These are maintained by Devon Ambulance Service. Patrick Sellar checks them regularly. Miss Towells offered to take on this task if necessary. A training session for villagers needed to be arranged.

[11] Grit bin. The Salt bin on Union Hill had been damaged and required replacing. Mr Jones had reported this to DCC. DCC to complete the job by 5th November.

[12] Overgrown hedge at Middle Yeo. Mr Austin to ask landowner to cut it back.

The members of the public were thanked for their attendance

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th November
Future Meetings: Tuesday 10th December
List of dates for 2025 to be prepared

Anthony Martin, Clerk 15/10/2024

Signed

Date