

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Mr C. Pluck, Mrs T. Pluck

[2024/12/1] Apologies: Mr A. White, Mr W. Jones, Mrs. N. Letch, Mrs. M. Squires.

[2] There were no disclosures

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 12th November 2024 which had been circulated were approved and signed.

Matters Arising: Mr Sellar to be invited to the January meeting to discuss the defibrillators.

[4] **Public Question Time:** Mr & Mrs Pluck explained that they wanted to alter the agreement over access to Middle Down Farm to allow residential access instead of agricultural access. The access road passes over the village green. This would require the agreement of the council. It would be necessary to consult a solicitor. Mr & Mrs Pluck agreed to cover the cost.

Action Point: Mr Austin to look back at the plans from when Mr & Mrs Pluck first applied for access.

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mrs Letch had contacted MDDC but they had not responded. The parish council needed to know what fee the District Council wanted to set. There had been a recent blockage in the toilet but it had been cleared a couple of days after it was reported. The Council agreed to contact some cleaners to clean out the shelter and the defibrillator booth.

Action Point: Letter to be written to Mrs Letch to stimulate a discussion with MDDC on what contribution the Parish Council is expected to make to keep the conveniences open.

[6] **Village Green:** There had been a suggestion that a plastic grid be put on part of the green to enable parking. The council was not in favour of this. A car was still being parked on part of the green, despite a letter from the council. This created a problem when the grass was being cut. The owner needed to recognize that parking would be at their own risk. They could be charged if the cutter had to return.

Signed

Date

Mr Leach had been approached about the grasscutting. He was prepared to perform 8 to 10 cuts per annum. He wished to raise the fee from £100 to £110.

Action Point: The Council would supply him with a map of the areas to be cut. Mrs Bennett and the clerk to find these. A contract needed to be put together. Mr Clark to prepare this. Mr Austin is to investigate the rights of way access for Middle Down Farm and other properties bordering the Green.

[7] **Bus Shelter:** A site meeting would be held with one builder on 11th December.

Action Point: The listed status of the bus shelter was to be investigated.

[8] **Roads:** There had been problems recently with vandals turning some of the road signs round. Noted that the fence at the Morchard Road sign had been moved to include the site of the sign. It was suggested that a petition about the state of the roads should be launched. This could be sent to local broadcasters. The current state of the road is a danger to the school bus and milk tankers. The clerk had prepared a letter to be sent to Devon Highways.

Action Point: Mrs Cridland to contact Mr Jones to find out which company they use for their milk tankers. Mr Clark to check with his contacts at Spotlight and see if they could help in any way. Clerk to contact Devon Highways.

[9] **Finance:**

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

CHEQUES ISSUED:

428 Stapletons [Accountants] £102.00

429 DALC [VAT on membership fee] £19.90

430 Mr M. Austin.....£584.25

This payment is reimbursement for two bills paid earlier this year

M. Leach [Grasscutting June]..... £352.00

Gibbings & Sons [Ditch Clearing]...£232.25

431 Mr M. Leach [Grasscutting July-October]£400.00

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

Interest:

October.....£14.12

Signed

Date

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/11[24£11,875.67

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

MDDC [Public Conveniences]£830.00
[This request has been put on hold]

Information Commissioner [Data Protection]£40.00

The precept for 2025/6 was discussed. An increase of 4% was agreed. This would raise the precept to £4,730.

[10] **Internet banking.** Two of the three signatories had been signed up. The application process will be started by Mr Clark.

[11] Planning: There were no new applications.

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

[13] **Emergency Planning:** Further ideas to be brought to the next meeting.

[14] **Defibrillators:** Discussion to be held at the January meeting. A course in the use of defibrillators and other first aid to be arranged.

Action Point: Mrs Bennett to look into First Aid Training and Mr Austin would invite Mr Sellar to the January meeting.

[15] Report from councillors: Mrs Bennett related a problem with a car being parked blocking access to a resident's gate.

[16] There were no members of the public present to comment.

[17] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th January 2025.

Future Meetings: List of provisional dates for 2025: 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

16/12/2024

Signed

Date