

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mr P. Sellar, Mr S. Edwardes and Mrs D. Edwardes

[2025/1/1] Apologies: Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch, Mrs. M. Squires.

Mrs J. Towells had resigned from the council. A notice of vacancy would be posted.

[2] There were no disclosures.

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 10th December 2024 which had been circulated were approved and signed.

[4] There were no questions from the members of the public.

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mr Edwardes presented his proposal to redevelop the disused part of the toilet block. He would like to open a “Shed and Shop”. This is a community-focused business designed to provide a variety of essential services and products, including a repair workshop and a small honesty shop selling essential items, in addition to keeping the public toilet facility. Opening hours of shop were planned as follows: 08:00 to 20:00. Mr Edwardes would like to learn from other similar projects. Details of the proposal had been forwarded to Cllr Leach at the MDDC and the council awaited their initial response and also whether any grants were available.

Action Point: Mrs Cridland to ask Cllr. Letch about obtaining the key so that Mr Edwards could examine the interior. She agreed to take out the costs of the Business Plan and make slight amendments and send the plan to Cllr Letch, once approved by Mr Edwardes. Mrs Cridland would copy in Mr Edwardes so that he can liaise directly with Cllr Letch. The parish council agreed to support this application.

[6] **Village Green:** Mr Clark had prepared a draft contract for Mr Leach and all agreed on this. The Council was willing to allow parking on the green for weddings and funerals provided no damage to the green was caused. There were still objections to one resident parking their car on part of the green and other complaints about that resident had been received. One letter had been sent by the council already and the council are awaiting a response.

Signed

Date

Action Point: Resident to be asked to respond to the complaints. Clerk to reply to letter received. Mr Austin to investigate rights of way across the green.

[7] **Bus Shelter:** Site meetings had been held with three builders. Quite a bit of work needed to be done. The roof needed repair and it was not known how much the cob had decayed. Quotes were being awaited and could be discussed at the next meeting.

[8] **Roads:** The clerk had prepared a letter to be sent to Devon Highways. Mr Stone had written to Cllr Mrs Squires and received promises that the work would be done.

[9] **Finance:**

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

CHEQUES BANKED:

428 Stapletons [Accountants] £102.00
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

CHEQUES ISSUED BUT NOT YET BANKED:

429 DALC [VAT on membership fee] £19.90

Current Account Balance as at 31/12/2024 £19,975.13

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

Interest:

November£12.74

December£14.07

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/1/2025£11,902.48

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

MDDC [Public Conveniences]£830.00

[This request has been put on hold]

Signed

Date

Information Commissioner [Data Protection]£40.00

The precept for 2025/6 had been set at £4,730. The subscription to DALC would be deducted at source.

[10] **Internet banking.** All the requested details had now been supplied.

[11] **Planning :** No new applications. Mr & Mrs Pluck's application for revised grant of access considered.

Action Point: Solicitors to be contacted for advice by the clerk.

[12] The Marquee needed to be sold. Details to be discussed at the February meeting. A report had been received that Coldridge Village Hall was considering purchasing a marquee.

Action Point: Coldridge Village Hall to be contacted.

[13] **Emergency Planning:** Needed to get templates from MDDC or DALC. Fire was a particular risk with thatched cottages. Village Hall could be a centre for refuge. Need to know where there were generators.

[14] **Defibrillators:** Mr Sellar attended the meeting to explain the system for checking the defibrillators and his role as Guardian. The pads needed to be changed every two years. Mrs Cridland volunteered to act as his deputy. BT pay for electricity for the redundant telephone boxes. Bulb replacement is the council's responsibility. Mr Clark mentioned Seton Signs as a supplier of safety signs including defibrillator signs.

Action Point: Mr Austin to send Mr Sellar Mrs Cridland's email address so he can liaise with regard to Mrs Cridland being the second check person and how to arrange training sessions on the use of defibrillators. South West Ambulance organise training. The cost of the course is £270 plus VAT making £324. Mrs Bennett has organised first aid courses to be held in the Hall with dates. It was agreed this should go ahead with the costs provided.

[15] Report from councillors: Despite the hedge from Woodcarvers to Middle Yeo being cut, it still needed further pruning because it was an obstacle to farm vehicles.

Action Point: Clerk to contact the owner of the hedge.

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

[17] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th February

Signed

Date

Future Meetings: List of provisional dates for 2025: 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

20/1/2025

Signed

Date