

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 in the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mr E. Barnes, Mrs J Barnes and one other

[2025/2/1] Apologies: Mr W. Jones, Mrs. N. Letch

[2] There were no disclosures.

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 14th January 2025 which had been circulated were approved and signed.

[4] Mr & Mrs Barnes brought up the condition of Cockraddle Lane, a local bridle lane which had become muddy and flooded. It was believed it had last been repaired fifty years ago.

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mrs Cridland had amended the proposal and removed the details of the cost. Mr Edwardes had not yet replied as to whether this was acceptable. Mrs Letch had asked about the situation at MDDC. There were issues to be discussed about the block and the car park as well as the rateable value. MDDC were happy to talk to Mr Edwardes. A decision would have to be made about the long-term ownership of the area. Plans may be different with the possible introduction of a unitary authority in 2027. Mr Edwardes had been in contact with Steve Densham.

Action Point: Mrs Letch is taking the lead & is being copied in to the correspondence. Mr White will keep in contact with the parish council.

[6] **Village Green: a)** The Council is willing to allow parking on the edge of the green for special occasions such as weddings and funerals provided that no more than two wheels cover the verge and no damage to the green or flowering plants was caused. The green should only be used at these events if no other space is available within the village. At no time must any vehicle be parked in such a way as to impede the flow of traffic through the village.

b) The possibility of a no-mow May this year was considered but there did not seem to be sufficient demand.

Action Point: Comments from residents on the mowing needed to be sought.

c) There was a need to sort out the legal situation about the application for a change of access for Mr & Mrs Pluck.

Action Point: Clerk to contact the solicitors again if there was no answer to the previous letter.

Signed

Date

d) The area of the green in front of the thatched cottages had no vehicular right of way. It might be necessary to supervise the area when the grass is being cut.

Action Point: Clerk to contact resident if no response to previous letters.

[7] **Bus Shelter:** Two quotes had been received ranging between £15,000 and £20,000. Mrs Squires would investigate if there were any grants available for bus shelters.

[8] **Roads:** The council felt that the repairs were not being sealed. The contractors needed to be held accountable. It seemed that taxpayers' money was being wasted. Mrs Cridland had not received any comments from Gregory's with regards to their milk tankers having any issues about driving to the farms.

[9] **Finance:**

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

PAYMENTS MADE:

429 DALC [VAT on membership fee] £19.90

0052 Online. Core Clean£130.00

CHEQUES ISSUED BUT NOT BANKED

432 Information Commissioner [Data Protection]£40.00

Current Account Balance as at 31/1/2025£19,825.23

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]

Down St Mary Village Hall [Rent]£135.00

There was an additional payment due to Mr Austin for Land Registry searches.

[10] **Internet banking.** This was now running.

Signed

Date

[11] **Planning** : 25/00086/HOUSE Erection of 2 greenhouses, Bramble Cottage Down St Mary EX17
6DU: No objections were raised.

[12] The Marquee needed to be sold. Details of the marquee had been sent to Coldridge Village Hall.
A price of £1000 was suggested.

Action Point: Coldridge Village Hall to be contacted again.

[13] **Emergency Planning**: Needed to get templates from MDDC or DALC. Lapford had completed a
plan but it was dated 2012. MDDC had started a Community Risk Register.

Action Point: Mrs Cridland was willing to compile a list of risks and Mr White suggested she email
him and he will see if MDDC has a template for Emergency Planning.

[14] **Defibrillators**: Mr Sellar had not yet contacted Mrs Cridland.

Action Point: Mrs Cridland to proceed to organise the training.

[15] Report from councillors: The What's App Group for residents had been started. Mr White gave
information about the Area Crime Map. Mr Clark explained the change of name from the Tarka Line
to the North Devon Line and the start of the North Devon Line Rail Promotion Group replacing the
Tarka Rail Association. They are seeking membership from council organisations along the line and
are willing to give presentations to councils on their aspirations for a better service on the line and a
possible service extension to Bideford. David Northey was willing to attend a meeting. The Group
was hoping for feedback. A four carriage train was now being used on the line.

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

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

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

Anthony Martin, Clerk

19/2/2025

Signed

Date