

**Morebath Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall, Morebath on**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Jeffrey Andrew (Chairman)  
Cllr Bob Hatton Cllr Peggy Reed (\*)  
Cllr Brian Smeeton Cllr John Wescott (\*)

**Also present:** Cllr Polly Colthorpe (County & District Council Representative), Cllr Andrew Moore (District Council Representative), Karen Ward (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Conway, Cllr Adams
2. **Declarations of interest:** None declared
3. **Dispensation to councillors:** None requested

4. **Open Forum:** No items put forward.

5. **Minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting and that the Chairman should sign them.

**Actions outstanding:** Clerk to contact the Police in order to receive regular updates.

6. **Report from the County Councillor**

Cllr Colthorpe said the County is still working towards meeting a £24m deficit with its 2017/18 budget with consultations and Scrutiny currently taking place, and difficult decisions are likely. Carlton Lodge in Tiverton is to be redeveloped to provide services for special needs children. There is to be a drop-in event to discuss psychiatric intensive care at Wonford. The 2016 Tour of Britain cycling event is estimated to have had 250,000 spectators on the road and generated over £4m additional revenue for the county.

7. **Report from the District Councillor**

Cllr Moore stated that the district council is also finalising its 2017/18 budget and is confident that current deficit of £250,000 will be addressed. Longer term goals are bidding for external funding and generating more income. The Local Plan has been approved and is currently out to consultation, details on the MDCC website. Staff have been recruited to the Planning Enforcement Team so they will now be taking a more proactive approach. A "garden village" on land east of Cullompton has been approved by the Government.

8. **Improvements to centre of Morebath and Village Noticeboard:**

Cllr Andrew reported he has spoken to the Rothwell family regarding the small piece of land next to the Village Hall which they own. The Rothwells are agreeable to landscape improvements to the site subject to seeing plans first. Cllr Andrew also reported that Cllr Conway had reviewed the site and noted there is a water pipe running through (not expected to cause problems), the old phone box concrete base, 3 small pillars and a gritting bin. It was noted that the Council previously considered making the area into a memorial garden and that £293 is in the Council's reserves earmarked for the site. There was a general discussion on the types of improvement, level of indicative budget to set for any works, whether safety barriers needed to be factored in, and whether the Village Hall might also consider planters to the front of the building. The Council also considered initial options for the broken noticeboard including type of material, size and possible location. Cllr Colthorpe suggested there are funds within her Locality Budget which may be available. It was **AGREED**:

- a) the Council does not wish to take ownership of the Rothwell land.
- b) A provisional budget of £500, including the £293 already set aside, will be set for the improvements subject to further approval once plans have been considered
- c) the preferred site of the noticeboard is by the post box.

#### **Actions:**

- contact the Village Hall Committee to ask there if interest in a joint improvement scheme (Clr Andrew)
- provide a brief to the Planting Committee to consider options for the site within the provisional budget set, including consulting local residents on any proposals, and report back at the next meeting (Cllr Andrew).
- investigate further a freestanding, 2 panel (one closed, one open), aluminium frame with "Morebath Parish Noticeboard" header replacement noticeboard. Detailed designs and costings to be reported back at the next meeting (Clerk).
- submit a grant application to the Locality Fund, once a plan has been developed (Clerk).

#### **9. Transparency Code**

It was **NOTED** that £82.70 has been awarded to the Council to assist in becoming compliant with the Code by 31 March 2017.

#### **10. Communication Working Group**

Cllr Hatton reported back on the work of the Group noting that the Transparency Code compliance work is in hand, the website has been reorganised but further work needed on content, a replacement noticeboard has discussed elsewhere on the agenda, and there is support for an "open house" style of Parish Meeting. There was a discussion between the merits of including a Council update within Signpost or having a separate single sheet insert.

**Actions:** Investigate whether the publishing dates of Signpost align with Council meetings, and the costs of producing a separate 1 sheet insert (Cllr Hatton). Provide a 1 side of A4 truncated version of the minutes (Clerk).

#### **11. Traffic calming**

Cllr Hatton reported back on correspondence with the DCC Road Safety Officer regarding parish concerns about traffic hazards. A number of options were put to DCC, but their response was to consider the following options only:

- Morebath speeding - may consider rumble strips but this will be subject to public consultation due to additional noise, creating pinch points may also be possible but costs may be restrictive, removal of centre white line will only be feasible as part of resurfacing or redressing works.
- Exebridge junction – DCC state traffic accident statistics do not warrant this junction being considered "dangerous" however they may review signage. It was noted there is a tree which obscures some views of the junction and the Council may consider writing to the owner to ask them to cut it back.
- Lodfin/Bonny Cross junction – DCC may consider improvements to signage.

**Actions:** Request further information on public consultation, costings and timescales from DCC (Cllr Hatton).

#### **12. Footpaths ongoing work and proposals**

Cllr Hatton reported that a review of footpaths is in progress. He has also made contact with the DCC Footpath Officer and now has a list of works the DCC will undertake. This will be reviewed and any further improvements that the Council wishes to make will be included in a bid to the 3P Fund. A footpath map has also been drafted.

#### **13. Flood Resilience**

Cllr Andrew referred to the correspondence with Brushford Parish Council noting they have secured funding for their sand bags project in Exebridge and that all residents can make use of their sandbags. While they are not currently requesting financial support from Morebath PC, they may make a future request if/when the sandbags need replacing.

Cllr Andrew also reported back from a meeting held with Mid Devon District Council where they confirmed that flood defence grants of up to £5000 are available for eligible residents. It was noted that they are only granted where homes have had water ingress. Cllr Smeeton added that where residents had difficulty getting surveys or quotes, there is a government backed insurance scheme for flood risk homes.

**Action:** Write to relevant households informing them they may be eligible for flood defence grants, and providing contact details, and include details on the website (Clerk).

**14. Environmental update**

- a) It was **AGREED** that Mid Devon DC will carrying out 5 rounds of grass cutting in 2017 on the same areas and at the same price as 2016 and additional cuts to be charged upon request.  
**Action:** Contact MDDC to ask when the cuts are to take place, in particular will there be a cut in March. (Clerk)
- b) Devon County Council Community Enhancement Scheme: No bid for funding to be submitted.

**15. Planning**

The following items were **NOTED:**

- Local Plan Proposed Submission currently out to consultation
- 16/01174 Oakmore Farm retention of temporary agricultural worker’s caravan – permission granted
- 16/01786 Velthams vehicular access (29/11) – “no response” submitted

**16. Finance 2016/17**

The Clerk reported the bank balance before the meeting was £17823.11.

The following payments (previously approved works) were **AGREED:**

- Cove Nursery bulbs, planter, weed killer £75.20 + VAT (fund from Env reserve)
- Steve Kelland grass cutting £60 +VAT (fund from grass cutting)

The following payments were **APPROVED:**

- i. K Ward, Clerk £154.80 (to fund from wages) and £21.10 expenses (to fund from admin)
- ii. HMRC £26.80 (to fund from wages)
- iii. DALC for clerk training £25 + VAT (to fund from training)
- iv. Adams and Ellicott Ltd for repair of gate posts and fencing £157.00 + VAT (to fund from P3 reserve)

**17. Budget 2017/18**

- a) The Council **APPROVED** a precept of £6093 for 2017/18, so there will be no increase in the parish element of the Council Tax over 2016/17.
- b) The Budget for 2017/18 was approved as presented.

**18. Urgent items to note only - none**

**19. Date of Next Meeting**

- a) Parish Council Meeting Tuesday **14th March 2017** at 7:30pm
- b) Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7pm
- c) Annual General Meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm

Meeting closed 9.30pm

Signed as a true record:

..... Cllr Jeff Andrew (Chairman) Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017

(\*) Bank Mandate Signature