

Morebath Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall, Morebath on
Tuesday 14^h March 2017 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Jeffrey Andrew (Chairman)
Cllr Bob Hatton Cllr Peggy Reed (*) Cllr Tony Conway (*)
Cllr John Wescott (*)

Also present: Cllr Ray Stanley (District Council Representative), Karen Ward (Clerk), Co-option candidates John Briden and Sue Shaw, Patrick Hyde from Morebath Cricket Club, 1 member of the public

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Adams, Cllr Polly Colthorpe (Devon County Council)
2. **Declarations of interest:** None declared
3. **Dispensation to councillors:** None requested
4. **Vacancy on Morebath Parish Council:** Result of the vote on co-option onto the council:
J Briden - 3 votes
S Shaw – 2 votes
Abstain – none
John Briden was duly elected as councillor, signed the acceptance of office form and joined the council.
Cllr Andrew thanked Ms Shaw for her interest.
5. **Minutes of the meetings held on 10th January 2017**
 - a. **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record, and signed as correct.
 - b. Matters arising not on the agenda:
 - Police contact: The Clerk reported the contact for Morebath was PCSO Paul Goodier and that there were no crimes reported in the parish in the last 2 months.
 - Flood resilience in Exebridge: The Clerk reported that letters had been sent to residents potentially affected by flooding making them aware of grants available from MDDC. It is understood 3 residents had contacted MDDC to enquire further.
6. **Open Forum:** Litter picking will take place on 25 March, volunteers to meet at 9.30 at the Village Hall.
7. **Report from the District Councillor**

Cllr Stanley reported that a new Operations Director has started. MDDC has set a balanced budget for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and has a 4 year settlement notification from the Government. The Premier Inn development is expected to start in the summer. The Government has allowed MDDC to set up a company for development of private housing to earn income for the council. From April there will be a dedicated litter picking service but not in 30mph areas. Parishes are encouraged to deal with litter in 30mph zones. The Council is putting power points for electric car in the main towns.
8. **Cricket Club**

Mr Hyde thanked the council for their donation last year. He stated that the club wanted to put up road signs and DCC had agreed. Cllr Andrew stated the parish council had previously discussed the matter and similarly had no objections to the signage. Mr Hyde explained the club is looking to bid up to £20k from Viridor for fencing and toilet improvements and the council **AGREED** it would send a letter of support. The council also **AGREED** to put club events on the parish website when notified.
Action: Clerk to prepare letter of support for the cricket club grant application.
9. **Improvements to centre of Morebath and Village Noticeboard:**
 - a. Locality Fund bid: the Clerk reported a bid for £2000 had been submitted but there was no news on progress yet.

- b. Improvements to the village center: Cllr Andrew gave an overview of the meeting held with the Village Hall which resulted in a draft plan for planting and improvements to the area (details included in agenda). It was noted that there were mixed views in the village on whether any improvements should go ahead. It was therefore proposed and **AGREED** that the item be deferred until the next meeting once the outcome of the Locality Fund bid was known.
- c. Replacement noticeboard: The clerk outlined the quotes received (details included in the agenda) and recommended accepting the quote from the Parish Notice Board Co. Cllr Wescott queried whether purchasing the noticeboard in advance of a decision on Locality Funding would render it ineligible for funding. It was **AGREED**:
- The council should replace the noticeboard with a 2 panel, freestanding noticeboard to be located next to the post box by the village hall
 - That the quote from Parish Notice Board Co of £875.00 plus £50.00 delivery (excl VAT) be accepted, but that no order to be placed until the outcome of the Locality Fund bid is known.
 - That a budget of £95.00 be accepted for installing the noticeboard locally.
 - Should the Locality Fund bid be unsuccessful, then the new noticeboard will be funded from the Amenity Reserve.

Action: Clerk to chase progress on Locality Fund bid, and subject to the outcome, place the order for the replacement noticeboard.

10. Communication Working Group

Cllr Hatton had investigated inclusion of a truncated version of the minutes in a template in Signpost magazine but was advised that the editors preferred plain text. It was also noted that publication deadlines after each council meeting were sometimes extremely tight. Cllr Hatton also looked into a separate 1 page insert into the magazine estimating it would cost approx. 10p per copy and rely on a volunteer to insert and deliver Signpost. Cllr Conway noted that not all residents receive Signpost.

After some discussion it was **AGREED** the Chairman should produce an update following each meeting and this would be submitted to Signpost for inclusion in the next published magazine. A copy will also be included on the parish website.

Action: Cllr Andrew to prepare a parish update for the April edition of Signpost.

11. Traffic calming

Cllr Hatton reported back on ongoing correspondence with the DCC Road Safety Officer:

- DCC have agreed to do a signage assessment on HGVs, the entrance to Morebath and around Exebridge
- DCC have said that there are no plans to resurface the road in Morebath so if the council wants the centre white line removed it would have to pay for it. It would first require a local review costing approx. £1000, and then DCC state that the damage caused by removal of the white line would require the road to be resurfaced at considerable expense.
- DCC state the traffic flow in Morebath does not qualify for rumble strips.
- DCC do not agree the Exebridge junction is dangerous but have agreed to look at signage from the Tiverton direction. It was noted overgrown bushes are impeding visibility and Cllr Hatton is pushing DCC to take action with the owner.

Cllr Andrew said that Dulverton Town Council had also been in contact asking for support for signage to divert HGVs around the town.

It was **AGREED** that the signage review should take place and that removal of the centre white line in Morebath should be investigated further, in particular if it can be done without resurfacing the road.

Action: Cllr Hatton to contact DCC to get a timescale on the signage review and contact a contractor direct for an estimate of the works and costs required to remove a centre white line and report back to council.

12. Footpaths

Cllr Hatton had met with the DCC Footpaths Officer but had yet to get a list of works DCC will carry out. The Exebridge and Church path walks are now maintained, and it was noted Footpath 1 (Watchet Cross) has a new signpost and gate.

Cllr Hatton reported there is an underspend on the grant received in 2016/17 of approx. £750 mainly because works to Port Lane footpath were carried out by DCC rather than the council. A bid to use the underspend in 2017/18 is being made for:

- Tree works and ongoing clearance of nettles etc. on Footpath 1
- Making good the eroded banks on the Keen Barton to Loyton path by the bridge
- Maintaining the church path

Cllr Hatton will also contact Cllr Adams regarding any works required around the commemorative trees. It was **AGREED** that the council purchase clearance equipment of up to £20.

13. Environmental update

a. MDDC grass cutting: The Clerk reported on the suggested cuts from MDDC. Cllr Andrew queried why only five cuts were suggested when there should be seven. It was agreed there should be one cut each month from March to September.

Action: Clerk to contact MDDC regarding number and timing of cuts.

b. S Kelland work programme: The Clerk reported Mr Kelland could carry out the same works as last year at a cost of £16.00ph. This was **APPROVED** by the council.

Action: Clerk to contact Mr Kelland.

c. Salt store in the car park: Cllr Conway expressed concern the bags containing the salt were deteriorating and needed dealing with before damage was caused to the car park surface. It felt the council should make arrangements to remove the salt and Cllr Conway will speak to Cllr Adams regarding the matter for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Briden to contact DCC to see what arrangements they have in place to remove salt.

14. Planning

The following items were **NOTED**:

- 16/01739 Land and Buildings north of Brockhole Cottage, Timewell Hill erection of an extension to existing agricultural livestock building – not permitted
- 16/01786 Velthams vehicular access – permitted with conditions
- 17/00109 Hukley Hill Farm, Bampton - Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of a building as a residential dwelling and associated use of land as residential garden and parking area for a period in excess of 4 years – “no comments” submitted, permission now granted
- 17/00091 Timewell House, Morebath - Alterations to include repair of existing outbuildings, erection of a haystore, and re-profiling of garden – “no comments” submitted
- 17/00092/ Timewell House, Morebath - Listed Building Consent for alterations to include demolition of a wall, repair of existing outbuildings, erection of a haystore, and re-profiling of garden - “no comments” submitted

Cllr Wescott also reported a shed removal at Eastwood Farm, Shillingford (see minutes 8 November 2016).

Action: Clerk to forward MDDC consultation on Enforcement Plans to Cllr Wescott.

15. Finance

a. The Clerk reported the bank balance before the meeting was £17489.30, and that the expected bank balance at the end of the year would be £16863. There is an estimated underspend for 2016/17 of approx. £1300, to be confirmed at the next meeting.

b. The following payments were **APPROVED** from 2016/17:

- K Ward – wages and expenses £233.69 (incl transparency code work)
- HMRC - £54.80
- WC Dart - £198.00 car park grass cutting
- Cove Garden Nursery - £177.88 (£151.05 + VAT) for Bridge Area planting

c. Payment **APPROVED** from the 2017/18 budget:

- DALC membership £75.80 (£65.81 + VAT)

d. It was **AGREED** that, subject to final outturn the underspend for 2016/17 should be allocated to the car park reserve £500, and environment reserve (£800, or the remaining balance on the underspend).

e. The council **APPROVED** the appointment of A. Marshall as internal auditor.

16. Transparency Code

The Clerk reported that most of the information required to be published is now on the website, but that assets information is still be investigated. The clerk reported that DALC are advising council to make a further grant application so each council could have its own dedicated laptop and scanner. It was **AGREED** to make a grant application, but not to purchase any equipment without further discussion and approval from the council.

17. Items to note only

- Supporting email sent to Riverside Hall for their TAP funding bid
- Supporting email sent to Dulverton Town Council for clearer road signage for HGVs

18. Date of Next Meeting

- Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 9th May 7pm
- Annual General Meeting Tuesday 9th May 7.30 pm

Meeting closed 9.10pm

Signed as a true record:

..... (Chairman)

Dated: 9th May 2017

(* Bank Mandate Signature