

## DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in the Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Mrs T. Pluck

[2025/4/1] Apologies: Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch, Mrs D. Cridland.

The Chairman reported the death of Mr F. Letch, Chairman of MDDC and husband of Mrs N. Letch. The Council expressed their sympathies.

[2] There were no disclosures.

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 which had been circulated were approved and signed.

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

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mrs Cridland had not had any response from Mr Edwardes or Mr Densham. Discussions were continuing at MDDC.

[6] **Village Green: a)** Mr Leach had signed an amended contract. The first cut had been successful. The number of cuts would be variable.

Action Point: Clerk to notify Miss West that the weeds and overhanging branches would be cut back.

**b)** The application for access from Mr & Mrs Pluck was discussed The Council agreed that they would need to get planning permission from MDDC since there was a clause in the original approval that they had been granted stating that access would be onto the road to Bow. There was an objection that the gates to the Green being left open might lead to noise problems There was also a possibility of cars being parked on the Green. The Council decided to make no final decision until planning permission was being sought. Advice would be needed from planning, highways and environmental services.

[7] **Bus Shelter:** Work was prepared to start in October provided proper insurance cover was in place. Quotations for a wooden notice board were being sought.

Action Point: Application for a grant to be submitted.

[8] **Roads:** The road from Down St Mary to Zeal Monachorum had been repaired and seemed satisfactory. Barn Hill was beginning to sink in the middle.

Signed .....

Date .....

If the roads were repaired properly, it would help the carbon footprint. Barn Hill needed to have proper drainage. It was suspected that there was a problem with the drainage from the septic tank at Waterbridge Golf Course.

More signs were needed stating "Twenty is Plenty" as the existing signs were faded or damaged.

Action Point: Mr Austin to buy new signs online.

**[9] Finance:**

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

**RECEIPTS**

Sharland Farm .....£2,044.11

**PAYMENTS MADE:**

432 Information Commissioner [Data Protection] .....£40.00

434 M. Austin [Land Registry Fees] .....£29.80

**CHEQUE ISSUE BUT NOT YET CASHED**

433 Down St Mary Village Hall [Rent] .....£135.00

Current Account Balance as at 1/4/2025 .....£21,799.54

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 7/2/2025.....£11,915.90

Interest: February .....£11.43

March .....£12.66

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/4/2025 .....£11,939.99

**REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:**

MDDC [Public Conveniences] .....£830.00

[This request has been put on hold]

A.Martin [Clerk's Salary].....£ 500.00

There would be bills for the use of the hall for defibrillator training and a subscription to the Tarka Line Users' Group. An appeal from Hospicecare could be satisfied by a collection on VE Day.

10] **Planning** : No new applications.

[11] Marquee: it had been agreed to sell the marquee for £800 to Lindfield Day Opportunity.

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Signed .....

Date .....

[12] Emergency Planning: Mrs Cridland & Mrs Bennett had registered for a teaching session at Kentisbeare on 20th May. Council agreed to pay mileage.

[13] Defibrillators: The Hall had been booked for training on 7th June. This would be advertised with fliers and on social media

[14] Grants for Open Spaces and Play Areas: An application would be made by Mr Clark. MDDC to be asked if there is any Section 106 money available

[15] Reports from councillors: Mr Clark had attended a meeting on Zoom about local government reorganisation. The position of parish councils was established by legislation but further powers might be devolved to them. Government plans were for three unitary councils in Devon. Mrs Bennet hoped to arrange a first aid course in September.

Mrs Squires was thanked for her long service on DCC and MDDC.

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

[17] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th May [AGM and Annual Parish Meeting]

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

Anthony Martin, Clerk

16/4/2025

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Signed .....

Date .....