

## DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in the Village Hall

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

[2025/5/1] Apologies: Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch, Mr W. Jones,.

[2] Mr Baker disclosed an interest in a planning application

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 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. She explained the current situation. Mr Keable agreed to investigate grant funding and to talk to Mr Densham. A donation had been received from Rev. R. Barrett thanking the council for the facility.

[6] **Village Green:** The Green was now being cut regularly with a contract in place. Mr Leach had not yet tackled cutting back the brambles. There was a concern about dogs fouling the green. This was a health problem and caused difficulty for the strimmer. Dogs should always be attended.

[6a] **Report from Steve Keable:** Mr Keable reported on the new Devon County Council. Priorities included : Problems with how potholes were fixed, pavements and road degradation, children's services, recycling and the green enterprise grant. There was the problem of housing rent calculation. A major issue was the plan for local government reorganisation. There would be a report on the State of the District on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

[7] **Bus Shelter:** Mr Austin would check that all was on course.

[8] **Roads:** Barn Hill was constantly under water. The number of vehicles was increasing. It was wondered if there was a leak from the golf course plumbing.

Action Point: Environmental Health to be asked to check on the septic tank. Mr Austin to continue investigating "Twenty is Plenty" signs

[9] **Finance:**

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

### RECEIPTS

MDDC [Precept]excluding payment to DALC.....£4,568.99

Signed .....

Date .....

PAYMENTS MADE:

433 Down St Mary Village Hall [Rent] .....£135.00  
435 Tarka Line Users' Group .....£15.00

CHEQUE ISSUED BUT NOT YET CASHED

436 A.V. Martin .....£500.00

Current Account Balance as at 1/5/2025 .....£26,218.53

.....

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

Interest:

April .....£11.97

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/4/2025 .....£11,951.96

\*\*\*\*\*

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

MDDC [Public Conveniences] .....£830.00  
[This request has been put on hold]

Down St Mary Village Hall .....Paid by BACS 12/5/25.....£22.50  
M. Leach [Grasscutting]..... Paid by BACS 12/5/2025 .....£220.00  
Community First [Insurance] .....£189.40  
Stapletons [Accountant] .....£108.00

Action point: Letter to be written to Sharland Farm thanking them for their contribution and explaining the use made of it. Other suggestions for expenditure included Plant tubs and Maintenance of the trees. Parishioners to be asked for any new ideas.

[10] **Planning** : 1: 25/00617 Longmeadow Barn.

The Council expressed concerns about this application.

Any increased residential access by the track to the gates would mean that more cars would be crossing the green and possibly parking there. If the gates from the Barn onto the green were to be left open when the owners or their successors were holding an outdoor event, there would be a risk of noise pollution onto the Green and the event would be visible from

Signed .....

Date .....

the green. Privacy for the inhabitants of the barn and their neighbours requires to be maintained.

There appears to be no compelling reason why this application should be accepted since there is another entrance to the site as approved in 2004 and any change would involve the parish council agreeing to a new deed.

The parish council would like any permission if granted to include the following Conditions:

1. That there would be no parking on the access road to both properties
2. That the gates to Longmeadow Barn would remain closed
3. That the access road to both properties would be reduced to the width of one car

No final decision on the planning proposal could be made unless the concerns listed could be answered. Without a decision, the parish council would be unable to sign a revised deed granting residential access to the Barn across the Village Green which remains the property of the Parish Council.

2. Bramble House. [Mr Baker left the meeting] This building was single storey and not visible from the road. Nesting boxes were to be provided. The Council had no objections.

[11] Emergency Planning: Mrs Cridland & Mrs Bennett had registered for a teaching session at Kentisbeare on 20th May. Council agreed to pay mileage. The problem of power outages and the need for a generator was discussed.

[12] Defibrillators: The Hall had been booked for training on 7th June. Applications to attend were already being received.

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

[14] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th July,

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

Anthony Martin, Clerk

29/5/2025

.....

Signed .....

Date .....