

## DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr A. Clark, Mrs J Bennett, Mr W. Jones, Mr M. Austin, Mrs D. Cridland, Mr A. White, Mrs. N. Letch. Mr S. Keable and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

In attendance: Mr D. Cox

[2025/9/1] Apologies: Mr A. Baker

[2] There were no disclosures of interest

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 which had been circulated were approved and signed.

[4] **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None

[5] **Council Vacancy:** Application had been received from Mr D. Cox. This was accepted and agreed by all present.

[6] **Public Conveniences:** The new signs had been erected and visitors were now able to see which toilet was open. Mr Keable was waiting for a reply from Steve Densham. He had been asked for him to attend a meeting of the Council. He was still hoping for someone to come up with a business plan. MDDC needed to come up with a new figure for payments and show what they expected from the Council.

It was thought that probably only one toilet is needed. The others were used for storage and had deteriorated.

[7] **Village Green:** Mr Clark had spoken to Mr Leach. He had costed out the work needed to clear the overgrown area at £250. It would be necessary to check if he can dispose of the rubbish. Mr Jones was willing to burn it.

[8] **Bus Shelter:** Work was planned for October. The grant application had been accepted.

[9] **Roads:** Mr Baker had been approved as a Road Warden. Mr Austin and Mr Jones had volunteered to help him. All the local roads were in a bad condition. The verges were flooding and there was further flooding in the car tracks. The problem starts with the drains which are not being maintained. It was pointed out that utilities are not putting the roads back properly after digging them up.

Signed .....

Date .....

DCC had started a pilot project to fix potholes properly and monitor them. The contract for fixing potholes was being called in.

It was commented that the roads were so bad that people were changing up to 4x4 vehicles which damaged the roads further.

[10] **Finance:**

Current Account Balance as at 30/5/2025 .....£25,476.03

RECEIPTS

Rev. R. Barrett [Donation].....£50.00

Lindfield Day Opportunities [Sale of Marquee] .....£800.00

PAYMENTS MADE

Community First [Insurance] .....£189.40

SSP Direct [Twenty is Plenty Signs].....£404.70

Stapletons [Accountant] .....£108.00

Mr M. Leach [Grasscutting June] .....£220.00

Mrs D. Cridland [Travel Expenses] .....£43.20

Mr M. Leach [Maintenance of Green] .....£50.00

Current Account Balance as at 1/9/2025 ..... £25,310.73

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr M. Leach [Grasscutting July] ..... £220.00

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

[This request has been put on hold]

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 30/5/2025.....£11,962.77

Interest:

June .....£11.18

July .....£10.94

August .....£10.00

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Signed .....

Date .....

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/9/2025 .....£11,994.89

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[11] **Planning :**

1; Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission 22/01490/ARM (Reserved Matters for the erection of four dwellings with associated garaging and parking following demolition of existing buildings following outline approval 19/01461/OUT) to allow substitute plans relating to change of house design Land and Buildings at NGR 274927 105148 Morchard Road Devon Ref. No: 25/00650/ARM

The Council were still concerned about the drainage from the four houses.

2; 25/01069/CAT Notification of intention to pollard 1 Turkey Oak tree within the Conservation Area, The Old Rectory Down St Mary Crediton Devon EX17 6EA

The Council had no comments to make.

[12] **Emergency Planning:** Mrs Cridland gave a big thank you to Mrs Bennett who had discovered more information about emergency planning. It was agreed that the village hall should act as a hub. It would be necessary to establish a village team to co-ordinate responses. Mrs Cridland was happy to lead and Mrs Bennett and Mr Austin volunteered to be her deputies. Mr Cox could act at Morchard Road. It could be arranged for the co-ordinator or her deputy to have a key to the Village Hall. It should be checked if there was a grant towards food, drink and blankets in case of snow. List of first aiders to be compiled.

[13] **Defibrillators:** No comments. **First Aid Training:** Before the course could be booked it was necessary to compile a list of attendees because of the cost involved.

[14] **Road Warden Scheme:** Mr Keable said that defective road markings could be reported on the council website.

[15] **Survey of Ideas:** Two ideas had been accepted; i] Flowers and table for the Green. There was one volunteer to do the watering. ii] Repair of the signposts.

It was pointed out that the fruit trees needed looking at. One was broken but still growing. They did need spraying.

Signed .....

Date .....

[16] **Grants:** MDDC were not willing to give a grant towards a bench because it would not be specifically for parishioners. It might be worthwhile to apply for the planters and picnic tables.

[17] **Reports from councillors**

Visibility is bad by the crossroads especially coming up Yeo Road past the old forge. There had been a request for a mirror. A road bump was also suggested.

The possibility of a generic e-mail needed to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr Clark was looking into the possibilities.

It was suggested that there should be a CCTV survey to check the drainage at Morchard Road. The pipes needed jetting.

[18] Annual Review of Statutory Documents. It was suggested that they should be compared with the standards set by DALC

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

[20] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th October

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

Anthony Martin

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Signed .....

Date .....