

## DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr A. Clark, Mr W. Jones, Mr M. Austin, Mr A. Baker, Mr D. Cox, Mrs. N. Letch. Mr S. Keable and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

In attendance: Mr S. Densham

[2025/10/1] Apologies: Mrs J Bennett, Mrs D. Cridland, Mr A. White,

[2] There were no disclosures of interest

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 which had been circulated were approved and signed.

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

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mr. Densham explained the running costs of the toilets including cleaning and electricity. The total was £3963 plus cleaning costs of £2811. The Parish Council had been exempted from the business rate for two years. The rate was assessed on the toilets together with the car park. Application was being made for a reassessment. Mr Austin pointed out that the car park was not income generating. Mr Jones said that the toilets were not being kept clean and there were holes in the roof. Maintenance was currently poor. Two-thirds remained boarded up. It might be possible to get a new cleaner depending on the date of the current contract..

Mr Densham explained that the toilets could be transferred to the Parish Council. There were precedents for this being done for a peppercorn rent with a covenant that the toilets remained open. Such a change would have to be completed before the council reorganisation. Mr Baker said that the basic repairs should be completed by MDDC. It was suggested that Morchard Bishop PC might pay a share of the costs. A grant might be available for the restoration.

[6] **Village Green:** Mr Leach was preparing to cut the area in front of Windwhistle Cottage in the near future. New water pipes were being installed across the orchard.

[7] **Bus Shelter:** The refurbishment had been postponed until March 2026.

Signed .....

Date .....

[8] **Roads:** Mr Baker would be taking the training for the Road Warden Scheme. The duties included dealing with potholes, cleaning signs and cutting verges. There was a shortage of volunteers. An appeal for more volunteers would be posted.

Care Clean had done a good job cleaning the signs and the bus shelter. It was suggested that a shovel should be purchased for spreading the grit from the bins.

[9] **Finance:**

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

RECEIPTS

None

PAYMENTS MADE

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

Current Account Balance as at 1/10/2025 .....£25,090.73

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

Interest:

September .....£11.04

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 1/10/2025.....£12,005.93

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

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

[This request has been put on hold]

[10] **Planning:**

**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 Ref No. 25/00650/ARM

The Council were still concerned about the drainage. Network Rail has submitted an objection. There were problems over the footpath.

Signed .....

Date .....

[11] **Emergency Planning:** No comments

[12] **Defibrillators:** No comments

[13] **Reports from councillors:**

South West Water were not good at dealing with leaks. The pressure was very low.

Mr Keable suggested an Action Day which would be publicised two months in advance.

The road sign in the hedge on the way to Morchard Bishop needed straightening. The hedges round it had been cut back.

There was a comment that the pub sign obstructed the view from tractors.

Gov.uk domains: Two quotes had been received. The cost was £192 per year. It might be best to get this sorted before it becomes mandatory.

Work had been done on the pipes at Morchard Road. They had been jetted but there were still roots blocking the pipes. The firm needed to come back with a proper root cutter. There was a scheme to dig the area up and refresh the pipes.

[14] There were no members of the public to comment

[15] Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Future Meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

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Signed .....

Date .....