

DOWN ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr A. Clark, Mr W. Jones, Mr A. Baker, Mr D. Cox, Mrs D. Cridland, Mr A. White, Mr S. Keable and Mr A. Martin [Clerk]

[2025/11/1] Apologies: Mrs J Bennett, Mr M. Austin, Mrs. N. Letch.

[2] There were no disclosures of interest

[3] The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 14th October 2025 which had been circulated were approved and signed. Since the meeting, South West Water had fitted loggers to the water pipes at Morchard Road to monitor the water pressure. They were actively looking for any leaks in the area.

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

[5] **Public Conveniences:** Mr White reported that the Business Rates were expected to be removed or exempted. There had been no response from Mr Densham for the questions that had been asked at the last meeting. He had initiated a reassessment. Mr Clark said that Morchard Bishop Parish Council should be asked if they wanted to assist in the purchase of the conveniences. Mr Baker said that the precept could be increased to pay for the toilets. MDDC should be responsible for having the repairs done and should clear the storage areas before arranging a handover. It was suggested that a site visit should be arranged provided there was access to the locked areas. Photographs and a report could be presented to a future meeting. Mr Cox pointed out that the facility was used regularly by employees of DCC and various utilities.

The Council agreed to move forward with the transfer of the toilets and the car park. Insurance would need to be arranged.

[6] **Village Green:** The fruit trees needed to be pruned and treated. Mrs Cridland would contact Tom Samson about doing this work. Mr Leach had not yet cut back the hedges and bushes. Mrs Bennett had investigated the prices for planters. It was hoped to make a decision about this in the spring.

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

Signed

Date

[8] **Roads:** Mr Baker was awaiting volunteers to be trained to assist him. There had been discussion with a resident at Morchard Road about cutting the hedge that was obscuring the bridge road sign. Mr Jones was trying to obtain a refill of salt and a shovel.

[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 1/10/2025.....£12,005.93

Interest:

October£10.34

Business Reserve Account Balance as at 31/10/2025£12,016.27

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT:

MDDC [Public Conveniences]£830.00

[This request has been put on hold]

[10] **Planning:** Erection of Conservatory: Barn Close, Morchard Road Ref:25/01442

The Council had no objection to this application.

[11] **Emergency Planning:** Mrs Cridland was working on producing a leaflet. It would include a list of the volunteers who included Mr Austin and Mr Cox. Possible first aiders were Mark Stone and Jo Jones. A risk analysis would be carried out. Possible risks included interruption to water or electricity, snow, fire, plane or helicopter accident, severe winds and fallen trees, road or rail accidents, flooding and problems with animals. There would be a list of possible community resources including a gritter, generator and hi-vis jackets. A list of vulnerable residents should be compiled.

.....

Signed

Date

[12] **Defibrillators and First Aid:** Mr Sellar’s house was up for sale and it was assumed that once the house was old, he would be leaving. If so another person would be needed to assist Mrs Cridland in checking the defibrillators. The new contract for the defibrillators needed to be discussed.

There had only been four responses for the first aid course. A reminder would be posted.

[13] **Reports from Councillors:**

Setting up a gov.uk email and website would cost about £100 to £150. Both Morchard Bishop and Lapford had moved over to a new provider.

Mr Clark reported that he was planning to move in the next two months and would have to resign.

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

[15] **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 9th December

Proposed dates for 2026:

Tuesday 13th January, Tuesday 10th February, Tuesday 10th March, Tuesday 14th April, Tuesday 12th May, Tuesday 14th July, Tuesday 8th September, Tuesday 13th October, Tuesday 10th November and Tuesday 8th December.

.....

Signed

Date