



# MINUTES

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**Committee:** Parish Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, 5 November 2024  
**Time:** 19:00pm  
**Venue:** Community Club

## Present

Cllr Catherine Fileman-Wright  
Cllr Mike Warner  
Cllr Vivienne Hodges  
Cllr John Farrand-Rogers  
Cllr David Bridger  
Cllr Richard Short  
Cllr Rob Austin  
Cllr Mike Jeffery  
Cllr Jan Evans  
Cllr Gordy Keep

## Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)  
County Councillor Jerry Brook (arrived at 19.07)

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### 178/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hampton and Walden.

### 179/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were received. *Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4)*

### 180/2024 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved to accept and sign** the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 as a correct record. There was one abstention. *LGA 1972 Sch 12 para 41(1)*

### 181/2024 STANDING ITEM – CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY:

The Council noted the Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans, and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

### 182/2024 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

#### District Councillor Report

Cllr Farrand-Roger's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is attached at appendix 1 on page 78. He added that the budget has gone through, unfortunately the Government has not confirmed what support the District Council will receive. Teignbridge is looking at potential cuts such as increased parking charges to ensure it remains solvent. The Chair noted that it is unsatisfactory

that Teignbridge do not allow proper consultation on car parking charges or reply to the council's representations and asked Cllr Farrand Rogers to raise the council's concerns.

Cllr Farrand-Rogers noted that there has been a change in party groupings which has impacted on committee membership.

### **County Councillor Report**

Cllr Brook answered the questions received after last month's meeting regarding the Combined Council Authority expenditure and the funding for 20mph limits.

Cllr Brook confirmed that membership of the Combined County Authority is made up of six constituent members appointed by the two constituent councils, Devon and Torbay; Four non-constituent members, of which two will be members nominated by the District councils to act as District representatives, one of these members will represent the voice of business and another the skills/education sector. Decision making will be split between reserved and general matters. Decisions on reserved matters, including agreement of the annual budget, will be for constituent members only and will require a simple majority of constituent council members to vote in favour.

Cllr Brook thought that the next tranche of 20mph applications will be in the next financial year and there will likely be a rebid process. He does not know the budget for next year but noted it is being pursued by several communities and the county council will have to look at it on a bigger scale. The Chair informed Cllr Brook that she is attending the next meeting of Dartmoor National Park Authority to seek more concerted support for 20mph across towns and parishes within the park. Cllr Short asked Cllr Brook to clarify if there will be a budget for next financial year, as there does not appear to be one for this year. The Torbay and Devon Local Transport Plan includes delivering 20mph limits in communities that want it. Cllr Brook will ask the question.

Cllr Brook reported that the SEND budget is under severe pressure, it will not come in under budget.

Cllr Brook noted he still has a considerable sum available from his Locality budget. The council will advertise the fund and apply for its VE Day celebrations.

*Cllr Brook left the meeting at 19.36pm.*

### **Dartmoor National Park Report**

Cllr Jeffery noted a meeting had been held on 1<sup>st</sup> November to finalise the accounts.

### **183/2024 MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted the Chairman has written to Moretonhampstead Development Trust regarding the office lease renewal but so far, a response had not been received. The Chair will write again.

It was noted the clerk, and one other have attended the Signing, Lighting and Guarding course.

### **184/2024 CHAIRMANS DISCRETION**

The Chair thanked the volunteers who helped with Churchyard tidy up, they did a fantastic job.

The Chair noted that there will be a remembrance parade at 2.45 on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> of November Cllr Evans offered to lay the wreath on behalf of the council.

The Chair reminded the council that the Christmas light switch on is taking place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. She asked members to help with marshalling the event both at 12 noon and 6pm.

The Chair reminded members that Teignbridge District Council is offering Code of Conduct training on 21<sup>st</sup> of November. Details can be found in the email sent on 4<sup>th</sup> of October.

### **185/2024 OPEN SPACES REPORT**

The Open Spaces monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted and is attached at appendix 2 on page 78. The Chair noted that she had concerns about dog fouling in the

Sentry and Churchyard following recent incidents. She asked members if they would support sharing the cost to taxpayers of providing dog waste bins to encourage their use.

### **186/2024 CLIMATE CHANGE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

The Chair noted that she had attended a meeting of the Action Climate Teignbridge carbon cutters group. A Bovey Tracy Town Councillor is inviting community groups to see how they are achieving net zero on a community building.

### **187/2024 INTERNAL CONTROLS COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Bridger had checked the accounts for August and September.

### **188/2024 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The Council considered its monthly schedule of payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Jeffery, seconded by Cllr Farrand-Rogers, and **resolved to approve** the schedule of payments at appendix 3 on page 79. Cllr Austin abstained from the vote. *LGA 1972 s.150(5)*

It was proposed by Cllr Bridger, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved to transfer** the second half precept into the council's higher interest account. *Financial Regulation 5.5.c*

### **189/2024 CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Teignbridge District Council confirming the timeframe for its 5-year strategy survey and was noted.

2. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Devon Association of Local Councils inviting the council to meet the leader of Devon County Council on 26<sup>th</sup> November and was noted.

3. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Devon Wildlife Trust inviting the council to reserve a free tree for the parish.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Austin, and **resolved to accept** the offer of a Landmark Tree and request a Rowan Tree to plant in the Churchyard to link with the council's VE Day celebrations.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved to contact** the school and community orchard to see if there is any interest in the offer of free orchard trees.

4. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service requesting the council complete its annual precept consultation.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Warner, and **resolved to delegate** the completion of the consultation to Cllr Fileman-Wright.

5. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from District Cllr David Palethorpe inviting the council to respond to the Consultation on the Future of Public Toilet Provision.

It was resolved by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Warner, and **resolved that the council writes** to Teignbridge District Council strongly objecting to the removal of the public toilets on the grounds that Moretonhampstead is a tourist location, and it would be an inconvenience.

6. Correspondence was received and circulated prior to the meeting from the Information Centre regarding the grant paid to them in 2020 for the management of the Visit Moretonhampstead website.

Cllr Short declared an interest because he used to work at the Information Centre.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved** to let the Centre keep the grant to go towards the new provision. Cllr Short abstained from the vote.

### **190/2024 OPEN SPACES TENDER**

The draft minutes of the Open Spaces committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> of October had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Fileman-Wright, seconded by Cllr Warner, and **resolved to stick** with the cutting plan as proposed in the balanced tender. There was one objection to the proposal.

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Evans, and **resolved to accept** the terms and conditions of the open spaces contract with the suggested amendments. There was one objection to the proposal.

### **191/2024 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

The Highways working group update had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman summarised the report, noting the Highways working group's productive inception meeting with Sands, the consultant for the traffic study. Cllr Evans inquired about public consultation, and Cllr Warner confirmed that the Highways Authority will hold a statutory consultation for any traffic orders. Sands will also provide a pamphlet for the council's informal consultation.

The Finance and Policy committee will consider if arrangements need to be made to pay the consultants invoice and the shop front grants.

### **192/2024 VE DAY WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

The VE Day working group update had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. The clerk reported that the primary school is happy for the community to attend the school tea party.

Cllr Fileman-Wright asked the working group to consult DNPA on minimising environmental impact of the beacon.

### **193/2024 CHURCHYARD MEMORIAL INSPECTION**

The clerks report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Bridger, and **resolved to appoint** F J Stevens Monumental Mason to conduct the Churchyard Memorial inspections and to allocate a budget of £1,000.

### **194/2024 MORETONHAMPSTEAD HOSPITAL UPDATE**

The chairman's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair added that the survey will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the NHS has requested another meeting on the same day. The NHS clarified that they are only talking about the Hospital and not the Health Centre.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.26pm

### **TO DO ACTIONS**

- Clerk to post an update on dog fouling in the Sentry and Churchyard
- Clerk to make payments.
- Reply to the correspondence at min no.189/2024.
- Clerk to advertise the Open Spaces tender
- VE Day working group to liaise with DNPA regarding the Beacon
- Clerk to arrange the memorial inspections

***MPC Minutes 05.11.2024 Attachment no.1 – District Councillor Report***

First and foremost, my apologies for the timing of this report. The cycles of meetings of the district council and the various parishes do not mesh very well. That said, there is now some information to share.

As far as I am aware, we are still waiting to be told how the new government is going to treat local government. We hope for the best, but fear the worst, of course, and so Teignbridge is doing everything to cut back on expenditure as much as possible. Very sorry if local areas are negatively impacted by this. One service they are looking at is public conveniences. They are going to liaise with parish councils over this. (This seems very strange to me. I am very interested in the provision of public conveniences all over Teignbridge. The one parish where I have no personal interest is precisely in Moretonhampstead.)

You will remember that the last government set up a new structure covering the whole of Devon plus Torbay Unitary Authority. The idea was to devolve powers down from Whitehall. Executive decisions for this body would be taken by councillors from Devon CC and Torbay, with the district councils having a voice, but no vote. At the time, by an amazing coincidence, both Devon and Torbay were Conservative-controlled.

As a result, the Leader of our council, Cllr Richard Keeling, has found himself spending an immense amount of time fighting Teignbridge’s corner in dealings with other councils. Consequently, he has given up the Finance portfolio on Teignbridge’s Exec. He is being replaced by Cllr John Parrott, from Kenn Valley Ward.

There has also been a restructuring of functions among the various departments of our Council, to make it more efficient of course, and consequently a redistribution of responsibilities among the portfolio holders. As a result both the identification of housing needs and allocation of housing have been brought together with the programme for building more social housing in Teignbridge. This, to me, makes sense.

***MPC Minutes 05.11.2024 Attachment no.2 – Open Spaces Report***

Inspection conducted by: S Parkin  
Date: October 2024

<b>Area</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>The Sentry</b>	Problem with dog fouling.	Seating Area – benches need repairing.
<b>Churchyard</b>	Churchyard Volunteer Day was a success. The clerk is obtaining quotes to trim the trees and hedges.	None.
<b>The Play Area</b>	Looks good. Rotating see-saw surface replacement has been done.	None.
<b>The Henge</b>	Timber has been replaced on Henge seats.	None.
<b>The Pound</b>	Looks good.	None
<b>Cross Tree</b>	Looks good.	None.
<b>Geneva</b>	Looks good.	None.

<b>Island/War Memorial</b>		
<b>Wheelwright's wheel</b>	Needs weeding.	None.
<b>Allotment</b>	Looks good. Asbestos has been reported in an old water trough.	None.
<b>Seats/benches/ Lamp posts</b>	Looks good.	None.
<b>Gates and railings</b>	Looks good.	None
<b>Bus Shelter</b>	Looks good.	None
<b>Recycling bins</b>	Looks good.	None

***MPC Minutes 05.11.2024 Attachment no.3 – List of payments November 2024***

**Finance Report**

To receive the Finance Report

On 31 October, the Accounts stood at:

Lloyds Current Account	£27,169.36
Lloyds Deposit Account	£65,499.17

**Standing Orders**

Moretonhampstead Development Trust Office Rent	£379.48	<b>Date Cleared</b> 01/10/2024
BT Telephone and Broadband	£39.13	15/10/2024

**Direct Debit**

Microsoft 365 subscription	£12.36	07/10/2024
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**Mandatory Payments**

Staffing payments (Salary, pension and quarterly HMRC)	£1,613.23	31/10/2024
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**Card Payments**

**Transfers**

**Income**

Interment payments	£3,202.00	Various
Bank Interest	£53.79	09/10/2024

**Invoices for payment** – to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the Payment Schedule

<b>Payment Method</b>	<b>Payee and reason</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Power to spend</b>	<b>Net Payment</b>	<b>Payment incl. VAT</b>
Bank Transfer	Community Club <i>Room hire 28/09/24 &amp; 01/10/24 and Garden Waste subscription</i>	EX5 EX6	Local Government Act 1972 s111 Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£85.00	£85.00
Bank Transfer	Bradford's <i>Hammerite Paint (Benches)</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£17.90	£21.48
Bank Transfer	Sam Austin <i>Lengthsman 5 days and waste</i>	EX15	Highways Act 1980 s43	£1,050.00	£1,050.00
Bank	M P Plumbing	EXCEM2	Local Government	£1,600.00	£1,600.00

79. Signed.....

03 December 2024

Transfer	<i>Pre-Dig 5 Graves New Double grave 01/11/24</i>		Act 1972 s214		
Bank Transfer	A R Rural Services <i>Verges cut</i>	EX6	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£150.00	£150.00
Bank Transfer	SLCC <i>Membership Fee</i>	EX8	Local Government Act 1972 s143(1)(b)	£188.00	£188.00
Bank Transfer	DALC <i>AGM and Conference 2024</i>	EX11	Local Government Act 1972 s111	£50.00	£60.00
Bank Transfer	Catherine Fileman-Wright <i>Mileage to DALC AGM</i>	EX11	Local Government Act 1972 s111	£14.40	£14.40
Bank Transfer	S Parkin <i>Expenses - refreshments, mileage, churchyard, and eye examination</i>	EX4 EX11 EXCEM2	Local Government (Financial Provisions) Act 1963 s5	£77.10	£77.10
Bank Transfer	E Elliot <i>Churchyard grass cutting expenses</i>	EXCEM1	Open Spaces Act 1906 s10	£12.50	£12.50
Bank Transfer	RBL Poppy Appeal <i>Wreath donation</i>	EX6	Localism Act 2011 s1	£25.00	£25.00