ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Zeal Monachorum Parish Council on Wednesday 22nd January 2025

MINUTES

Present - Councillors: Rob Peck (Chair), Peter Heal (Vice Chair), Ken Hogg, Mike Russell, Alison Birchwhite, Jocelin Birchwhite, Councillor Squires (County) + The Clerk. 2 MOP
Apologies – Councillors: Sally Rowden, Peter Heal & Natalia Letch (District)

		Action
1.	**Declarations of Interest** None	
2.	**To approve and sign Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28th November 2024** These minutes were approved by all members and signed by the Chairman. **Proposed –** Councillor Birchwhite **Seconded –** Councillor Hogg	
3.	**Open Forum** – an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open Forum. There were six residents in attendance to discuss the potential of proving a set sum of monies in the budget for the Monachorum Matters village magazine. A representative of the Village Hall Committee attended as they had been asked to provide funding too. There were concerns that the Parish Council have not undertaken a full due diligence exercise by requesting copies of constitutions, committee membership and past financial details. It was considered good practise to do this, and why was the Parish Council not following suit? It was stated that no funding should be given to the magazine as they do not have a formal constitution. As the Parish Council do not have to undertake such due diligence investigations under the adopted financial regulations ors.137 Local Government Act, the matter was a moot point. It was noted that the Village Hall had a strict constitution which would be prohibitive for such funding requests. The sum that was being considered was for £300 and it was thought that a general donation could be provided later.	
4.	**County Council report.** **Councillor Margaret Squires –** Devolution was a main concern for DCC. Cllr squires outlined the proposals for amalgamation of many district councils into one large Council for the whole of Devon. Plymouth and Torbay would be excluded. This may also involve the postponement of Local Elections in May 2025. The matter had not yet been fully implemented and over the coming months, more information would be available. It was also noted that Councillor Squires would not be standing at the next local elections. It was felt that the rural voice maybe diluted with one super council. Budget – The rural services grant has been removed and the money is to be moved to urban areas of depravation. This is difficult to equate with the fact that it is more expensive to live in a rural area.	

Signed……
Chair to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council

Draft

	Councillor Natalia Letch- Devolution. The uncertainty of the situation is not helping matters at MDDC. Devon is financially strong and in a good shape to utilise money being wasted. Social care is a Uk wide catastrophe which may compound the situation. New Risk Assessment Officer at MDDC. Resilience Strategy and Community Risk Register. This was circulated to all members to consult on and it was felt that Zeal had very few issues for inclusion on the register. It was noted that this register held more issues with built up settlements rather than specific parish concerns. Councillor Peck asked the County Council to push forward with the Road Warden Scheme. The details of how to progress this were not fully provided and more information was sought for the next meeting.	
5.	**<u>Property / Environment</u>** **a. Ken Down Memorial Bench update on final siting.** This had not yet been started as the ground needs to ground needs to be dry before the work can be started. There was a certain amount of groundworks to undertake before the bench was put in its final location. **a. To agree on Pollarding Work to tree at Jubilee Shelter.** The tree was situated on Common Land and was subject to a TPO. Any work required would need a formal TPO application through MDDC with further reporting from Tree Surgeon. The Clerk was asked to obtain a tree surgeons view on the matter prior to making any decisions.	**Cllr Heal** **Clerk**
6.	**Den Brook Windfarm Fund –** Report The Fishing Club had made an application to the fund for improvements and this will be decided in March 2025 by the committee.	
7	**s.106 Applications** No applications to be considered at present.	
9.	**Planning Applications Received.** **Ref:** 24/01688/MFUL **Proposal:** Engineering works to reprofile redundant manege and associated landscaping works. **Location:** Land at NGR 269828 103850 (Barons Wood Equestrian Centre) Zeal Monachorum Devon **Site Vicinity Grid Ref:** 269927 / 103795 **Parish:** Zeal Monachorum 61 **Link:** https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SNIA17KS07T00 Members made no comment on the application. Proposed – Cllr Hogg Seconded – J Birchwhite	

Draft

	To Note Only – Zeal Monachorum PC supported the application at the November Meeting. **Revised Documentation Received** **Ref:** 24/01438/FULL **Proposal:** Change of use of agricultural land for temporary siting of rural workers dwelling and use of land as associated domestic garden **Location:** Land at NGR 270857 103942 North of Foldhay Cross Zeal Monachorum Devon **Grid Ref:** 270819: 103867 **Parish:** Zeal Monachorum 61 **Link:** https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SKO87RKS02H00	
10.	**Finance** **Finance** **Balance Instant Access** - £6290.81 **Savings** - £2,089.57 **Payments to be made.** **a. Zurich Insurance,** Parish Liability Insurance - £241.00 **b. MDDC**, Supply of emptying Dog Bin fortnightly – £193.44 The above payments were agreed by all members. **Proposed** – Councillor Hogg **Seconded** – Councillor A Birchwhite.	
11.	**Budget & Precept request for 2025/26** **a. To set Parish Council Budget for 2025/26** Members noted that the forthcoming budget had spending earmarked at £10,300. There was no specific amount set aside for Monachorum Matters within the budget. Members agreed to the budget for the forthcoming financial year. **Proposed –** Councillor Russell **Seconded –** Councillor A Birchwhite **All in favor** **b. To set Precept request to MDDC for Financial Year 2025/26** Members noted that the current level of Precept was low. Members agreed to raise the precept to £8000 for the 2024/25 financial year. This increase represents an increase of £6.52 to the average Band D property. **Proposed – Councillor Hogg** **Seconded – J Birchwhite**	
12.	**Members Statements** None	
13.	There were no further topics for discussion and the meeting closed at 20.00pm A Part 2 was held to discuss topics relating to the Clerks Salary calculation. **Date of Next Ordinary Meeting – 27th March 2025**	

Draft

Signed……
Chair to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council