ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Zeal Monachorum Parish Council on Thursday 31st July 2025

MINUTES

Present - Councillors: Rob Peck (Chair), Ken Hogg, Mike Russell, Sally Rowden, Peter Heal, Alison Birchwhite, Jocelin Birchwhite Cllr Keable (County)+ The Clerk. 4 MOP
Apologies – Councillors: Cllr A White (District), Cllr Natalia Letch (District) & Cllr Keable (County)

1.	**Declarations of Interest** Cllr Heal declared a pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda item 11.b.
2.	**To approve and sign Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 29th May 2025** The Minutes were approved by al members. **Proposed** – Cllr A Birchwhite **Seconded** – Cllr Hogg **Matters Arising** – The waste bin to replace the Council owned dog bin is ordered and will be fitted by MDDC. The clerk was unaware of timescales for this.
3.	**Open Forum** – an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open Forum. **MOP** – Vegetation in the hedge outside Gooseberry Cottage is excessive and growing into the road. Cars must swerve around the vegetation in the road. The dog waste bin at Western Road needs to be cleared to gain access to the hedge. Cllr Keable informed those in attendance that Highways are beginning to the deal with this type of issue and need the problems reported online. Cllr Keeble gave details of the Highways Website used for reporting many issues related to Highways. Cllr Peck asked about Stopgate crossroads, can the road paintings be renewed as well as the warning sign for lorries at Stopgate? The latter was dealt with by Cllr Keables predecessor but it has stalled. Cllr Keable would investigate the matter. It was also stated that DCC are in receipt of extra funding and are diverting this to road markings throughout the County.
4.	**County / District Council report.** **Cllr Keable (County)** - Written reports are to come out this month to the Clerk and will be monthly for circulation. A new cabinet at DCC is in place with new finance members. At the present time DCC are within budget. The next financial year is difficult. DCC state that the biggest costs are Potholes and Children's Services. DCC are looking at the Highway Contracts as there appears to be a large disparity on what County Councils in the UK charge for pothole repairs. DCC have a budget for Highways of approximately £100 million. Children's Services is being looked at. The removal of private sector care in favour of DCC running this is to be looked at. The MDDC local plan to accommodate government targets for building new homes is in place. This is with MDDC for consideration. The government requirements to build new houses trumps all objections on new builds. MDDC still have a land supply problem and an additional 68% extra houses are required. Copplestone Road network will be open on Tuesday afternoon for traffic after the demolition of The Cross. This was welcomed by all those in attendance. Cllr Peck asked about Devolution – this is undecided now and County Proposals are to be submitted at the end of November. Over the next 6 weeks, much discussion occurs and further information will come back from the next meeting

Signed……
Chairman to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council

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5.	**<u>Property / Environment</u>** a. **Highways Reporting** Undertaken in MOP b. **Ken Down Memorial Seat Report** Cllr Heal provides a report on the completed institution. This has now been completed in The Church Yard. The Bench is made from Recycled plastic. To a certain extent the bench will be maintenance free. All members thanks all of those involved with the installation. Margaret Down was involved with the installation and is incredibly happy with the completed project. c. **Pollarding Work at Jubilee Shelter –** To consider what work to undertake if any. Cllr Peck reports that Simon Nuthall has viewed the tree and if any work were required, it would cost £325. A full discussion was undertaken and further reporting would be required from an approved Tree Surgeon for a TPO application. Simon Nutall reported that any work would be minimal as the tree is not in bad shape. The work could wait for another year with monitoring of any issues with the roots. It was decided that monitoring will take place over the next 12 months which can be discussed at any time, but no work is to be undertaken now. This was approved my all members. **Proposed –** Cllr Birchwhite **Seconded –** Cllr Heal
6.	**Den Brook Windfarm Fund –** Update on applications. A full report will be undertaken in July when all applications are considered and further funding is received with the outcome from application in September 2025.
7	**s.106 Applications -** To consider any s.106 applications. The Clerk noted that no applications had been made. The Clerk stressed that s.106 money is available for the Parish. It must be shared with surrounding parishes and the money if first come, first serve. Cllr Keable notes that MDDC have recently updated the information available for s.106 monies and can be passed to all members through the Clerk. This would be welcomed for the Clerk to Circulate.
8.	**Planning** **Ref:** 24/01545/FULL **Proposal:** Erection of site storage facility **Location:** Land at NGR 272208 103920 (Waie Inn) Zeal Monachorum Devon **Grid Ref:** 272184 : 103896 **Parish:** Zeal Monachorum 61 **Link:** https://planning.middevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SLJRYGKS07T00 The Parish Council were consulted in November 2024. The application for consideration was for amended drawings. It was noted that a number of Trees had been removed. As the application was not objected to at the first consultation, no added information received would alter our initial comments. No Comment would be made on the consultation above. Proposed – Cllr Rowden Seconded – Cllr Birchwhite.
9.	**Finance** **Balance Instant Access** - £12,004.82 **Savings** - £2,098.76 **Payments to be Made.** a. **Clerks Salary – £1110.66** b. **Peter Heal, Ken Down Memorial Seat work - £546.00** c. **Village Hall Hire - £89**

Signed……
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	The above payments were agreed. **Proposed-** Cllr Heal **Seconded –** Cllr Birchwhite
10.	**Member Statements** Cllr Heal noted that the Village Hall hire invoices were passed to the Clerk in the normal manner. It was questioned why we did not pay for the Village Hall in advance as per the Terms of Hire. The Clerk reported that the treasurer of the Village Hall would provide the invoicing. This has been the procedure for many years and was unaware of any perceived issues with adherence to the Terms of Hire. No notice to alter the payment terms have been received. For any payment to be made for Hire, an invoice is required. Without this, the Parish Council cannot provide payment.
	There we further topics for discussion and the meeting concluded at 19.40pm. No part 2 was held. **Date of next meeting – 25th September 2025**

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Signed……
Chairman to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council