ZEAL MONACHORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Zeal Monachorum Parish Council on Thursday 25th September 2025

MINUTES

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

1.	**Declarations of Interest** Councillors Hogg and Russell declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda 9.a – Donation request by Monachorum Matters.
2.	**To approve and sign Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 31st July 2025** The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by all members. Proposed – Cllr Heal Seconded – Cllr Hogg.
a.	Matters Arising from the Minutes. Cllr Hog raises the Dog Bin the Parish council pay for. This is used and MDDC originally stated that they would take the service on free of charge of there was significant usage of the bin. The Clerk is asked to write to MDDC on the matter.
3.	**Open Forum** – an opportunity for the Electors to address the Parish Council. The Parish Council encourages the use of an Open Forum. 1 MOP - Lines at Stopgate. These need to be repainted as they are very faint. Cllr Keable states that this needs to be reported online for the speediest remedy.
4.	**County / District Council report** **Cllr Steve Keable (County)** A Full Council meeting occurred on the 4th September to discuss a New Strategic plan relating to young and vulnerable adults. It is felt that the County Council has spent a lot of money in this area but very little value for money has been provided. Further updates will be provided when this is formalised. Other matters at this meeting related to banning sparklers within schools. Road markings and missing signposts are a key priority for DCC. Report the issues all the time using the online reporting facility. Multiple people can report the same problem. White lines is an issue and Cllr Keable is due to meet Highways to discuss road markings in his ward. A new grant fund to support young people in rural areas. Bus network is limited and opportunities are being missed. DCC actively support and welcome applications for 20 mph speed limits within Devon. DCC will assist when possible as well as advocating the 20's plenty signage with greater force. 52 Councillors voted for this initiative; a clear majority were in Favor of it. MDDC reporting – Significant development at Junction 28 on the M5 is to be supported. Many new homes will be built with increased industrial areas for businesses. When this is formally consulted on, all parishes are urged to support this as without it, MDDC may fall short of its land supply, therefore leaving other building projects to go ahead outside of junction 28. IT could be a free for all to build new homes, at the expense of planning requirements. **Cllr N Letch (District)** NL – State of the district debate, there was no one for the ward to attend. Cllr Peck stated that he would liked to have attended but as there was less than 24 hrs notice given, he could not.

Signed……
Chairman to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council

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	At this meeting, officers from Somerset County council discussed devolution. In their experience, many local contacts were lost but smaller parishes seemed to fair better than larger authorities. Devolution is going to take place but at what cost. It is suspected that all non-statutory duties will be dropped but no certainty on the matter is available.
5.	**Property / Environment** Highway matters were raised with the Mop section of the meeting. It was noted that there was work to be undertaken at the footpath nr Stopgate. The Restrictions for HGV at Hayne would also be requested. DCC are running a pilot scheme where crews go out to repairs potholes and any other defects that can be repaired will be undertaken within a 50m radius. Water lane still has a leak that is never repaired. It is suspected that this comes from the private supply at Bow. Cllr Letch is aware of this and is progressing it a Bow PC.
6.	**Den Brook Windfarm Fund Report** The funding meeting was held on the 24th September. Seven applications were received as follows. Spreyton Shop - £3000 for renewal of their kitchen. South Zeal Scouts – Water damage repairs in a storage area - £3500 Merry-go-round, Charity in North Tawton, Storage and a new kitchen £7000 North Tawton Town Council, new boiler in the Towan Hall - £5000 Bow Historical - £1700 for new IT equipment. North Tawton Bowling - £15,000 asked but were given £10,000. Bow Bears failed in their application for storage and renovation. Further quotes have been sought. Zeal Monachorum now has £7000 in the kitty. Next bids are to be in for the end of January. All residents of Zeal Monachorum are asked to consider any spending that is required and make an application.
7	**s.106 Applications** To consider any s.106 applications following on from updated guidance by MDDC. There are restrictions but now it may be possible to open old applications which may now have a chance. Al members are asked to consider s.106 applications.
8.	**Finance** **Balance Instant Access** - £,10,128.16 **Savings** - £2,101.25 No payments were made.
a.	**Donation request from Zeal Monachorum Matters - £300** Current printing costs are not being covered by advertising. There is very little room for covering expenses. For some years now, the magazine has been breaking even but if advertising increased, revenues would be improved. All members present felt that the magazine was an asset to support. IT was noted that in the past, the PC had offered to cover printing costs directly with Burridge printers. It was felt that this is appropriate again. The figure of £300 towards printing costs was agreed by all members present. **Proposed** – Cllr Peck **Seconded** – Cllr Hogg.
b.	**To agree on the change in date for Budget / Precept setting to November 2025.** The Parish Council wish to move forward on agreeing their Budget and Precept to November 2025 as opposed to January 2026 to coincide with MDDC financial timetables. The Clerk stated that he was able to

	provide accounts and a forecast until the end of this financial year at this time. It was agreed that the budget to set a Precept will now move to November 2025 as opposed to January 2026. This is agreed by all members present.
10.	**Member Statements** A MOP did pass on comments on the condition of the Ken Down plaque at the church. This needed to be cleaned. Cllr Heal and Hogg would be looking at this soon. **Cllr Peck -** Someone from Down St Mary stated that the village is in a state and raised Monks Cottage, it is in a bad state of repair and looks unsightly. Rob Peck will go and see if anyone is in to speak informally about the matter. It was difficult to obtain ownership of this property and the Clerk is asked to undertake a Land Registry search for Monks Cottage to ascertain ownership.
	There we further topics for discussion and the meeting concluded at 19.50pm. No part 2 was held. **Date of next meeting – 27th November 2025**

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Chairman to Zeal Monachorum Parish Council