



Morwenstow Parish Council

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Draft minutes for the Monthly Parish Council Meeting held in the Committee Room at Morwenstow Community Centre at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 15th July 2026**.

1.	To note attendance. Cllrs; C. Myers; N. Steer. B Savage. R. Savage. J. Amos-Yeo. J. Payne. Chair J. Hobbs. Clerk J. Steer
2.	To receive apologies for absence. Cllr J. Phipps. Cllr G. Worden. Cllr S. Tilbey. Cornwall Cllr. F. Emery (report sent)
3.	Public Participation: One member of the Public attended to listen & observe the meeting.
4.	Disclosures: None
5.	Dispensations: None
6.	MINUTES - The previously circulated minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Wednesday 17th June 2026 were approved by the Council and signed by Chair J. Hobbs.
7.	Matters arising from previous minutes and updates – for information only. With regard to the potential development of a New Website – Person originally approached is no longer able to provide the new website. Clerk to obtain quotes from a recommended provider who <i>is</i> on the Government approved list.
8.	Cornwall Councillor: Faye Emery, sent the following report; Neighbourhood Priorities Statement – Steps needed to produce an NPS; - register and formally apply to designate an area (the parish in your case). This is straightforward and there is a template letter on the Councils web page. - Conduct a survey – using Cornwall Councils online local plan survey. - Draft a statement and consult on the final version, appointing a steering group to manage this. EV charging. There are a couple of issues. Ideally, they want the charging point available 24/7. There would be no income from the charger for 10 years (!) and finance will all go to the operator to cover maintenance and extend the scheme. They would pass it over to the council after 10 years. So, it may well be the PC look at alternatives to providing the facility themselves. Cleave Crescent - Highways have painted SLOW markings on the road already. Currently awaiting installation of signs.
9.	Parish Maintenance and Matters for discussion: - Uncle Morris' bench. Motion carried for PC to provide replacement bench - the Family will pay for a replacement plaque. Shed scene – most reasonable quote for a 5ft Classic bench £260 (+ extra £26, for onsite assembly). They are happy to invoice the PC. Motion carried to remove the current wire fencing around the garden. a) Parish maintenance & hedges; - Treefella Southwest has completed the work, with parishioners benefitting from logs from the felled trees. - There is a light increase to cover rising process. Motion carried to accept the tender for trimming & maintenance of bridleways, footpaths, etc. Clerk to action. - The quote received to replace the manhole covers at the back of the Football Clubhouse was accepted – Cllr Steer to contact/action tender. - Issues with splays at Crimp Junction & Stursdon Cross had been reported to Oliver Jones, who responded very quickly. Motion carried to place a reminder in HAMLETS that Residents should NOT take matters into their own hands as this presents clear risks. b) Completed tree log; Received, checked and signed by the Clerk. c) Completed playground log; Current & outstanding logs from June Inspection, checked & signed by the Clerk. d) Completed overall grounds log; Current & Outstanding logs from June Inspection, checked & signed by the Clerk. e) Outdoor fitness equipment log; Current & Outstanding logs from June Inspection checked & signed by the Clerk. f) Local Maintenance Partnership Enhanced funding application for 2026/2027 round; Countryside officers' request for further information has been followed up by Cllr Steer. Still awaiting decision.
10.	Further matters for discussion; Two upcoming CAP Meetings; TRANSPORT Wednesday 9 th September 10.30 – 1.00 pm (Face to Face. Venue to be confirmed) LOCALISM Monday 7 th December 6.30 – 8.30. (ONLINE) Call for Working Group Members, Following the North Cornwall CAP meeting held on <i>Monday 8th June</i> , one of the agreed

	outcomes was to establish a Housing-focused Working Group. MPC Cllrs have been made aware. BIG Changes to Employment Rights Act 2025 – Major changes happening now, more coming in January, with yet more to follow over the next 2 to 3 years; ALL EXISTING POLICIES must be reviewed to ensure compliance with changes to the act. Current employment changes include; * Probationary period for new employees, reduced to 3 months on recommendation from Director for HR & Governance support, alongside FULL and proper ‘onboarding’, and training on all aspects of the job. Clerk is currently working on a training induction package for future clerks. Motion carried to accept 3 months probationary periods for future employees, with potential to increase by monthly increments up to 5 months if necessary. * Period of employment required to claim unfair dismissal reduced from 2 years to 6 months from 1 July 2026. * SPECIFIC OBLIGATION on PC to not permit harassment of employees by 3rd parties (customers; clients; service users; contractors; suppliers; visitors; Members of the Public; Councillors (whether elected or co-opted). * MANDATORY Menopause Policy now required for employees as part of gender equality legalities (Clerk to action) * Statutory Sick Pay 80% of weekly wage or £123.25 (whichever is lower). * Parish Councils MUST inform paid employees they have the right to join a union. * Unfair Dismissal Claims - Damages claim for unfair dismissal is now UNLIMITED (potentially into millions). Clerk to check legal cover with insurance company. * Flexible working - must be reasonable (awaiting definition of reasonable). * Work from home allowance No increase under former clerks. (Needs to be included in Budget plan under office expenses!!). CLERK agreed to an increase to £4 from first week of July 2026, then to correct amount of £6 from the start of the next financial year 1st April 2027. Motion carried. Local Plan North Devon & Torridge; MPC are Consultee’s – Cllrs have been made aware and invited to pass comments to clerk who will then collate and forward to relevant department. CALC EGM is to be held on 23rd July. Cllrs received via email, the Song & Tribute to Jill Wellby. Agreed to place the link in HAMLETS. FUNDING FROM NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND – £8259 to replace the Mini Series Tower System has been achieved thanks to a local parishioner’s stalwart efforts and hard work. Once the money has been deposited in the Parish Councils accounts, the order will be placed. All relevant rules and regulations requested by the Community Fund will be met. Thank you letter, dictated to be sent to relevant parishioner – clerk to action.
11.	Policy Review; The PC undertook a review of the Safeguarding Policy & The Welcome Pack - No changes were made to existing documents other than layout and the addition of the MPC logo. Motion carried to pass both documents under review.
12.	General Training: All usual training available to councillors & Clerk. Clerk is booked on ‘Clerk Essentials’ Training to be held at Launceston on 10th September 2026 (Cost agreed at June Meeting) Casework Assist (CWA) is a web-based casework portal provided by Cornwall Council offering a single front door into services for elected members and clerks. CWA does not replace <i>Report Something</i> but can be used to chase concerns that have already been raised. There is a workshop on CWA running Tuesday 30th June - 10:00am to 1:00pm: Bude, Parkhouse Centre. Proposal for clerk to attend & act as point of contact for elected members (Cllrs) and members of the public. Motion carried.
13.	Correspondence Received: * HMRC, *Cronor events,*Cornwall Planning, *PHS, *Devon & Cornwall Alerts, *Office of Police and Crime Commissioner *Cornwall ALC & NALC – various bulletins. *Procure England, *BDO LLP, *BIFFA *Various Newsletters *ICO; HMRC; Rural Service Network; *Neighbourhood planning, *Neighbourhood Alerts *NACO *Employment Vetting, Julie Calleya (open letter to Southwest Water), *Cormac Arboricultural, *NHS Cornwall *Rob Wassell *Kevin Slugget *Cornwall Destination *Casework Assist *Invoices/notifications of charges received from: Nat west; Parish Magazine Printing; CHADDS (J&R), Treefella Southwest; Shirley Francis; Cornwall Broadband AED/
14.	Finances: a) Council to agree and sign statement of accounts for month ending 31/06/2026 b) Current Account Balance as at 30/05/2026 brought forward £10,091.19 Plus, payment in: £ 217.55

	Less payments debited up to 30/06/2026 £ 2,980.63 Current Account Balance as at 30/06/2026 as per bank statement £ 7,328.11 Current Account Balance as at 30/06/2026 as per bank statement £ 7,328.11 Less outstanding payments still to be debited £ 0.00 Balance in Current Account will be £ 7,328.11 Balance in Business Reserve Account as at 30/06/2026 as per bank statement £14,438.75 Total Funds £21,766.86 Less earmarked funds £ 0.00 Available funds <u>£21,766.86</u> c) Bank Statements for June 2026 checked and signed by Cllr Myers and Cllr Payne. d) Invoices & payments received for July 2026 checked and signed Chair Cllr J. Hobbs. e) Bank Reconciliation at 31st June 2026 checked and signed by Cllr Amos-Yeo and Cllr Savage.
15.	Planning: Partnership: No Update on planning from Cllr. Worden, but he is in discussion with Go Cornwall about local bus services. Please see Parish Council noticeboard and website for upcoming planning applications A discussion took place regarding parishioners who do not have access to the online planning portal at Cornwall Council Planning notices, and <i>Pre-application Advice</i> notices (unless Confidential) will be placed in the Parish Council Noticeboard, in Hamlets and on the website.
16.	Date of next monthly meeting – Wednesday 16th September 2026 at Morwenstow Community Centre <i>unless a planning meeting is required before that.</i>

Meeting closed at 8.23 p.m.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) Act 1960 During the meeting it may arise that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential or special nature of the business to be transacted and the press and public will be instructed to withdraw. When this arises, the Chair will recommend to consider passing the following resolution; “to resolve that in view of the confidential or special nature of the business to be discussed, the public are excluded and instructed to withdraw.”