Morwenstow Parish Council

Parish Clerk/RFO; J. Steer BA (Hons). DipSW. MA. MSc.
clerk@morwenstowparish.gov.uk

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at **Morwenstow Community Centre** on **Wednesday 21st October 2026** at 7.30 p.m.

1	**In Attendance;** Cllrs, N. Steer, J. Hobbs (CHAIR), R. Savage, B. Savage, J. Amos-Yeo, C. Miles, J. Phipps, G. Worden & Clerk/RFO J. Steer.
2	Apologies **RECEIVED** Cllrs S. Tilbey, J. Payne & Cornwall County Cllr F. Emery.
3	No declarations of interest were **RECEIVED.** No dispensations were granted.
4	**Public Participation -** Five members of the Public attended the meeting. One spoke on item 13 of the agenda.
5	**Dispensations and disclosures** (none - See item 3).
6	**Monthly Meeting Minutes; Wednesday 23rd September 2026** a) It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council were taken as read and approved. b) There were no matters arising.
7	**Cornwall Councillor Report –** Cllr Emery was unable to attend but had forwarded a brief report as follows; *The conditions of the Road signs in Shop* have been reported – some were already on a list for replacement. Highways were going to see if cleaning would achieve anything – I am not sure if they have done this, but they were of the view that new signs were needed. They will be replaced but not until the next financial year. I think these are all direction signs rather than safety/warning signs but please let me know if this is not the case. *Speeding in Shop* - I raised this with the police. Given the location, they suggested a volunteer community speed watch group which could cover Woodford as well. From the conversation at the last meeting, the feeling seemed to be that there would not be enough interest from residents to make this work. We can discuss this further if you think this is worth pursuing. I saw that you have speed restrictions in Woolley on the agenda – please let me know the outcome of any discussions. The flashing speed warning signs are on the list for the Highways fund for the next financial year – these are likely to be the mobile ones so we could look to alternate one between Shop, Woodford and Woolley.
8	**Parish Maintenance and Matters for Discussion** The following maintenance reports and logs were **RECEIVED**; a) Parish Maintenance and hedges; *Emails from the recent purchaser of Elldown Woods were read out by the chair and the council look forward to meeting the purchaser, and his son who is to carry out the positive work that is to come.* The Maintenance logs were **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** as below for the month of September 2026. *a)* Completed tree logs – ***checked and signed by the clerk.*** *b)* Completed Playpark logs – *to follow at next meeting.* ***c)*** Completed overall grounds logs – ***checked and signed by the clerk.*** d) Completed Outdoor fitness equipment logs – *to follow at the next meeting*. e) The new item of playpark equipment as a replacement for the previous 'towers, item was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** with very positive response from the council.
9	**Policy Reviews** a) The council **RESOLVED** to accept the councils *Statement of Internal Controls* (with the removal of the former internal auditor from the document) AND the *Community Centre WIFI/Internet usage* (Change provider details). There was some discussion regarding changing providers due to issues around the limitations of the password, or to work from mobile connections (mobile Hub). Before any discussion can take place, the length of contract and any restrictions need to be checked - **CLERK to action** . b) There were no changes necessary to either policy in order to maintain compliance with up-to-date legislation. c) The new, legally required *Menopause Policy* for employers/employees was **RECEIVED.** The council **RESOLVED** to adopt the new policy.
10	Training opportunities were **NOTED**. Cllr Amos-Yeo wishes to attend planning training – **CLERK to action**. *Safeguarding training* for upcoming tenders; plenty of training available for those who work with children, but ongoing issues with finding training around adults. Suggestions from two Cllrs to try ALTURA & Social Services to find training around vulnerable adults – **CLERK to action**

DRAFT

11 **FINANCES - Schedule of Payments / Statement of Accounts**

a) **RESOLVED** to approve payments for invoices received prior to meeting date. Invoice signed by J. Hobbs (CHAIR)

Payee	Description	Gross amount payable
CHADDS	Toilet rolls (DP)	£17.98
	Toilet Rolls & Hand Towels	£54.85
	Toilet rolls (DP)	£17.98
Parish Magazine Printing	HAMLETS (October Edition)	£49.84
Cornwall Council	Waste Collection	£169.00
BUDE Computers	Replacement laptop battery & new charger	£129.98
Parish magazine printing	Subscription (November)	£33.59
S. Francis	Cleaning materials	£7.30
	Public Toilets cleaning	£340.00
CALC	Clerk Essentials training (Full day)	£78.00
Outdoor Play People	Mini Harbour Towers	£4,995.40
P. Jenkins	Aunt Amys garden	£200.00
	Coast Path Trimming	£1,650.00
	Footpath trimming	£1,441.00
JAY'S AIM	Defib batteries	£531.54
NAT WEST	Bank Charges (MUGA)	£0.35
	Bank Charges (Current a/c)	£5.40

AGREED - Proposed/Seconded. Unanimous. Clerk & Chair to action payments

b) Statement of account/bank reconciliation as at 31st September 2026 for October 2026 meeting, was checked and signed by signed by Cllrs B. Savage & C. Myers

c) Bank account statements for the month ending 31st September 2026 were agreed and signed by Cllrs J. Phipps and G. Worden

Statement of accounts as 20th September 2026 for October meeting

Current Account Balance as at 29/08/2026 brought forward	£9398.96
Plus, payments in	£12579.31
Less payments debited	£4947.54
Current account balance	**£17030.73**
Less cheques still to be debited	£0.00
Less earmarked funds	£4129.50
Balance in Current Account will be	£17030.73
Balance in MUGA account will be	£18.25
Balance in Business Reserve Account will be (as per bank statement)	£14469.70
Total Funds Available	**£31518.68**

AGREED - Proposed/Seconded. Unanimous

12 Recent issues with the website were **NOTED**.
Emails had been received stating that the site was in the process of transferring to a new support platform over a 2-to-3-week period. It was noted that this might be contributing to the recent problems with accessing the admin section. HAMLETS had been placed on the Parish Council Facebook page and the Morwenstow Facebook Page to enable parishioners to receive this month's issue until access to the website was possible.
It was also **NOTED** that there are still some issues with at least two Cllrs gaining access to their emails – this is currently ongoing and the clerk is working with the provider to resolve the issue. **Clerk to continue to action**

13 **Crosstown Green**
Emails had been previously been received at the last meeting from two parishioners regarding the possibility of erecting a small fence on Crosstown Green to prevent a particular area being driven oven by vehicles, as a substantial 'dip' is appearing in that area. The Chair and Clerk had worked separately to establish suitable solutions within the limitations of the law. The chair read out the following legislation by which Village Greens are covered/restricted as follows,

a) Under section 29 of the Commons Act 1876, together with section 12 of the Inclosure act 1857 – the Parish Council is legally unable to erect fencing on a village green and can be prosecuted if there is evidence of a breach of the legislation.

b) Under Section 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 it is a criminal offense to drive over or park on land (including a green) not forming part of a road without legal authority to do so.

c) **Defra** states that vehicular access to cross the green in order to access a residential property *MAY* have rights, Occasional driving of private vehicles over a green in exercise of a private right of way, for the purposes of parking on private land beyond the boundary of the green is allowed – occasionally (not on a daily basis). If such use is frequent, or done by large or slow-moving vehicles; or a vehicle is parked on the green; or causes damage

DRAFT

	to the green by vehicular access (even to reach private land) – *This contravenes section 12 or/and section 29*. d) The council can act to prevent people from parking on the green if it is causing damage to the green – but this would be a TOTAL ban (and virtually impossible to enforce considering the location/pub usage). e) FURTHERMORE – it is not an offence to drive on a green within 15 yards of a public road solely for the purposes of parking on the green. NOTE – This does NOT confer a right on any person to drive onto the green for this purpose, or to park there, but it IS NOT an offence committed under the 1988 Act. **2. POTENTIAL SEWAGE PIPE DAMAGE**; The parishioner concerned, reassured the Council that there is currently no damage to the sewer pipe. A verbal report from SW water has assured the parishioner that there is no evidence of any potential collapse, nor is collapse likely to happen – this is based on a full camera inspection from SW water. It should be noted that water companies in the UK are legally responsible for maintaining and repairing public sewers and drains, and that if a drain serves only one property, the homeowner is usually responsible, HOWEVER, there is an issues with some erosion of one of the corners at the bottom of the slope - the Council **RESOLVED** to establish the exact area which comprises the village green and to seek a map of the physical boundary of the area, as well as the 'roads' around the green (Highway or not), as well as establishing if the drain is a public one or a private one in order to establish who might hold liability in terms of future 'events' – **CONTACT SOLICITOR** - **CLERK to action** .
14	**SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN WOOLLEY** It was agreed to move this item to the next meeting agenda due to Cllr Emery's apologies although there was some discussion of a large pothole at the passing place. Cllrs consider this is becoming dangerous for vehicles with the potential for accidents. Roadbridge at Marsland increased damaged area of approx 3 feet. This has resulted in the potential to drive off the road. Highways are, with a degree of urgency requested to inspect this increased damage – **Clerk to action URGENTLY** Cllrs to provide '3 little words' info for Clerk in order to speed up the process – **Cllr Amos-Yeo to action**
15	The new installation was **NOTED** and the council **RESOLVED** to the National Lottery Community fund request that the council publicise the project and acknowledge the funding received, on the Parish Council Website, on social media AND in HAMLETS (or any other advertisement AND to include photos in addition to the requested tagging of *#NationalLottery* and inclusion of the following words *'Our Project was made possible thanks to #NationalLottery players'* as requested by the National Lottery A metal plaque, provided by the funders is to be fitted on the new equipment - **Cllr R Savage to action**.
16	**NEW WEBSITE** The Search for a replacement remains ongoing – **Clerk to continue to action.**
17	**LAPTOP/SECURITY/DATA PROTECTION** The council **RECEIVED** updates. Further requirements around security, issues with limitations on ways to pay – **Clerk to action**
18	**Planning Applications** a) The following consultations requests were **RECEIVED** and responses **RESOLVED** as follows: **PA26/05669** Crosslands Shop Morwenstow Bude Cornwall EX23 9PE. Erection of a dwelling - Mr & Mrs Gregory - https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=TJPPUNFGLNQ00 The council **RESOLVED** that they would like to restate their previous comments to the previous application for Planning in Principle (PA25/08628 the Council offer the following responses; *Amount of Development* - Ultimately, the Parish Council would like to support any application, including this from a young couple working to make a living within the Parish. However, whilst the Parish council do understand this application is for *'Permission in Principle'*, they feel the application at face value, offers an over development of the existing site. Location of the site - The Parish Council would particularly like to bring to the planning officer's attention the fact that the number of houses which would be using one access point will exceed Cornwall County Councils own limit of five. The Parish Council is therefore concerned with the proposed over-intensification in the use of the shared access, and as such, would expect the access point to be developed to Cornwall Councils own adopted standard. *Proposed Land Use* - With consideration to the effects of this proposed development on biodiversity, the Parish Council seek absolute clarity as to whether the Proposed dwelling would remain residential, as stated in this application, or if the intent is for the proposed property to be developed as a commercial enterprise at a future time. *Additionally*, the 'Proposed Site Plan' assertion of retaining the 'existing' mature hedge bank and trees cannot be achieved as the treeline screening agreed in the original application for 'Crosslands' has yet to be fulfilled. The Parish Council would ask that this be implemented. _____ **PA26/06522** Morwenstow Methodist Church Shop Morwenstow Bude Cornwall EX23 9SL Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) T001 Ash. Fell to ground level. Hedgerow Sycamores 7 clusters. Reduce to height of 2.4 metres. https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage The council **RESOLVED** to support the action proposed.

	_____ **PA26/06535** Ovis Morwenstow Bude Cornwall EX23 9JL Proposed side extension and rear extension to dwelling - Mr Mike Alley - https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to support this application. _____ b) To **NOTE** recent decisions of the Planning authority. **PA26/01160** APPROVED Construction of retaining wall. Land at Shop. Morwenstow. EX23 9PD **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ADDED** https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=consulteeComments&keyVal=TAQYM0FGKAR00 **PA26/03832** APPROVED Mr & Mrs Greaves Land South East Of Snailsdown Brownspitt Farm Gooseham Bude EX32 9PH. P**roposal** Conversion of barn to self-build residential dwelling https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=TG3VKCFGIU200 **PA26/04024** APPROVED Mrs H Always. Eastcott Cross Gooseham Bude Cornwall EX23 9PN **Proposal** Change of use of land to allow a mixed-use comprising agriculture in addition to care farm therapy uses for children, together with associated structures and associated works https://planning.cornwall.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=TGGQPBFGJRQ00
19	**Notification of next meeting / Suggested items for Agenda; 18th November 2026** The following items were **NOTE**D to add to the agenda for the next meeting; a) Disabled parking bays at the playpark b) Speeding in Woolley c) Fencing at the Football Club (Council require a written quote) d) Tenders e) Appointment of internal auditor f) Budget for 2027/2028
	MEETING CLOSED AT 20.33 p.m.

***** **PLEASE NOTE**, any items that parishioners wish to be CONSIDERED for the agenda for an upcoming monthly meeting MUST be received by the clerk before 4pm on the afternoon of the second Tuesday of each month. Items cannot be added to a current agenda if received after this time. Please note that submission of an item does not guarantee inclusion on the agenda. Items requiring deeper discussion may have to be agreed by the council at one meeting before full discussion at the next.

The deadline for the next meeting AGENDA is therefore 4.00pm on Tuesday 10th November 2026.

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM AT MORWENSTOW COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2026

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.”

DRAFT