

**Minutes of the meeting of Morteheo Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday August 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 6.00 p.m. between Morteheo Parish Council and Devon & Somerset Fire Authority**

**Present: Members: D Duffield, (Chairman) , K Cook, S Woodman, M Wilkinson, J Richards, O. Bell and D Barron**

**Clerks: S Hocking and J Keiff**

**Also Present: Mr P Bond and J Harding Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service**

**161/2019 Introduction** – Mr Bond put forward the reasons for the current consultation and the need for changes within the fire service There included:

1. Lowering of fires and road traffic accidents.
2. Increased use of fire prevention measures such as smoke alarms and fire education.
3. Modern building construction, regulations and safer car construction leading to less road traffic casualties and rescues.
4. There is a dwindling need for local stations such as ours.

**162/2019 Current Consultation** – aimed at creating a more effective fire service across the two counties with equality of cover throughout. The aim was not about cost cutting and savings would be re-invested in the fire service and protection work.

**Woolacombe Fire Station** - With the difficulties of availability and attracting more members, the Fire Authority were confident that the area would be adequately covered by other stations.

**Response times** - 35 minutes

**Co-Responder** - would be covered by the ambulance service and response times were a matter for further discussion with the ambulance service. More independent training within communities for use of defibrillators.

**Roving Fire Unit** - would be deployed in the areas with the deemed highest risk.

**Woolacombe** - comparable to Winkleigh in terms of population

**Plans for the future** - it was emphasised that it was not a "done deal" and local communities and fire crews should come up with suggestions and a plan for keeping the stations open.

**Ideas put forward by Mr Harding and Bond were: 1. Review on conditions of employment**

**2. Flexibility of contracts 3. Crews of less than 4**

**Consultation Response** - Mr Bond stated that there had been 1,000 responses received so far after one month of public consultation events across the two counties.

**Consultation Document** - members criticised the consultation document as poor and confusing and stated that that residents were baffled by the large number of options, combinations and lack of information regarding the problems faced by the Fire Authority.

**Accuracy of Information** - members criticised the information given at the official consultation event regarding distances to the nearest station at Braunton

Members thanked Mr Bond and Mr Harding for coming to the meeting.

**Minutes of the meeting of Morteheo Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday August 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7.15 p.m.**

**Present: Members: D Duffield, (Chairman) , K Cook, S Woodman, M Wilkinson, J Richards, O. Bell and D Barron**

**Clerks: S Hocking and J Keiff**

**Also Present: 2 members of the public.**

**163/2019 Apologies for absence: Councillors: Davis; Dicker and Ley**

**164/2019 Public Speaking – there were no representations to speak**

**165/2019 Police Report**

**Crimes reported July 2019 Woolacombe&Morteheo: 5 x Assault ABH; 1 x Take a vehicle without owner's consent; 3 x Thefts ; 2 x criminal damage; 1 x Attempt burglary; 2 x Burglary ; 1 x Common assault; Total 15 crimes - *Members were concerned at the increase at both the number of crimes and the nature of those crimes. The clerk was asked to contact the Police for more information.***

**166/2019 Declaration of Interests - None**

**167/2019 Minutes:**

***It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

**168/2019 County Council Report – there was no report available this month.**

**169/2019 Planning**

***The clerk read out one letter regarding the application)***

**70175 Loft conversion to upper storey flat including insertion of dormer and rooflight windows to roof slopes at Flat 1 Westering, Springfield Road, Westering, Woolacombe, Devon .**

**Members had no objections to this proposal. *Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**00033 Consultation on proposed Removal of Public Pay phones at Old Railway Station, Morteheo Station Road, Morteheo.**

**Members had no objections to the removal of the box.**

***Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**Planning Inspectorate Appeal : APP/X1118/C/18/3218613**

**The Smugglers Rest, North Morte Road, Morteheo.**

**Operational Development – Without Planning Permission and within the last 4 years, the installation of uPVC windows in place of timber framed windows and replacement of iron balustrades with wooden balconies on first and second floors of the east elevation of the building**

Members expressed support for the owners of this property Mr W Jones and S Jansen and supported the views expressed by Councillor Malcolm Wilkinson in his letter to the Planning Inspectorate.

The council felt that the owners had greatly improved the appearance and material state of the property to the benefit of the centre of the village and conservation area. It was felt that the building had no great architectural or historical merit and that the work that had been done had greatly improved the property.

They also felt that it was unfair to insist on wooden windows on this property when the adjoining property had been allowed UPVC.

Members felt that the alterations enhanced the area and were not detrimental in any way.

**Planning Permission Received:**

**66316 Siting of one log cabin to provide one unit of holiday accommodation at Borough Farm, Morteheo.**

**70230 Application for a Non-material amendment to planning permission 66274 ( conversion of loft to form additional accommodation with balcony ) in respect of replacing the window in the dormer shower area with a rooflight and venting  
Location: 7 Bay View Apartments Bay View Road Woolacombe Devon.**

**Planning Refusal Received: None**

**170/2019 District Council Report**

**Enforcement Notices at Europa Park** - members asked the clerk to write to Mr Pedlar, Austen and Tichford to request a meeting to discuss the properties within the Parish which were subject to the 10 month occupancy restrictions. They felt that clarification on the circumstances for these properties would be useful as these dwellings provided much needed housing for a large number of residents in the community.

**Tranquillity Homes Development** - members expressed further concern at the recent works that had been taking place at the site which had been reported to the Enforcement team at N.D.C.

**Coastal Issues Group** – Councillor Wilkinson reported that he had made lead member for the group which was looking at the regeneration of coastal communities. In this area they were looking again at the proposal for World Surfing Reserve and at possible measures to assist Ilfracombe.

**171/2019 Questions for the National Trust** – members asked the clerk for clarification of the terms of the lease for the fire station and possible costs for the Fire Service if the station were to close.

**172/2019 Correspondence i) Invitation to attend North Devon A.O.N.B. 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commemoration event. September 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Members were pleased to accept the invitation and it was agreed that along with Councillor Wilkinson (already attending), that those who could attend would confirm in the near future.*

**ii) Public Defibrillator Funding Notices – letter from Braunton Rotary Club – Members agreed that they would provide their own sign for the equipment.**

**iii) Ilfracombe Rotary Club - Letter of thanks to the council - contents noted**

### **173/2019 Register of Outstanding Matters**

**Marine Drive Toilets** – the tenants at the Port Hole Café have agreed for one toilet to be left open out of hours following the request from the council.

**Community Meeting on Affordable Housing** – provisional date for the meeting is Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Headlands View Avenue and Hartland View Avenue** - have received their community green bin and have updated the council on the planting schemes in the roads

### **174/2019 Proposed Closure of Woolacombe Fire Station**

**Letter from Mr P Heaton-Jones** – “Having had in depth discussions with the Chief Fire Officer and having heard the community’s concerns at public meetings I am firmly opposed to the closure of Woolacombe Fire Station.

I understand and believe that the overall operation in Devon and Somerset does need to be looked at in a wide ranging and holistic way. This consultation process has highlighted to me that we at present do not have the kind of coverage that we need here in rural Northern Devon.

While I have reservations about many of the other changes that they are proposing, the closure of a station is final. Other changes in the way staff operate or the number of and location of appliances can be adjusted over time. But if we lose Woolacombe station, the service that it not only gives the community but the capacity and support it gives to the system, it is not coming back.

Communities across North Devon need to have their opinions heard. This is a genuine consultation and the Fire Authority want to hear your views. If you are not able to pick up the consultation document at one of the events, then you can fill in the questionnaire online at [www.dsfire.gov.uk](http://www.dsfire.gov.uk)

I will be writing to the Chief Fire Officer and every member of the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority directly and I invite you to do the same."

**Letter of 13<sup>th</sup> August and Fire Authority Response** – members were grateful for Mr Heaton-Jones intervention in this matter and for his support for the retention of the station at Woolacombe. They expressed disappointment at the responses given by the Fire Authority on the points raised and deep concern at the possible impact of the closure of the station in Woolacombe and possible impact of the loss of so many resources across the two counties.

**Continued Opposition** – it was agreed to send a formal response to the Fire Authority after the September meeting. In the meantime, the clerk was asked to contact other Parish Councils in other affected areas to consult on possible actions to be taken. It was also agreed to invite the local fire crew to put forward suggestions for keeping the station open.

**Web site Information** - the clerk informed members that all relevant information had been posted on the web site including the addresses of the fire authority members.

**Public Meeting July 31<sup>st</sup>** - member reported that there have been very positive reports on the well-attended meeting.

**175/2019 Marine Drive Ticket tender** – Members agreed to defer any decision until the September meeting and to extend the period of advertising.

**176/2019 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman**

**Landscape House Corner** – the clerk was asked to report the considerable subsidence on the corner as it was felt that this was a road safety issue. It was also felt that the hedges on this stretch of road should be trimmed back to maximise the width of road at this point.

**Gora Lane** – the clerk was asked to request the cutting back of the path by the Trust.

**Red Barn** - the clerk was asked to seek clarification when the proposed road works would be taking place.

**177/2019 Cheques and payments for approval and Signature.**

The following payments were approved and signed at the meeting. The R.F.O. provided a list of payments in conjunction with bank statements which were also checked and approved at the meeting:

20	R Walker	1434.24
20	D Hodges	1415.46
20	K Ash	1322.65
20	HMRC	1314.15
20	S Hocking	1263.84
20	Simpsons	758.42
20	PLandscape	384.11
20	J Keiff	311.60
20	S. W. Water	301.45
20	G Hookway	276.00
20	N.D.C.	249.60
20	B.F.S.	240.00
20	Crown Estates	204.92
20	N.W. Keys	97.92
20	Jewsons	70.32
20	A.F.S.	64.80
20	Huck Nets	58.79
20	Nicholsons	52.50
20	S. McCarthy	50.00
20	A.F.S.	40.80
20	A.F.S.	29.40
20	Simpsons	25.51
20	N.T.	15.00
20	Bloom Brothers	1214.00
20	Gordons Window	744.00

**Part 2**

Correspondence not requiring discussion is available in the Council Chamber

**Part 3**

Confidential Matters

**Correspondence to Note:**

- 1. 'Everyone's Tomorrow' – Newsletter from Senior Council Of Devon**
- 2. Devon Senior Voice - Newsletter.**
- 3. Health Watch Voices**

**Yours faithfully**

*Sally Hocking*

*The minutes of previous meetings are available from the Parish Clerk*

*The order of the agenda items may be altered with the consent of the chairman*

**Date of the next meeting: September 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 p.m.**

**The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.**