

## **Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held via Microsoft Teams on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00 p.m.**

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

**Clerks: S Hocking and J Keiff**

**Also Present: A Davis (D.C.C.) , M Barrow (D.C.C.) and 5 members of the public**

**Apologies for absence: Councillors Richards**

**1/2021 Public Speaking – Mr M Barrow (D.C.C.)** thanked those present for the invitation to speak and for the questions already posed by members and contained in a letter from Mortehoe resident Mr A Green.

**Plans for the Parish** - Mr Barrow informed those present of the time-scales of the ongoing works in the Parish which should see coverage for 95% of the residents with super-fast speeds available to most properties.

**Airband** – have been awarded the contract to provide these services in the area and will be providing fibre connections where ever possible rather than the wireless technology which relies on sight lines. The steep contours and presence of trees has made this technology unreliable in this area.

**Community Fibre Partnerships** – Mr Barrow felt that much of the community would not be eligible for this scheme as the ongoing work of Airband would provide the services for those who chose to take them up.

**Open Reach** – Mr Barrow was unable to inform members of the nature of the extensive present and planned work of the company.

**Universal Service Obligation** – Mr Barrow felt that the current work of Airband in the community would meet the requirements of the service obligation.

**Airband** – it was confirmed that Airband would have a monopoly as a provider and customers would not be able to change providers for the time being. However, they are obliged by the nature of their agreement with Devon County Council to provide service with prices broadly in line with competitors. All their work is subject to a robust assessment with D.C.C. with payments for work made retrospectively.

**Telegraph Poles** – Mr Barrow confirmed that existing poles would only be used where absolutely necessary.

**Coverage** - maps should be provided to all householders to indicate the areas of coverage of the services due to be provided by Airband.

**Letter from Mr A Green** - *members thanked Mr Green for both the clarity of his letter and the questions raised therein which had formed the basis for much of the above discussion.*

### **2/2021 Police Report - Crime Report for Mortehoe/Woolacombe & Westdown, Includes Mullacott & Bittadon.**

<b>Violence with Injury 1</b>	<b>Violence without Injury 2</b>	<b>Robbery 1</b>	<b>Theft 4</b>
<b>Public order offences 1</b>	<b>Non-Notifiable Offences 1</b>		<b>Total 10 crimes</b>

**3/2021 Declaration of Interests – Planning Application 72481- The whole Council declared an interest in this application as owners of the property .**

**4/2021 Minutes: It was *Proposed to APPROVE* as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on December 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. *Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

## **5/2021 County Council Report**

**Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council** - The link below may be of interest to residents with the situation changing and many interested in what is happening locally this link is a useful starting point for questions and the current situation in Devon.

The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

**Devon County Council launch COVID-19 Fund to help communities** - Devon County Council has launched it's third round of COVID-19 Funding to help provide valuable funding to organisations working in communities that have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

The scheme launches this today grants of up to £700 are available.

The funding aims to help voluntary and community groups to tackle the social and economic impacts of the virus outbreak and help those who are most vulnerable in their communities.

The funding can be used to address issues such as:

- Safe deliveries of essential goods and services to people who are isolating or vulnerable, for example food and medicine.
- Supporting people to access online information and services.
- Starting virtual support groups to help people who are isolated to stay connected and to improve mental health and wellbeing.

**Applications** - are accepted from constituted and not-for-private-profit voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector groups and organisations, town and parish councils, charities or businesses or a combination of such groups working together.

Groups, small local businesses and individuals without their own separate bank account may also apply, but they will need to have the support of a recognised organisation – such as Town and Parish Council, local Community and Voluntary Services (CVS) organisation, village hall or other established local voluntary groups – acting on their behalf as guarantor or as the holder of the funding.

**For more information about applying, the application form and the terms and conditions visit the [Devon County Council website](#).**

**If you are having trouble applying or for other help and support, please email [COVID19FUND@devon.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19FUND@devon.gov.uk) with the subject 'SUPPORT'.**

**If your application is for food provision please use this link and submit an application to this fund: <http://devoncf.com/apply/community-food-programme-2/>**

**Schools** - remain open for children of critical workers and the vulnerable

Schools, colleges, special schools and alternative provision in Devon will remain open during lockdown for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

While there continues to be a low risk that children will be severely affected by COVID-19, the government recognises that schools must be included in the restrictions in order to have the best chance of getting the virus under control.

Early Years provision will remain open during lockdown for all children so families should not see a change in their pattern of attendance.

This includes Childminders, Nurseries, Pre- Schools, Maintained Nursery Schools and School Nurseries.

For all other school-aged children, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges will move to remote learning.

### **Devon Recycling Centres - are still open, but restrictions are in place.**

Our recycling centres are still open, although the resale areas within them are closed.

The national lockdown advice right now is for us to stay at home as much as possible and only to make journeys out of the house for essential reasons only.

Therefore, we are encouraging you to think about how you can reduce the amount of waste you create.

- Try to postpone projects at home that produce waste that would normally require you to make journeys to recycling centres
- If you do produce waste that you would normally dispose of at a recycling centre, can you temporarily store it at home safely instead, until we're out of the current lockdown restrictions
- Remember that garden waste and other recyclable material can be removed as part of your usual curb side collections

If you make a visit to the recycling centre, please expect them to be operating differently during this lockdown period.

Restrictions are in place, including social distancing, which may lead to queues. If queues do start forming, we may need to restrict vehicles from joining the queues towards the end of the day and if queues become a safety hazard on the public highway, we may need to temporarily close the site.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/waste-disposal-and-recycling/>

**Devon community testing programme** - Devon County Council is working with partners to ensure that rapid '30 minute' community testing for people without COVID-19 symptoms will soon be available across Devon.

It follows the government announcement on January 10 that it is expanding asymptomatic community testing across the UK.

Approximately one in three people who have coronavirus do not display symptoms.

Community testing will help to find individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms and need to isolate and who may inadvertently be spreading the virus.

A positive or negative result will not remove the need to follow existing COVID-19 measures socially and in the workplace.

Organisations and employers who have staff and workers who would be eligible for testing are encouraged to register their details. Further information and updates are available on the [Devon County Council website](#).

**Critical workers** - and those in high-risk occupations who still have to attend work, and people who are in contact with vulnerable individuals, such as carers, will be prioritised.

Rapid 'lateral flow tests', which provide a result within thirty minutes, will be used.

Community testing will complement and not substitute national coronavirus testing – anyone with symptoms should [book a free NHS test using the GOV.UK website](#) or by calling 119.

The first testing site will open at County Hall in Exeter towards the end of January, with further sites to open across Devon through February and March.

This will support existing testing arrangements and complement the national roll-out of lateral flow tests in some settings such as universities and schools and with some large employers.

**Call for evidence seeks views and evidence from all those with an interest in rural transport.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-transport-rural-strategy-call-for-evidence>

**Transport Consultation** - The government published the [Future of mobility: urban strategy](#), in March 2019, the Department for Transport are now seeking views and evidence on what could be incorporated into a Future of Transport: rural strategy.

There are three sections in the consultation document:

- the context of the Future of Transport: rural strategy

- our assessment of the mobility trends in rural areas, and the emerging opportunities for rural environments that we're witnessing in transport innovation – this section seeks views on whether we have identified these correctly and further evidence for these trends
- consideration of the approach that the government could take to help shape these opportunities to benefit rural areas

This consultation is part of the [Future of Transport programme](#), which aims to shape transport innovation and secure the UK's position as a leader in the transport sector of the future.

The consultation closes on the 16<sup>th</sup> February.

**More Covid updates** - If you are a family or know of anyone, who are worrying about money and struggling to pay for basic household essentials, please be aware that you can apply for help through funding that is available via the District Council hardship funds, this was the money sent to the District Councils from DCC for any households requiring extra help. There's more about what [financial and food support is available for families in Devon on the website.](#)

**Free school meals provision** - As a result of concerns raised at a national level, we have understandably had a considerable number of emails regarding the provision of food parcels or vouchers for children who are entitled to Free School Meals. I hope the below provides some helpful information about the position in Devon.

**Funding** During term time schools (not the LA) receive funding from the DfE to provide free school meals for entitled children. Schools currently receive £450 per pupil, per school year, to provide a free school meal. This works out at approximately £2.43 per day depending on the number of non-pupil days the schools have. This equates to £12.15 per week.

The DfE have in the last few days confirmed that they will add an extra £3.50 per week per pupil to cover the additional costs of providing a food parcel. This means schools will now have around £15.65 per week per pupil to provide the food parcels.

**Provision** To date the DfE have said in their guidance that schools should use food parcels in the first instance and move to vouchers if this is not possible. Schools already employ their own staff, or have contracts with the catering providers, to supply meals on site for entitled children throughout the year and this principal would get best value from the existing contract. The DfE had already provided guidance on the content and usability of the food parcels but this guidance has been updated today.

**Devon** In Devon some schools are providing mostly food parcels, others mostly vouchers and in some schools there is a choice available to suit family needs and access to shops; this is mainly in rural areas. To support schools the council made available the vouchers we used successfully over the Christmas period and a number of schools have bought into this scheme.

The DfE have now announced that the national voucher system will be back in place by Monday and that vouchers obtained through this route will be centrally funded by the DfE.

Whilst strongly encouraging schools to still use food parcels where feasible, they have also said that Schools can claim to be reimbursed up to £15 per eligible FSM pupil per week for the provision of local vouchers.

**School holidays;** Schools are not required to provide free school meals during school holidays and Devon County Council will again look to support families with vouchers over the February half term.

**Reminder about reporting a highway problem:**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

telephone: 0345 155 1004

## 6/2021 . Planning

### **72481 Erection of Wooden shed to store mobility equipment at the Tourist Information Centre The Esplanade Woolacombe.**

Members fully supported this application and felt that it would have a minimum impact on the area and would not be visible from any other property.

*Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded PASSED UNANIMOUSLY*

### **72658 Alterations and extension to dwelling at 3B Seymour Villas Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AQ**

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

## **Planning Permission Received:**

## **Planning Refusal Received:**

**Road Closure: Notification of Road Closure – Morteheo – Lower Clay Park Road 8<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February to allow installation of B.T. new fibre cabling on behalf of Openreach.**

## 9/2021 District Council Report

**Budget Deficit** - Councillor Wilkinson reported that the predicted 2 million pound deficit following the substantial loss of revenue and grants in 2020 has now been reduced to £2,000. Councillor Wilkinson paid tribute to the budget team but warned that the loss of income would lead to changes in the services that the Council could provide.

**Green Waste Collection** - the cost of the service will be rising to £40 – the first increase since the inception of the service four years ago.

**Community Councillor Grant** – will remain at £1,000

**Full time Climate Change Officer** - will be appointed to promote green initiatives and carbon reduction measures.

**Polystyrene Body Boards** – the council would be discussing measures to help reduce the large numbers of boards sold and discarded after limited use.

**Meeting with Acorn Homes S.W.** – a meeting is due to take place with the company regarding the building development at West Down and agreed arrangements regarding 106 payments.

## 10/2021 Questions for the National Trust

**Marine Drive** - the clerk reported that the Trust had agreed to the installation of a metal gate at the barrier on the car park to help give greater control on the management of the car park. Members agreed to the purchase of the gate and fittings and thanked the Trust for their offer to fit the gate.

11/2021 Correspondence i) **Letter from P Seely Re: Information on the 2021 Census – Contents noted .**

ii) **Request from A Dennis Re: Request for permission to start Youth team in Woolacombe. – members welcomed the initiative and agreed to assist Mr Dennis in any way possible.**

iii) **Provision of a Bus Shelter – Woolacombe Station Road – members asked to see other examples of bus shelters before agreeing to the project.**

iv) **Letter from A Green Re Broadband Provision in the Parish – see item 1/2021 – Members thanked Mr Green for his letter which had formed the basis for the earlier discussion of Broadband in the Parish.**

12/2021 **Register of Outstanding Matters/ Matters Arising from the Minutes Footpath 8/ Coastal Path, Woolacombe** - following the partial collapse of the cliff and the appearance of cracks in the path, the route has been closed. Meetings were held with Councillor Davis and Mr Houghton

(County Footpaths Officer) and following consultation with Parkin Estates, it was agreed for a temporary path to be created until more detailed surveys had taken place to allow a permanent diversion to be installed.

**Rockham Steps** – work is ongoing to remove the present structure. Mr Houghton has confirmed that the County Council “have commissioned an options appraisal on access to Rockham from WSP. As discussed, due to the large volume of work that both our engineers and their external consultant partners (WSP) have, I do not know when this piece of work will be carried out. It will most definitely be of use in working out what, if anything, can be done here, and help shape any funding bid to CCF”

**Devon Air Ambulance Lights** – have been repaired following the reporting of a fault.

**Community Tree Scheme** – it was not possible to submit an application for the community tree scheme as the Woodland Trust website has not been functioning since before Christmas.

**Parking Review** - the proposals agreed by the Parish Council have been submitted to Highways Officers for consideration prior to any legal orders and further public consultation.

**13/2021 Consultation on Devon County Council Carbon Free Plan** - *Members agreed to complete the survey on the subject individually and asked the clerk to submit a formal reply to the County Council supporting the general principles of the plan.*

**14/2021 106 Allocation Morteheo Parish** - *Members agreed to discuss this matter further in order to formulate priorities for future spending in the Parish. It was also agreed to look into the areas of Open Space that the Council is responsible for and future improvements.*

**Community Councillor Grant** – *Members agreed to investigate the provision of a new seat for the play area at Morteheo and to join forces with West Down Parish Council in order to reduce costs.*

**Inscription** - It was agreed to discuss possible inscriptions for the new seat which is to be made of recycled materials.

**15/2021 Corona Virus: Matters Arising**

**Provision of Vaccine** – it was confirmed that Combe Coastal Practice would be offering the vaccine in the near future. Members welcomed this news and expressed surprise that couples were not offered the vaccine together rather than the present circumstances when there were unknown times between vaccine appointments for those of similar ages living in the same household.

**16/2021 Affordable Housing Update** – the Chairman of the Morteheo and Woolacombe Community Land Trust informed members of the first Community Consultation meeting held online the previous week which had seen 47 households linked in to the meeting. The meeting had seen a very positive result echoed in subsequent feedback on the subject.

**Poll** - a poll taken at the end of the meeting had shown that 98% of those present were in favour of progressing with the project.

**Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February** - will be held with the appointed architects in order to discuss the arrangements for a feasibility study which will look at all aspects of the proposed development.

**17/2021 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman**

**Snow Warden** – Councillor Richards informed members that he would be handing over the responsibility of this role to his son Mr J Richards Junior. Members thanked him for his services in this role over many years.

**18/2021 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 prior to the meeting:**

19	S Hocking	1,272.92
19	P Starbuck	420.00
19	HMRC	335.10
19	J Keiff	244.29
19	St John's Nurseries	72.00
19	S West Water	52.39
19	S. West Water	34.87

**Part 2**

Correspondence not requiring discussion is available in the Council Chamber  
Confidential Matters

**Part 3**

**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: February 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 Parish Council 7.00 p.m.**

**The meeting ended at 9 25 p.m.**