

**Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held online via Zoom on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7.00 p.m.**

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

**Clerks: S Hocking and J Keiff**

**Also Present: A Davis (D.C.C.) and 1 member of the public present**

**115/2020 Apologies for Absence: Councillors: J Richards and R Ley; J Fairhurst and P South (N.T.)**

**116/2020 Public Speaking – There were no representations to speak at the meeting. -**

**117/2020 Police Report - Reported Crimes for Woolacombe, Bittadon, West Down and Mullacott - Violence with Injury 2 Sexual Offences 1 Burglary Non-Dwelling 1 Criminal Damage 1 Public Order Offences 1 Possession of Drugs 1**

**118/2020 Declaration of Interests –**

**71598 Windrift – Councillor Cook declared a personal interest in this application as a near neighbour.**

**71598 Windrift - the whole council declared a joint personal interest in this application as the applicant was a family member of a Parish councillor. (Absent from the meeting)**

**119/2020 Minutes:**

***It was Proposed to approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7 p.m. via Zoom link Proposed. Seconded APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY***

**118/2020 County Council Report -**

**Update North Devon Link Road -** The Full Business Case for the North Devon Link Road improvements will be submitted to the Department for Transport next month after gaining approval from Devon County Council's Cabinet on Wednesday 8 July. Councillors backed the submission for the £93 million scheme, as well as approving the design of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge at Landkey and the start of site clearance on the scheme later this year. The contract for all of the widening and junction improvements between South Molton and Portmore is expected to be awarded in the autumn. The contracts for the other junction improvements will be awarded separately. No doubt everyone will feel reassured that this important project has not been hindered or delayed by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The County Council remains committed to meeting its deadlines on this project in order to submit the Full Business Case next month, and this approval from Cabinet clears the way for that. A number of surveys still need to be carried out prior to the start of work but we remain confident of getting this scheme underway as soon as we possibly can. Devon County Council has continued to progress the proposals, and over the last six months several key milestones have been achieved.

**Advance planting -** along the 10km length of the scheme between Filleigh and Portmore has been completed. The scheme's planting programme involves the planting of over 20,000 trees and bushes to establish ecological habitats before the start of construction work and further replacement of trees and bushes which will be removed.

**Planning permission** - has been granted for new segregated pedestrian/cycle crossings of the road at Bishops Tawton and at Landkey Junction. These additional facilities will enhance opportunities for walking and cycling in the area and tackle some of the historic severance caused by the road.

**A Side Roads Variation Order and two Compulsory Purchase Orders** have been submitted to the Department for Transport for confirmation in relation to these works at Landkey and Bishops Tawton. There are currently no known objections which have been raised for the Orders. These Orders, if confirmed, will allow the Council to acquire the land required to carry out the improvement works at Landkey and Bishops Tawton, including the construction of the segregated pedestrian/cycle crossings.

Devon County Council is working with the Department for Transport to finalise the Government's approval process and, subject to funding, start to advance construction later this year. It's anticipated that the main work will start by next Summer.

#### **Covid-19 update:**

**Testing** The government has [recently announced](#) that from 6 July onwards, there will be a roll out of weekly testing of staff and testing of residents every 28 days in all care homes without outbreaks. This includes bank, agency and visiting staff such as social workers and Allied Health Professionals working in care homes. Care homes for the over 65s and for those with dementia will be prioritised and they can request retesting via the [digital portal](#) and we are working with all care homes across Devon to support this national programme.

**Exeter NHS Nightingale** - The Exeter Nightingale Hospital has now been officially handed over as a functioning hospital. While it remains the case that the Nightingale Exeter isn't needed for COVID patients, the CT scanner will be used to help local GPs and hospitals provide people with safer and faster access to tests for a range of conditions, not just cancer. The hospital beds are specifically designed for people with COVID needs, and throughout this time the facility will remain ready to quickly revert to our primary purpose and receive patients with COVID, if the number of cases in the region rises significantly.

**DCC Cabinet** - At July DCC Cabinet we received a paper updating Members on the [Pandemic Funding](#) including the current commitments that we have in place and where the Local Authority Support Grant has been allocated across DCC including across Adult Care and Health and the investment across all our social care providers. We also received an update on the work being led by Dr Virginia Pearson, Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity to develop a [Local Outbreak Management Plan](#).

**Respite and Day services update** - As the position across the country and in Devon improves, DCC have begun plans to re-provide respite and day services for individuals and their carers. Our two respite centres with the required safe social distancing space will be ready to open for planned respite from 17 July at Greenfields, Barnstaple and Pine Park, Honiton. All risk assessments and infection control measures are in place, and staff are fully trained. COVID testing will be in place for service users and staff. In House day services will not be provided from buildings at the moment so discussions are underway with service users to agree how they would like to be supported in different ways. This may be on a 1:1 basis, supporting someone at home, enabling virtual day activities or enabling people to link with a volunteer for example.

**Continuing provider support** - There has been by DCC significant financial investment we have made into our provider markets, including the aspiration that providers pass on the investment to ensure their staff are paid at least £10 per hour. Many providers have already put that change into effect, but our market of home care providers is very diverse, and different providers will use the additional resources that we are making available to offer their workforce an improved package of

terms and conditions in other ways. We will continue to work closely with each provider to achieve the best outcome for care workers, and the people they support, and to deliver the best care we can for vulnerable people.

**Economic recovery plan to build a stronger Devon** - Team Devon, a public and private sector partnership drawing on expertise from across the county, has published a prospectus for economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

**The prospectus** - is a team effort bringing together the talent and experience from business, education, skills and public sector organisations with the backing of senior business representatives, Devon's County, District and City Councils, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, Dartmoor National Park and Devon's MPs.

**Team Devon** - wants the county to be recognised nationally for expertise in low carbon, digital technologies; to have a flourishing tourism, food and drink and agricultural sector; and to have a sense of pride in Devon's own products, services, talent and expertise, with communities and a business network that backs Devon. A more detailed plan and investment strategy is being developed by Team Devon to support the delivery of its actions, and it will be working in partnership with Government, Heart of the South West LEP and other agencies to implement the plan.

Read the and download the Team Devon COVID-19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus.

[Team Devon COVID-19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus.](#)

**Highway Budget** - Devon County Council's cabinet approved spending an additional £27M on Devon's roads for this year, making the current years allocation the largest ever annual investment in Devon's Road Network. Cabinet's decision to back this spending follows one of the wettest winters on record. The funding, from the Government's Potholes Fund, will be used to repair road surfaces, increase pothole prevention and to combat the damage caused to highways, bridges and structures during the winter months. The extra money has also enabled DCC to improve the plans that were already in place to tackle the effects of weathering and previous storm damage. The funding will be used to advance Devon's highways for the long-term, using community knowledge to highlight specific areas that require maintenance. Structural repairs of bridges and improvement of main roads and 'B' roads will be the priority.

**Smaller roads, such as 'C' and unclassified roads**, will receive the majority of the available funding, with a focus on improving the condition and resilience of high-usage local route networks. Bridges and structures and main roads will receive the remaining share, concentrating specifically on structural repairs and making Devon's highways safer for all users.

**Resident's Parking Scheme, Woolacombe** – Councillor Davis confirmed that there were no limitations on the numbers of permits sold for the scheme and the purchase of a permit did not necessarily mean that you were guaranteed a space for parking.

## **119/2020 Planning**

### **71598 Extensions to dwelling incorporating new integral garage together with new roof and first floor rooms & Extended terrace and retaining walls to garden at Windrift Western Rise Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AG**

Members felt that it was a shame that the application had had to be submitted retrospectively but had no objections to the proposal. **Proposed APPROVAL . Seconded . PASSED UNANANIMOULSY**

**71686 Extension & alterations to allow for subdivision of existing dwelling into 3 holiday flats with associated parking at Gordon Lodge Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon.**

Members repeated the views expressed at the previous application submitted earlier in the year and supported the views put forward by the Heritage Officer in relation to the proposed alterations, material choice and the possible impact on the Conservation area. They also felt that the parking provision was still inadequate for the increased size of the property and additional visitor numbers expected. They did not feel that the parking provision complied with policy DN06 .

*Proposed REFUSAL. Seconded . PASSED UNANIMOUSLY .*

**71746 Rear extension to Ground floor flat (Arden), in place of existing extension. Proposed 3 space garage (for Arden and flat above, Beachcomber)( Amendment to application 71139 - Change of pitched roof to flat roof over proposed extension) at 2 Flats Arden & Beachcomber Sunnyside Road Woolacombe**

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

**Planning Permission Received: None**

**Planning Refusal Received: None**

**Planning Enforcement : 12447 Alleged Unauthorised development - Erection of large structure in garden at Greenacres Beach Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AE**

**Planning Inspectorate Appeal: Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

**Site Address: Chalet 12, Europa Park, Woolacombe Station Road, Woolacombe EX34 7AN**

**Alleged Breach: Breach of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 28132 – Permanent residential occupation of the chalet**

**Appellant's name: Ms Rebecca Worth & Mr Dennis Worth**

**Appeal references: APP/X1118/C/20/3249032**

**Appeal start date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Members were in support of the appellant pointing out that the buildings were of a good robust standard and suitable for full time occupation. Members were concerned that these properties represented the only low-cost affordable properties in a community that currently has over 50% second homes or holiday occupancy. The properties have a long history of occupancy with resident families contributing rates and playing a full role in the community. Members feared that many families could be made homeless swelling the homelessness figures in the region.

These properties are currently considered as the only low cost affordable properties in the community and, as such, are a valuable and rare resource.

**120/2020 District Council Report –**

**A.O.N.B meeting** - Councillor Wilkinson reported on his attendance at this recent meeting during which it was agreed to incorporate into the main priorities of the A.O.N.B. the promotion of the area as a world surfing reserve. Councillor Wikinson also reported that there were two vacancies to sit on the A.O.N.B

**Rockham Beach** - it was also agreed to look into the reinstatement of access to this important beach.

**Coastal Issues Group** – Councillor Wilkinson noted the two recent incidents on the 20<sup>th</sup> May and June 24<sup>th</sup> when the Parish was overwhelmed with visitors following government announcements relating to Covid 19

**Braunton Parish Council** - had equipment to loan to enable the markings of areas for the establishment of wild flowers.

**121/2020 Questions for the National Trust** – there were no issues relating to the Trust although members were glad to see the reinternment of more staff members in time for the main summer season.

**122/2020 Correspondence: i) Letter from Mr Rodgers Re – Disabled Parking on Marine Drive** - *Members regretted that they were unable to provide free parking for Blue Badge holders but suggested that Mr Rodgers looked at the purchase of a season ticket if he was likely to make a lot of use of the car park*

**ii) Letter from P Cooper Update on Park Run** – *Contents noted*

**iii) Letter from S Hambleton (N.D.C) Re 106 Funding** - *Members reiterated their previous recommendations for:*

- Improvements to playing field & Pavilion*
- The provision of a skateboard park*

*They added the:*

- Regeneration of Rockham Steps*

**iv) Climate Change Update Councillor Pearson (NDC)** *Contents noted*

**v) Invitation to Conference on Electric Charging Points** – *Contents noted*

**vi) Letter from C Clement Re: Woolacombe Parking** – *The clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Meg Booth Head of Highways (D.C.C.) regarding the very high volume of illegal overnight parking on the Esplanade at present which has become a significant issue for the community. It was also pointed out that the meters on the Esplanade raised an average of a quarter of a million pounds for D.C.C. each year.*

**vii) Report from T Watkins (Business Development Executive Airband) Update** - *Members were pleased to see that progress was being made on the long-awaited improvements for Morteheo and surrounding areas but expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the technology in such a challenging terrain. They felt that a fixed line connection was the most reliable.*

**viii) Consultation on Dog Fouling and Control PSPO Consultation** -

*Members felt that the existing legislation in Morteheo and Woolacombe was effective and that the zoned approach used on the beaches was effective and well managed.*

*Members did express concerns regarding the non compliance with signage at the Meadow Playing Fields by certain dog owners who allowed their pets to foul the playing pitches.*

## **/2020 Register of Outstanding Matters**

**Play Areas** - the clerk reported that the areas are now open and fully operational. The Safety Inspection was due to take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> but no report had been received yet.

**Phone box removal, The Esplanade-** B.T. have contacted the land owners of the four boxes situated adjacent to the The Esplanade regarding their possible removal. The proposed removal will be subject to public consultation.

#### **124/2020 Coronavirus Update**

**Part – Pedestrianisation of West Road** – Members were generally pleased with the effectiveness of the scheme which has allowed for greater separation of queues and pedestrians in the area. The clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to Woolacombe Fire Service, Nick Sampson, R and S Lancaster and others to thank them for their help in organising and setting up the scheme.

**Complaint Regarding Barriers** - members felt that the present arrangements had saved a considerable amount of public money and had avoided unnecessary spending or requests for funding from local businesses. It was agreed to move some of the damaged or leaking barriers out of the scheme.

#### **Police and Crime Commissioner Additional Funding for 2 wardens - Meeting Monday 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 a.m. Re Employment of Marshals**

**Employment of Marshals** – the clerk reported that funding was in place for the authorities and marshals would be in situ as soon as possible. Posters advertising their presence would be erected within the village and the marshals had been given set areas in which they would patrol. Daily briefing meetings would be held in which a representative from the council could be involved.

*Members welcomed the introduction of the marshals and thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local Police for their help.*

**125/2020 Affordable Housing Update Re Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July** - the Chairman confirmed that the wording for the Draft Head of Terms had been agreed and further procedural matters had been confirmed.

*Members noted the comments made by Mr Watson to any points raised in a recent letter. The clerk was asked to write to Mr Sawyer to invite him to a meeting to discuss recent progress.*

**126/2020 Model Code of Conduct Consultation** - *Members agree to look again at this document at the August meeting.*

**127/2020 Skateboard Park** - members agreed to submit a grant application as soon as confirmation had been received from the planning office regarding whether planning permission was required. Members formally thanked Councillor Davis for her support in the backing of the scheme as put forward by Councillor Dicker. Councillor Wilkinson agreed to put forward £314.16 from his Community Councillor Grant towards the scheme.

*Members agreed that the ramp could be positioned in the Meadow prior to its reconstruction and that the Council would meet any shortfall in the funding for the scheme . Proposed. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

#### **128/2020 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman**

**Zoom Meeting Costs** - it was agreed to try out the Microsoft Teams app for future meetings as the service was free.

**Meadow Car Park** - a number of cars had been locked into the car park

**Street Trading in Woolacombe** - members voiced concerns regarding Covid 19 regulations and compliance with these regulations by a street trader in Woolacombe. There were also concerns regarding the blocking of pavements and social distancing amongst queuing customers

**Royal Hotel** - members queried the status of the empty hotel .

**Mortehoe Cemetery** - members requested the enforcement of parking regulations at the car park to enable residents to visit the cemetery.

**Esplanade Parking** - members voiced dissatisfaction at the lack of enforcement on the Esplanade and the very high levels of over night parking and camping . It was pointed out that the County Council benefitted from the considerable income generated from the meters.

**Water Fountains** – members enquired on any progress regarding the proposed installation of public fountains in the village centre.

**Rubbish in the Meadow** - the clerk was asked to arrange the removal of rubbish in the Meadow.

**Horse Box Café** - a complaint had been received regarding the operation of the café.

### **129/2020 Cheques and payments for approval and Signature. July 20<sup>th</sup>**

**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:**

Zoom	18/07/2020	Zoom x 4 months 4 April to 17 Aug	£57.56
NDDC	08/06/2020	dog waste bin emptying	£249.60
Ricoh UK	10/06/2020	copier usage	£110.75
EDF	11/06/2020	car park attendant electric 7/3-9/6	£80.44
Golden Coast Service Station	30/06/2020	can of oil	£4.95
SWW	06/07/2020	sww water rates 1/5-6/7	£34.87
SWW	06/07/2020	sww water rates 1/5-6/7	£34.87
Odlings Ltd	06/07/2020	washers wall tablets	£21.60
Odlings Ltd	03/07/2020	stubbs/mason/fields/bond	£337.20
Bloom Brothers	29/06/2020	grass cutting/strimming	£280.00
		<b>Total before salaries</b>	<b>£1,211.84</b>
Sally Hocking		salary	£1,272.72
Janet Keiff		salary	£319.82
Roy Walker		salary	£1,315.55
Dave Holdges		salary	£1,378.95
Hmrc		month 4 paye	£1,165.50
Kevin Ash		final salary payment	£105.70
			<b>£6,770.08</b>

### **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: August 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 Parish Council Meeting 7.00 p.m.**

**The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.**