

**Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at 7.00 p.m.**

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

**Clerks: S Hocking and J Keiff**

**Also Present: 7 members of the public.**

**200/2019 Apologies for absence: Councillors: Davis and Richards**

**201/2019 Public Speaking**

**Mr D Roydon Re: Planning Application 70366 Willingcott Holiday Village** - Mr Roydon outlined the recent history of Willingcott and plans for the future of the area. He hoped that the plans represented a balance between improvements in the environment with widespread woodland and natural fauna with improved facilities and new holiday accommodation. Mr Roydon highlighted the surveys that had been carried out including traffic and drainage. It was envisaged the new developments would be a major economic contributor to the local area as well as the benefits brought with the completion of the site Tarka Trail.

**A Shelley Re: Planning Application 70366 Willingcott Holiday Village** - Ms Shelley voiced her objections to the scheme including points raised on lack of consultation for neighbouring property owners, traffic management and the accuracy of the material gained from the traffic survey. She felt that the highway access had not taken account the narrowness of the adjoining roads and the two very steep hills at Willingcott and Bradwell. Ms Shelly also queried the capacity of the local drainage system to cope with 107 additional properties and cited recent problems regarding flooding and spillage. Ms Shelley questioned the need for such a large development and enquired whether any future development would be permitted.

**Mr Bennet Re Planning Application 70366 Willingcott Holiday Village** – Mr Bennet voiced his objections to this application and cited increase of traffic, drainage and flooding issues. He also felt that the noise nuisance from new play areas and bar facilities were too close to neighbouring properties and would pose a possible noise nuisance.

**202/2019 Police Report - there was no police report this month.**

**203/2019 Declaration of Interests – Councillor Woodman - Re Planning Application 70366 Willingcott Holiday Village** - Councillor Woodman declared an interest in this application as owner of a property on the site and member of the W.V.H.O.A

**Councillor Duffield - Re: Planning Application 70526 Woolacombe Medical Centre** - Councillor Duffield declared an interest in this application as church warden to the adjoining premises.

**204/2019 Minutes:**

*It was Proposed to APPROVE* as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber. **Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**205/2019 County Council Report** – The following report was read out on behalf of Councillor Davis.

**North Devon Link Road update** - The North Devon Link Road project has been progressing at pace since the successful approval of the Outline Business Case in spring 2018.

The scheme is progressing towards the Full Business Case stage, with submission due in summer 2020. The application for the main works was approved in February. Land acquisition took place in summer 2019 with no objections to Compulsory Purchase. Achieving these two milestones reflects the high degree of local support for the scheme and enabled advanced works to commence on site just a couple of weeks ago. This is particularly important in achieving our objective of a net environmental gain for the scheme. (The advance works are planting 20,000 trees)

Following public consultation, the County Council committed to, where possible, removing all at-grade crossings across the route. This has resulted in the addition of a further two new walking and cycling facilities at Bishops Tawton and Landkey Junction and the subsequent progression of planning and land acquisitions for these elements. We are on programme to submit the Full Business Case for the scheme to the DfT in summer 2020 and begin works in Winter of the same year.

**A399 Brayford** - There is an upcoming carriageway stabilisation scheme “Lions Rump South” on the A399 south of Brayford (where the temporary traffic lights are). The retaining wall supporting the road at this location is 3m in height at its highest and failing along an 11.5m length which corresponds to cracking and a depression in the carriageway. We currently have traffic lights keeping vehicles away from the northbound lane as a temporary measure to minimise further loading to the wall. Works to stabilise the carriageway are provisionally programmed for **4<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019** to avoid summer traffic and half term dates. We have a complete road closure booked for the duration as we will be excavating in the road. The official diversion route is via A399, A39, A361 and vice versa due to the classification of the route. We will work with the contractor to reduce the road closure duration if safe and practicable to do so. We have liaised with local businesses and these dates reflect the outcome of those discussions, avoiding the half term dates of both Devon and Somerset.

**B3229 Easterclose to Kentisbury Ford** - This road is closed until 20<sup>th</sup> December. Construction works are required to repair a section of severely damaged and deteriorating highway. The works will be carried out under a road closure and will be reduced to traffic lights when possible. The Post Office and Filling Station are open as usual.

**Community Insight survey** - This is running until 22nd December and is capturing a snapshot of life in Devon for our diverse communities. We are asking people whether they: can get around easily, access green spaces, look after themselves, feel safe, can access community resources and adult learning etc. We’re also asking about their health and wellbeing and social connectivity alongside views on fly tipping/cleanliness, decision making, whether they feel listened to and whether they think council tax should increase.

The link to the survey: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/community-insight-survey-2019/> Initial results will be available early in the new year and will be shared with partners, including District Councils. Further analysis (age, disability, locality etc) will be available by the Spring.

**Winter Highway matters** - The annual delivery of 8500 tonnes of salt due in the next few weeks to ensure by early October the salt barns are fully stocked at 23,500 tonnes. The gritters and snow blowers are all serviced and ready for action. Should you want any salt please would you advise me of how much, delivery address and the contact phone number. The highways annual town and parish council conferences start next week and are being held in 5 locations around the County. The format this year will be exhibition style event with a number of teams, projects and initiatives having a display/stand with staff representation available to assist with any queries or concerns. Every parish has had the details of the events, I know a number have registered.

The service has been considering carbon reduction and have been using in a number of locations

‘warm asphalt’, which provides an approximate 7.5 % carbon reduction over hot lay. This technology is beginning to move forward, and we now have two plants in Devon that are capable of supplying material. This year’s surface dressing programme is now complete and consisted of approximately 1.06 million sqm and delivered by Kiely Bros Ltd. The programme commenced on 8 April 2019 and was divided into three main phases to maximise programme efficiency, network demand and client/contractor expectation. One District Council approached DCC regarding a contract for the provision of Wifi in Dawlish Teignmouth and Newton Abbot. With the awareness of the concerns over 5G, we have ensured that our street furniture cannot currently be used for 5G, and cannot in the future without our explicit consent.

**DCC Budget position** - Increasing pressures from the Children’s and Adult social care areas are very concerning, like all upper tier councils we are struggling. The numbers approaching for services are increasing and costs rising, due to the current low unemployment levels in Devon careers are choosing to take work elsewhere that is better paid with less responsibility. There is also a problem with retaining staff.

Following the Chancellor’s statement about providing some additional funding there is room for some optimism however. The announcement has indicated additional funding for Adult social care, there is additional money coming from government but a third of the money announced is only achievable through a 2% increase in Council Tax as in recent years. There is money for care services which we will be able to use for Adults or Children’s Care services. Extra money for SEN is only going to support the costs next year. At current spending levels it is not going to fully cover our costs and will do nothing to offset the current overspend. We are committed to helping the most vulnerable in Devon. I’m sorry to end on such a pessimistic note, it is only responsible that I advise you that there is a very big issue with the statutory services we provide to our residents.

## 206/2019 Planning

70366

### **Proposed improvements to leisure facilities together with woodland planting, landscaping and the erection of 107 holiday cottages and associated infrastructure works at Willingcott Valley Holiday Village Bradwell Road Woolacombe EX34 7HN**

Whilst members welcomed the environmental aspects of the application and the planned completion of the Tarka Trail, they voiced a number of concerns regarding the proposed changes:

- 1. Sewage and Drainage** - members took note of the concerns raised by the Environment Agency and Natural England regarding the potential for overloading the existing system. They echoed the danger of possible discharges into the sea with the potential for impact on the two designated bathing beaches and Marine Conservation Zone. Members confirmed that the existing 7” pipe currently serving the whole of the community was inadequate and urgently needed upgrading. There had been two incidents of discharges straight into the sea and severe pressure on the system during peak season and every time there was heavy rain. The council would wish to see a delay in determination of the application until the full report as requested by Natural England on the potential impact on the Marine Conservation Area and reassurances and CEMP as requested by the Environment Agency are produced.
- 2. Highways** – members felt that the existing road network was inadequate for such a large development with narrow access on the steep hills of Willingcott and Bradwell. They felt that traffic should be directed via the wider roads at Turnpike Cross although this junction was narrow, dangerous and subject to flooding.
- 3. Scale of development** – members felt that a smaller scheme was more appropriate.

4. **Impact on A.O.N.B.** members noted the comments of the A.O.N.B. and the concerns expressed regarding the possibility of light spill from the development into the dark night skies of the AONB, which is a special a special quality of the designated area. They repeated the request for an assessment to be made of lighting effects, in particular on the designated AONB, as a result of this development. In addition they requested a delay on a decision until the full report from Natural England on the impact on wildlife in the area is received.

***Proposed REFUSUAL Seconded. PASSED 7 in favour and 1 abstention***

**70499**            **Variation of approved plans condition attached to planning permissions / nonmaterial amendment approvals 56934, 61272, 62118, 65619 & 70236 together with variation of materials condition attached to planning permissions 56939 & 61272 (demolition of one dwelling & erection of five flats) to enable installation of aluminium windows at Panorama Rockfield Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7DH**

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

**70526**            **Second storey extension over medical centre to create 2 flats at Woolacombe Medical Centre Beach Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BT**

Whilst members supported the preservation of the existing community medical centre, they noted the views of the conservation officer. Members felt that the design and scale of the proposed building was too big diminished the setting of the neighbouring listed church. Whilst members supported the principle of the development, they felt that the design of the building was incongruous and should be revisited.

***Proposed REFUSUAL Seconded. PASSED 7 in favour and 1 abstention***

**70549**            **Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 64826 (erection of 1 dwelling) to allow for an amended design & reduced overall size at Brackenridge Sandy Lane Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AD**

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

**Planning Permission Received: 70425 - Hillside Western Rise Woolacombe EX34 7AG  
Planning Refusal Received: None**

**Road Closures: North Morte Road MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2019 for a maximum of 5 days Until FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2019**

#### **207/2019 District Council Report**

**Strategy Resources Meeting** – Councillor Wilkinson reported on his attendance at this meeting and the discussion on homelessness in the region. The subject of limited occupancy restrictions was raised and many Parishes reported on housing stock of this nature. A further planning policy meeting is due to take place later this week.

**Compulsory Purchase Order** - the council have also been discussing compulsory purchase orders on empty properties which may have implications for the whole of North Devon  
**English Coastal Challenge Conference, Southampton** – Councillor Wilkinson reported on his attendance at this event. Amongst the subjects for discussion and lectures was: Climate

Change and its impact on coastal communities; Tourism Levy; The Regeneration of Coastal Communities and a Cross Party Green New Deal.

**2021 English Year of the Coast** - Councillor Wilkinson looked forward to involvement in this event and hoped that it may coincide with the ongoing application to put forward North Devon as a World Surfing Reserve.

**208/2019 Questions for the National Trust – members queried whether planned works to cut back undergrowth on the path had taken place.**

**209/2019 Correspondence i) Letters from North Devon Council – Consultation on Draft Supplementary Planning Documents** - *members felt that air pollution problems at Braunton should be highlighted and acted upon as a priority.*

**ii) Public Consultation North Devon Council on Parish Reviews** – *members did not feel that any adjustments or requirements were necessary or relevant to our community the the present time.*

**iii) Request from the Woolacombe Fireworks Committee to hold event on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** – *Members agreed to the request but felt that the following arrangements should be made:*

**i) Hire of Skip** - *it was agreed to hire a skip after the event to enable to the disposal of unwanted materials from the Pavilion and the shed.*

**ii) Donation towards the hire of the Pavilion-** *members suggested a donation towards the costs of the event.*

**iv) Bob Pedlar - Re Meeting with the council** - *Members hoped that the planned meeting would take place soon.*

**v) Letter from the National Trust Re:Town Farm** – *Members hoped that the Trust would recognise the operation of the property as it is currently run as an important asset to the community and that the status quo would be retained.*

**210/2019 Register of Outstanding Matters**

**Further Removal of Overhead wires-** The North Devon A.O.N.B report that they have just applied for further funding to remove more overhead line in Morteheo, this time continuing up towards Borough Cross past Seymour Barn and across the road to Damage Barton Campsite. It would remove another 2 km of the overhead network if we succeed.

**Highways Conference for Parish and Town Councils October 7<sup>th</sup> at Filleigh Village Hall** – I attended this event on behalf of the council. There were representatives from all aspects of highways including: the Civil Parking Enforcement team,; Public Information Portal on Reporting problems on the highways; Promotion of the snow warden and parish warden schemes: Ash Dieback Resilience Forum; Verge Management and Residential Parking Schemes.

**Morteheo Drains and flooding issues** – highways have confirmed that there is an issue with the drainage at North Morte Road and have had a professional camera survey done. Councillor Davis has stated that a bid for funding has been submitted for the collapsed drain for funds to replace the existing system in the meantime have added to the drains to a jettor list to see if they can get running.

**Other Highways problems reported** - Sign at Convalescent Corner: Subsidence on the road at Convalescent corner; flooding at Beach Entrance; flooding at Damage Barton and the road sign at the bottom of Chapel Hill.

**Play Bark for Woolacombe Play Area** – in order to comply with safety requirements 30 cubic meters of loose play bark has been ordered for Woolacombe Play area to arrive in early November.

**211/2019 Community Housing in Morteohoe - Report on Public Meeting October 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Further meeting schedule** – Members were delighted by the very positive response of those who attended the meeting and the large turnout for the event. They felt that it was important that as many as possible attend the inaugural meeting of the steering committee and felt that an evening meeting would be better as a large number of those who had expressed an interest would be working in the day time. It was agreed to hire the village hall if possible for the first meeting.

**212/2019 Parking Issues Woolacombe and Morteohoe - Arlington Place and South Street Residential Scheme** - the clerk confirmed that highways officials at the Highways conference had stated that a householder within the area of a residential scheme is eligible for 2 permits and there is no correlation between the number of permits sold and the spaces available. Businesses are eligible for permits if they can prove a need to park adjacent to their businesses.

**Parking on the Esplanade** - the management of the Civil Parking Officers (in attendance at the conference) also reported that could target help solve the problems of the violation of the current parking orders and were prepared to make second daily visits or visits from 6 a.m to help deter the overnight vehicles.

*Members agreed to hold a separate meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October on parking issues in the two villages*

**213/2019 Proposed Fire Station Cuts -**

**Meetings with representatives from Porlock, Lynton and Appledore** – the Chairman informed members that following cooperation during the consultation period between these communities, a request was received for the a meeting to discuss the consultation process and possible ways to mitigate the effects of the proposed cuts if the planned closures were to go ahead. Councillors Duffield and Wilkinson have been attending on behalf of Morteohoe

**Judicial Review** – members of the group have been discussing the practicalities of mounting a Judicial Review into the legalities of the consultation Process.

**Official letter to Communities in Devon and Somerset** – a draft letter is being prepared to be sent to all communities in the two counties to form a wider group and establish interest in the process helping to fund a judicial review. *Members agreed to pledge £250 towards the costs of a review.*

**214/2019 A.O.N.B 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relay** – members agreed to invite the school to take part in a joint walk along the coastal boundary of the A.O.N.B. on November 20<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to also invite Mr G Pollington to film the event by drone.

**215/2019 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman –**

**Police Crime Figures** – members were encouraged to visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) to see a detailed record of crimes in specific areas

**School Parking** – the clerk was asked to write to the school to thank them for their efforts to control parental parking at drop off times and to request that the lower gate be opened in the afternoon to help mitigate the parking problems on and around the village hall entrance.

**School Path** – the clerk was asked to write to D.C.C. about the pernicious weed present on the school path and now spreading to the B.T. premises.

**Royal Hotel** – now in the hands of the official receivers.

**216/2019 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:

22	S Hocking	1,299.90
22	K Ash	1,265.69
22	R Walker	1,086.84
22	HMRC Paye	1,073.76
22	S McCarthy	1,062.00
22	Bloom Brothers	646.00
22	Gordons Window	400.00
22	Plandscape	384.11
22	Gliddon & Squire	352.45
22	Woolacombe in Bloom	300.00
22	J Keiff	297.94
22	Jewson Ltd	289.39
22	A White	285.44
22	Ricoh	179.20
22	EDF Energy	166.97
22	BFS	132.60
22	Heritage Centre	100.00
22	Woolacombe Village Hall	100.00
22	Odlings	98.40
22	Simpsons Excavating	30.70
22	D Hodges	873.43

**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: November 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 Parish Council Finance Meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 p.m.**

