

Minutes of the meeting of Morteheo Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday 16th March 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Members; (Chairman) D Duffield, O Bell, J Dicker, M Wilkinson, J Richards, Also Present: 4 members of the public present

P.C.S.O. Grantham

41/2020 Public Speaking –

Dr Rosen Re: Rockham Beach Access – Dr Rosen asked for the council’s support in the writing of a letter to the Trust and north Devon A.O.N.B to request that all alternative routes to the beach be investigated following the collapse of the remaining steps to the beach.

North Morte Road – Dr Rosen expressed disappointment in the verdict of the planning authority regarding the recent landslide and destruction of the hedgebank at a site in North Morte Road.

Corona Virus – Dr Rosen expressed his concern and fears regarding the rapid spread of the Corona Virus and alerted members to procedures to be followed regarding self-isolation and community volunteers.

Ms S Walters Re: Corona Virus – Ms Walters appealed to members to act as community leaders to lead a community volunteer group to offer community support for the vulnerable and those needing assistance. Ms Walters suggested action to identify needy people and to ask for volunteers to take medication and food to those isolated at home. It was agreed to invite the vicar, pharmacist, representative from the medical centre and other interested parties to a meeting later in the week. It was also agreed to set up a community Facebook page and to place information on the Parish Website.

Mr D.Hawley Re Corona Virus - Mr Hawley echoed the views of Ms Walters and offered support for any group formed.

Mr Paul Cooper Re; Park Run – Mr Cooper presented members with an update on the Park Run through out the winter and highlighted plans to alleviate congestion on the car park at busy times of the year. These included altering the start line in order to accommodate the parking of larger vehicles and the turning of other vehicles. He also offered the services of park stewards to create passing places to increase the flow of vehicles both joining and leaving the car park on peak days. *Members welcomed the initiative and thanked Mr Cooper for his efforts to address previous concerns. They congratulated Mr Cooper and his fellow organisers for making the run such a successful and popular event.*

42/2020 Police Report - Morteheo/Woolacombe & Westdown, Includes Mullacott & Bittadon Violence without Injury 4 Sexual Offences 1 Vehicle offences 2 Criminal Damage 1 Trafficking of Drugs 1 : Total 9

43/2020 Declaration of Interests –

Councillor Richards declared an interest in Application 71208 Golden Coast and left the chamber.

44/2020 Minutes

It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on February 17th 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber. ***Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

45/2020 County Council Report –

Reminder of how to report a highway problem - With the excessively wet weather we are experiencing a emergence of potholes, please help by reporting them either on the website or via the telephone. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/> or telephone: 0345 155 1004 (Road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs, and public rights of way.) Please keep a note of the reference number.

Potholes - The increase in potholes has been significant. Highways had been not just filling safety defects but adjacent potholes but this had to be suspended whilst we concentrated on filling the actual safety defects. This has prompted an increase of annoyed customers, however it is the correct decision to prioritise the work in this way, and the teams are clear that they want to return to the Doing What Matters work, once the safety defect levels have dropped. The Report IT website has been updated so that some defects have a due date put against them (they appear with a roadworks symbol). It's not perfect, there are some glitches in the system and there is some data cleansing required.

Works Programme Information - This has now gone live on the webpages at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/live-roadworks-information/> Again the team are aware that it is not perfect, and that there is still some development to do, which is planned for the next month, but it does start to produce future information which is currently lacking.

Dragon patchers - Having considered the work that Dragon patchers have carried out in the County, and particularly the impact of the work on the minor road network, the service has decided to increase the number of machines to 4. These now have to be built for Skanska, so they won't appear on the network immediately, however Skanska are looking at trying to hire in older machines until these new ones arrive in several months time.

Coronavirus advice - We understand that our residents and visitors may have concerns about coronavirus. We would like to reassure you that the government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus. The council is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with Public Health England. We are taking all possible steps to keep you safe. Visit the NHS website for the latest information and advice and the current situation in the UK or you can follow Public Health England's Facebook page or Twitter feed for the latest updates, information and advice.

Useful links

[Latest Government advice](#)

Regularly updated information for the public on the outbreak, including the current situation in the UK and advice about the virus and its symptoms, as well as statements from the Chief Medical Officer on confirmed cases in the UK.

[PHE blog: novel coronavirus – what you need to know](#)

PHE is addressing common questions on its Public Health Matters blog.

[PHE blog: what is contact tracing?](#)

One of the ways in which PHE seek to protect the public from infectious diseases like novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is contact tracing. In this blog Nick Phin, Deputy Director at PHE's National Infections Service, answers some questions about how this works.

[Advice sheet on home self-isolation -](#) What to do if you are told to self-isolate.

[PHE Campaign Resource Centre: novel coronavirus](#)

PHE has launched a UK-wide public information campaign to advise the public on how to slow the spread of coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services. Its Campaign Resource Centre holds materials which can be used by councils for distribution to their communities.

[Coronavirus – what you need to know](#)

PHE has created a page of FAQs, that will be updated regularly.

[If you do have any concerns or questions please visit the NHS website for further information.](#)

Devon County Council Budget 2020/21 Devon County Council recently approved its budget with more money for vulnerable children, adult social care and roads and drainage. More than £43 million extra will be pumped into vital services with an additional £23.7 million for adult care and health, £11.5 million more for children’s services and £2 million more to help deal with drainage issues on the road network. In total the council’s spending will rise by £43.1 million from £498 million in 2019/20 to just over £541 million.

The average Band D council tax bill for Devon’s services will rise by 3.9 per cent to help pay for it – that’s 1.9 per cent for general services and 2 per cent dedicated solely to adult care.

It means the Band D bill will rise by £55.17 to £1,439.46 – the equivalent of £1.06 a week extra.

Adult Social Care - The budget provides significant additional resources to adult social care, children’s services and highways which are the things that matter most to our Devon residents. Although there has been a small increase in support from the Government, we need the certainty of future income to protect services.

Elderly, Children and Disabled - Caring for the elderly and disabled, together with children, are our highest priorities. Against the backdrop of increased demand and cost pressures on adult social care and health and children’s services, we feel it is necessary, reluctantly, to increase council tax by 3.99 per cent, which provides just over £21 million of additional funding. In 2020/21 the authority’s core funding will increase by 1.63 per cent, which is a welcome change from the 11 per cent average annual reduction since austerity began in 2010. There are significant ongoing pressures in both adult and children’s services with the greatest area of concern being the funding shortfall on the High Needs Block (children with special needs) and the lack of information from Government on what they intend to do about it.”

Highways - We have had significantly wetter weather this winter which means we are having more drainage problems leading to the break up of our roads and so we have put an extra £2 million into improving drainage. We will still support rurality, rural buses, and highways but we will also look to invest in our green agenda. We will be investing in LED lighting on our streetlights, more charging points for electric cars, solar panels on the roofs of our buildings and looking for land to plant trees to offset our carbon footprint.

Low Incomes - We are very conscious that many people living in Devon are on fixed and low incomes but every year we have to balance imposing more costs on them with the need to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the help and support they need and deserve and all our residents get the best services we can provide. In cash increase terms, this is the best budget we have had for a decade. The independent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy had judged the finances of top tier councils across the country against a number of measures of resilience. Devon’s finances had been judged to be good and robust.

As a reminder of what Devon County Council is responsible for I have drawn up a quick guide with some numbers in it. This is by no means comprehensive; the budget book is over 150 pages.

Devon County Council – roles and responsibilities - Devon County Council is one of 26 County Councils in England. The authority, which has 60 elected County Councillors, represents 795,000 residents and administers an area spanning 2,534 square miles, the third largest in England. The Council is led by a Cabinet of nine senior councillors, chaired by the Leader of the Council, John Hart. The County Council works in partnership with eight District Councils, over 300 Town and Parish Councils, the Great South West region's LEPs and neighbouring County and Unitary councils.

Our services - The County Council has a total budget of £1.1 billion and provides a wide range of public services – some directly and some commissioned from other organisations. The County Council's main service groups are:

Adult care and health including services for older people and adults with physical or learning disabilities.

- care at home for 10,000 people a year
- 13,000 people with dementia

Children's services including education and learning; services for vulnerable children and families; safeguarding; looked after children and care leavers.

- supporting 16,500 children with special needs or disabilities
- over 200 children adopted or fostered a year
- 97,000 pupils
- 398 schools

Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity including planning, transportation and environment; economy, enterprise and skills; trading standards; libraries; community safety and emergency planning.

- 50 libraries and four mobile libraries
- free school transport for 14,500 pupils a day
- funding for 185 bus services, 60 voluntary car schemes and 16 community ring and ride schemes
- nine new primary schools built or due to be completed in 2020

Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste including road and bridge maintenance; waste disposal and recycling; and the County Council's capital programme.

- 8,000 miles of road (England's largest local network)

- 62,000 potholes filled a year
- managing 357,000 tonnes of domestic waste a year
- 19 recycling centres
- £114 million invested every year on major infrastructure projects.

Legal, Human Resources and Communications including democratic support and scrutiny; Crown services; registration of births, marriages and deaths, and the Coroner services.

County Treasurer including Revenue and Capital budgets; Investment and Treasury management; Devon Audit Partnership and the Devon Pension Fund.

Digital Transformation and Business Support including ICT; procurement; property management; customer service and information governance.

Improvements on A3123 Berry Down Cross - A road improvement scheme has started on 16th March *The road at Berry Down Cross will be closed for five days from Monday 16 March and is due to re-open by Saturday 21 March.*

The closure will stretch from Smythen Cross to Berry Down Cross, and will also take in the section of the A3123 from the junction with Long Lane to the junction with Dudmoor Lane junction. A diversion will be signed via the B3230 to Chambercombe, A399 Watermouth and Combe Martin and then the A3123, and vice versa, although local traffic may find alternative routes. A 40mph speed limit is being introduced as part of the scheme and new signs will be installed to highlight the change. A number of other measures are also being installed to give motorists advance warning of the sharp bend at Berry Down. These include solar-powered road studs, which illuminate constantly throughout the hours of darkness, and high friction surfacing. New signs, which are activated by vehicles approaching at excessive speed, will also warn drivers of the upcoming bend and the advisable maximum speed of 20mph. Access will be maintained for homes and businesses within the closure area, although they may have to wait briefly for staff on site to let them through. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times.

46/2020 Planning

71139 Rear extension to Ground floor flat (Arden), in place of existing extension. Proposed 3 space garage (for Arden and flat above, Beachcomber) at Flat 1 Arden Sunnyside Road Woolacombe.

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

71166 Extension over domestic garage to create ancillary accommodation at Quarryside Upper Claypark Mortehoe Woolacombe.

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

71230 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 65309 (Extension & alterations to dwelling together with erection of garden office) to allow a variation to the design at Barton Lea Beach Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BT

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

(Councillor Richards left the chamber having declared an interest in this application)

71208 Erection of new indoor fun pool at Golden Coast Holiday Village Woolacombe Station Road Woolacombe Devon.

Members expressed full support for this application and the continuing investment into the amenities on this site and others in the Parish.

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

71203 Retrospective application for erection of replacement boundary fence at 12 Chichester Park Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BZ

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

Planning Permission Received:

70823 Extension & alterations to dwelling at 19A Chichester Park Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BZ

Planning Refusal Received: None

47/2020. District Council Report

Coastal Community Group - Councillor Wilkinson felt that it was important that the group should be retained for the North Devon Parishes having received £10,000 funding in recent years.

Trip to York – a planned trip to York to a meeting had been cancelled and the event would now be conducted by teleconference.

North Devon Council Budget – had recently been set with a 2.8% rise representing £5 a year on a Band D property.

Solar Charged Waste Bin – was currently being trailed in Barnstaple High Street and other North Devon hot spots. The new bins cost £5,000

Car Charging Points – Councillor Wilkinson informed members that there was no government funding available for the installation of charging points despite the promotion of electric or hybrid cars. The onus was on local councils to provide the funding . *The clerk was asked to write to Councillor Davis to request that the council look into the possible provision of the charging points in Woolacombe*

Corona Virus – owing to the impact of the virus, many staff were now encouraged to work from home. During coming weeks it was predicted that frontline services would come under pressure.

48/2020. Questions for the National Trust - none

49/2020. Correspondence: i) Letter from Mr D Morton Re: Marine Drive Car Park - Members agreed with the points raised in Mr Morton's letter and considered whether the National Trust might pay compensation for the loss of earnings from the spaces outside the café. It was pointed out the disabled spaces were recently moved to the café to enable easy access to the facility. It was also observed that there was a seating area on the grass bank below the car park which afforded the same good views.

ii) Letter from B Triggs (NDC) Ref; Operation London Bridge – Members confirmed that the church would be accommodating all special arrangements for such an occasion.

iii) Request from Morteheo Museum Re: V.E. Day Use of Morteheo Play Area – Members agreed to the use of the play area.

iv) Response from S. Saxby M.P. – Re Restricted Occupation Dwellings in Morteheo Parish and the Use of Foreign Nationals in the Tourism business – Members thanked Ms Saxby for her considered response and hoped that she may be able to help further on both subjects.

50/20202 Register of Outstanding Matters

Highways – some reported potholes have been repaired. There has been no update regarding damaged or missing signs.

Marine Drive Bins – the litter bin (supplied by N.D.C.) has been removed. A letter has been sent to N.D.C. asking whether it is likely to be replaced and whether they will be continuing with their collection from the car park at the one remaining bin at the entrance to the car park.

Stone Bench Seat at Barricane – has been undermined by the recent storms and has been fenced off. Arrangements have made to relocate the seat (if members approve of the new site) to the other side of the current footpath and onto a flat area above the beach. Mrs Black has given permission and indicated that the seat may remain in its present situation if safety fences are regularly inspected and a warning sign erected. The work is due to take place after the Easter school holidays.



Members approve of this proposed location ?

Bark for Woolacombe Play Area - 28 cubic meters of play bark has been installed in the Play Area. (Pictures at the end of this report).

Annual Safety Inspections - of both play areas have been ordered and should take place in April.

Fence at Woolacombe Play Area – additional posts have been installed to strengthen the original fence posts which have rotted and would not have passed the safety inspections.

Meadow Pavilion - the double door to the store room has been rehung to allow easy access and locking the facility which had become increasingly difficult to secure. Shutters have been repaired and a new gate made for the grassed area outside which was destroyed by vandals last August.

Goal Posts – an on the grant claim for the goal posts has been agreed by N.D.C.

Barton Road Seats - have all been removed, repaired and painted during the last couple of months.

Shellsborough Steps – have been repaired following recent storm damage. Additional work will be required in the next few months.

White Posts on Esplanade – damaged or missing posts have been repaired or replaced as has posts and wire on the seafront fence.

Combesgate Toilets - have been painted inside and out. A new door and lock has been fitted to the mens/disabled toilet following damage last year. The store room has been fitted out with shelves and a work bench. A hand sink is due to be installed in the work/store room as there is no washing facility at present.

Restricted Occupation Residences in Woolacombe – a meeting is due to take place on Thursday 12th with Mr Tichford (Head of Planning N.D.C.)

Woolacombe Medical Centre – a meeting took place on March 4th between councillors, Dr Jones and Mr Wills to discuss the future of the building.

Affordable Housing Meeting - has been rescheduled for April 2nd

Letters to Selaine Saxby M.P – a letter has been sent to Ms Saxby on behalf of the council raising the issues of restricted occupancy conditions in our community: the Community Housing grant and the anticipated problems and potential labour shortages caused by the proposed changes to limit the numbers of seasonal foreign workers allowed into the U.K

Woolacombe Youth Club – a letter has been sent to the Methodist Church on behalf of the Council to support the work carried out by the Calvary Chapel in recent years in the provision of a youth club.

51/2020 South West Water -*Members were grateful for the offer from S.W. Water to attend a meeting with the Council and were pleased that the cliff subsidence at Combesgate and subsequent exposure of a pipe was not a mains pipe. They felt that matters for discussion at any meeting should be widened to include the routes of the whole mains and sewage network in the Parish. Members expressed concerns over the capacity of the pipe system in the light of further planned developments in the catchment area and discharge incidents over the past few years.*

52/2020 Climate Change Emergency Declaration Draft -

Mortehoe Parish Council Climate and Wildlife Emergency Declaration – March 2020

Mortehoe Parish Council declares a Climate Emergency in recognition of the clear evidence that climate change represents a threat to the life opportunities and well-being of future generations, and needs to be addressed at all levels of government.

It further declares that all its future actions and decisions will take account of the need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and reach net-zero carbon by 2030.

The Council also recognises that addressing the challenges of climate change will result in many benefits in terms of health, wellbeing, and community resilience.

As a major tourist destination the parish has a special opportunity to show leadership on this issue

and to engage with the many thousands of visitors who come here to enjoy our beaches and coastal scenery.

The Council invites interested members of the public to join a new Working Party of the Parish Council to consider and propose actions to tackle climate change that can be undertaken by the Council and within the community. The Working Party should be asked to consider possible activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- work with North Devon District Council, Devon County Council and other local and national agencies to ensure resources are directed towards projects in the parish directed to achieving net-zero carbon by 2030
- engage with proposals for a citizen's assembly being developed by Devon County Council to consider the actions needed to meet the climate emergency.
- communicate regularly with our community through an inclusive, impartial process that works well in hearing views and ideas for action from all sectors of the community. Through this process help people understand the seriousness of the challenge facing humanity, and the actions individuals, businesses, community groups, the school, local churches, farmers, and landowners can take to help address climate change and biodiversity loss.
- develop short, medium, and long term plans aligned with the 4-year Parish Council cycle aimed at achieving zero carbon by 2030 as well as major enhancement to the biodiversity of the parish and measures to mitigate the impact of severe weather events.
- commission initial audits of energy use, biodiversity and resilience in the parish to inform these plans
- undertake regular reviews of progress through annual monitoring of energy use, biodiversity, and resilience.
- support actions to reduce our community's carbon emissions by improvements to buildings' energy efficiency, improving public transport, reducing the use of private cars, encouraging walking and cycling, and greater local production of food.
This support to include, but not be limited to, financial backing for appropriate schemes;
- work with local businesses and services to enable them to play an effective part in the battle against climate change;
- encourage natural approaches to carbon capture such as tree planting;
- promote schemes to increase biodiversity (for example by reducing the use of pesticides in gardens, creating wildflower rich verges and other public spaces)
- support farmers and landowners to achieve the transition to net-zero carbon.
- support the development of renewable energy systems in our area, both politically and by promoting schemes such as [solar streets](#) and community owned renewables.

Members Proposed the formal adoption of this plan. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Water Fountain - Water Fountain - the clerk informed members that a grant application has been submitted to Sea Change for £2,000 (the maximum amount permitted) for the installation of a fountain on the Red Barn Toilets.

North Devon Council Estates Office have responded to the request to use the building by saying: **“In principle NDC have no objection to the Parish Council citing a fountain at the public conveniences, so hopefully this email is enough for you to prepare your funding bid. However, there is quite a bit of detail that you will have to provide before**

we grant formal consent. I am leaving shortly for the rest of the day, but briefly we would need the following:-

- A signed licence in place between the two parties (prepared by NDC Legal services)
- Further information on the proposed location
- Further information on the design and materials of the fountain
- Details of contractors, insurances, dates and plan of work/specification
- I think you have confirmed already, and it will be contained in the Licence, but confirmation that the Parish will take on any Legionella responsibilities, be re-charged for water usage, be responsible for maintenance, vandalism, consequential damage and any reinstatement works at the end of the licence period, pay for the cost of installation, making good and water sub-meter supply.

Sorry if the above sounds overly complicated for just a fountain, but I'm sure you understand that we need to ensure parties provide the right information before issuing licences."

Members confirmed that would wait until the result of the grant application is received before progressing with any legal agreements with the district council. Proposed . Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Electric Charging Point - it was agreed to write to Councillor Davis to enquire about the possible installation of charging points on County Highways and to Western Power to enquire about power capacity.

53/2020 Agenda Item 14 Skateboard Facility Woolacombe.

Planning Advice – details have been provided to the planning office regarding the proposed relocation of the half pipe ramp at the end of the Meadow. The planning office have confirmed that the ramp will require planning permission. *It was agreed to wait until there was confirmation that Torridge District Council would gift the ramp to Morteheo.*

54/2020. Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman

Annual Parish Meeting - the date was set for April 23rd at Woolacombe Sports Pavilion at 7 p.m. It was agreed to seek advice from the relevant authorities regarding the holding of public meetings

Overgrown Hedge at junction of Beach Road and Chichester Park - the clerk was asked to write to the owners.

Corona Virus – it was agreed to launch the Council's Emergency Plan and to co-ordinate a community self help group in the light of the virus and for members to act(along with others) as facilitators if people needed help in the next few weeks/months. It was agreed to invite key partners to a meeting on Thursday March 19th . It was also agreed to set up a Facebook page and prepare information for the W & M News and website.

Bray House - members queried whether the structure in the garden required planning permission. The clerk was asked to write to planning enforcement.

Esplanade - members complained about the weeds growing on the footpath on the Esplanade pavement.

Parking Signs South Street - the clerk was asked to report that some of the parking signs were now unreadable and therefore unenforceable.

55/2020. 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:

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: April 20th 2020 Parish Council Finance meeting at 6.30 p.m.
followed by the Parish Council Meeting 7.00 p.m.**

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.