

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT WEST DOWN PARISH HALL ON 3rd July 2019.

Present: Cllr C King (Chairman), CCllr A Davis, DCllr Wilkinson, Cllrs R Drew, K Oades, M Reeves, S Squire and R Watts.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm with apologies from PCSO P Grantham and Cllr S Ayre.

3960. Public Speaking. Requests were made but unused due to the subject being amended.

3961. Police Report. A notification was received stating that PCSO P Grantham has been seconded and a colleague would take over in his absence. No report was sent this month. Cllr R Watts told the meeting about a break in and theft in the village.

3962. Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last Meeting were approved and signed.

3963. Matters Arising.

a. 3945c. The tree stump by Pine Dean is still there. ELMS (Environmental Land Management Services) are monitoring its movement.

b. 3945g. 'No Man's Land' on FP14 – no further news at this time.

c. 3946d. Fullabrook road works are due to start any day now.

d. 3946e. A blocked drain at the junction of Dean Road/Ilfracombe Hill has been dealt with. Area to be monitored. Thanks given to Andrea.

e. 3948b. After further discussion with the Monitoring Officer at NDC, Cllr R Watts has decided to remain on the council and has completed his Code of Conduct Register of Interests. This now leaves only 1 position vacant for Co-option.

f. 3949b. Cllr King advised that FP15, the footpath from Roborough Bridge is still waiting for the hedge to be cleared from the stile and sign. The land owner has been notified. If it is not cleared within the next week a letter should be sent.

g. 3952. Review Standing Orders. Cllr Mike Reeves has read through the document and suggested updates of the following – gender neutral descriptions e.g. Chairman to Chair Person or just Chair, the Complaints Procedure needs clarification, the Policy for Press vs Cllr Contact needs revision and the Policy for Freedom of Information also needs revision. The document needs finalising. Cllr R Watts requested the chance to read it and has taken it away from the meeting, he is to return it to the Clerk when done.

3964. CCllr Report. CCllr Davis reported on the following:

a. The streetlights are being changed to LED at a cost of 75K. This will reduce light pollution and save on electricity costs. This will reduce the impact to the environment by the equivalent of 8000 cars.

b. A fatality in the Parish is under investigation and due to the circumstances counselling is being made available at the local school.

c. Cllr S Squire asked if CCllr A Davis was aware of a blocked drain or under road problem at the junction of Trimstone Lane as the road appeared to be wet a lot of the time. CCllr A Davis advised reporting the problem online in the usual way.

d. Cllr C King commented on the Footpaths Newsletter article about ash dieback. CCllr A Davis acknowledged there is a problem and that it is being surveyed at the moment to ascertain the extent. The village has a few that need attention. It was agreed to put an article on the village website to advise owners of their responsibility to take the trees down before they fall and potentially cause an accident or injury. Cllr R Watts commented that they had been in decline for the last 10 years.

e. Cllr R Watts asked about the cutting of the grass verges, he commented that it seemed longer between cuts. CCllr A Davis responded that this is the case and it is to help with Biodiversity.

3965. DCllr Report. DCllr Wilkinson reported on the following:

a. DCllr M Wilkinson attended the AGM of NFCERM (National Flood Coast Erosion Risk Management) He enjoyed the meeting and was pleased by the work being carried out in this area.

b. 12 months ago, a white paper was produced by Lord Bassam with regard to higher education and it was noted that only a tiny percentage of students from coastal areas are going to University. The most common reason seemed to be as simple as difficulty with public transport.

c. Rockham Beach access is deteriorating again and there are no plans to fix it.

d. There are 4 main areas of rural crime, they are (in order highest to lowest) – Poaching, Speeding, Drugs and Antisocial Behaviour.

e. If a crime is not reported it reflects on the funding for Police resources. If they do not have the true crime figures then they do not receive the money. We currently have 600 police officers. Holiday makers make a big difference to crime rates.

f. The closure of Fire Stations is a hot topic at the moment as they currently serve as a base for 1st Responders and Paramedics. There are a number of concerns, including the effect on response times. There are 6 options on the website but no mention of the costs involved. The consultation on this whole subject has been delayed.

g. Cllr S Squire asked about the closing date for applying for the S.106 money. DCllr M Wilkinson said that there is not a closing date at the moment but to get all the register of interest forms in as soon as possible. Chair C King has sent out forms to several organisations. It was suggested that some of the funding could be used for footpaths.

3966. Footpaths.

a. Cllr K Oades to request new finger post signs.

b. Cllr M Reeves asked about insurance issues for strimming. It is thought that there is currently no cover for this and strimming courses were recommended.

3967. Public Speaking Review.

a. The following items were discussed and agreed for amendment and placement on the website. Item 1 - notice 10 minutes before meeting needs to be 24 hours in writing/email, Item 2 – The 2 minutes of speaking time can be extended at the Chairs discretion, Item 3 & 4 to be removed, Item 5 - to have the first two words deleted, Item 6 changes to “issues should be raised in writing/email.”

3968. S.106 Funding Projects.

a. Ken Miles is the contact for clarification if needed.

3969. Parish Council Awards.

a. Cllr Ayre and the Chair have written up the following proposal.
‘The Parish Council would like to recognise contributions made by groups, individuals or juniors to promote the welfare of the community. A certificate recognising this will be presented to the recipient/s at the Village Fayre or other suitable occasion in 2020’.
It will be placed on the Agenda of the next Village Forum. Issues such as one certificate per year or 3, one for each category and the timing of nominations were discussed.
The Award Scheme has been postponed until next month when Cllr S Ayre is available.

3970. New Clerk Matters.

a. It has been suggested that the salary for the new Clerk be handled by the County Council. This was proposed by Cllr K Oades and seconded by Cllr S Squire. Voting was unanimous.

3971. Scope Recycling Bin.

a. The decision was made to pass this to the Parish Hall Committee to settle and manage, although it is requested that it does not take up parking space.

3972. Flower Festival.

a. The Chair Cllr C King would like to raise the profile of the Council by entering a flower display in the Church Flower Festival. It is to be donated by the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council.

3973. Planning Decisions. The following decisions have been made by NDC:

a. 66414 – Part change of use to include A2 use (financial and professional services) installation of 12 interstitial windows and creation of two additional offices – Unit 8 Lundy View, Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate. Approved.

3974. Planning Applications.

a. 66788 - Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) & 3 (materials) attached to planning permission 65925 (erection of a bungalow) to allow change in slate colour – Land adj Pearl Dean. – Unanimous approval.

b. 66796 – Erection of one dwelling – Garden of Churchill House. – No Comment, the Parish Council request that DCllr M Wilkinson take it to a Committee for decision.

3975. Correspondence.

- a. Clerks & Councils Direct – July issue. In float file.

3976. Finance.

a. Bank Statements:

(1) West Down Parish Council wef 30th June £2,943.57 reconciled.

(2) 30 Day Notice Account wef 30th June £4,804.79 reconciled.

b. Petty Cash - £nil.

c. Cheques:

(1) C/n 620 to GeoXphere Ltd for Parish Online. - £36.00

3977. Unresolved Questions.

None

3978. Any Other Business.

- a. The car park plants have been cut back and the area cleared.
- b. The dog bins need to be opened up again asap, Cllr K Oades agreed to do this.
- c. Cllr M Reeves Councillor Training has been paid.
- d. Cllr M Reeves mentioned the amount of A4 posters there are around the village that are out of date and need removing.
- e. School parking continues to be an issue.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th August