

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT WEST DOWN PARISH HALL ON 2<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2019.

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

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm with apologies from Cllr K Oades.

4011. Public Speaking.

**Mr Bennett. Re: 70366 Willingcott Valley Holiday Village.**

Although I only have 3 minutes, I really need an hour to put forward all the objections to this planning. It seems that everybody has been involved or asked their opinion except the neighbours!! 28 letters have been sent to the council, 7 (in favour), are from owners and not dwellers. This is far too big; the residents will treble over the summer months and the country lanes are congested already during this period. The company who carried out the traffic survey have no idea. There is no public transport to and from this area so they will have to drive and the site is to provide 400 parking spaces. Pollution from cars, light and noise will be unacceptable. The Club House is 100 yards from my bedroom window and will be open from 8am until Midnight. We can already hear the Old Mill. There will be an open space/play area almost on top of our fence with tree planting on the boundary line. What about my privacy? The electricity and water are already compromised in the summer. What about our quality of life? Living next to a building site for 9-10 years is unacceptable. The lanes will be blocked by lorries and have, in the past hit ours and other properties several times. If Centre Parks is the ambition it should be in the middle of nowhere with easy access not down country lanes.

4012. Police Report.

No report received.

4013. Minutes of the last meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.

4014. Matters Arising.

a. 3998b. 'No Man's Land' on FP14 – no further news at this time.

b. 4010a. War Memorial Cleaning Grant information to be forwarded to the PCC.

c. 4006a. We are to Request a visit from Martin Rich with regard to an Emergency Plan.

d. 4010e. CCllr. Andrea Davis to be contacted about the salt supply for the winter. Location addresses and amounts to be emailed as soon as possible. J. Hookway is again happy to store and distribute bags as and when necessary.

e. 4010f. A new Councillor is to be co-opted. To be an Agenda Item at the next meeting.

f. 4010b. S106 deadline for application is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It has been noted that the School tried to apply but were told it was too late although it was before the deadline. Lucinda Wheeler to be contacted to look into this.

  
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4015. CCllr Report. CCllr. Davis. Reported the following:

a. 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.

b. A399 Brayford. There is an upcoming carriageway stabilisation scheme "Lions Rum 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.

c. Community Insight survey. This is running until 22nd December and is capturing a snap shot 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.

d. 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.

e. 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 carers are choosing to take work elsewhere that is better paid with less responsibility. There is also a problem with retaining staff.

Following the chancellors' 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.

She was sorry to end on such a pessimistic note, it is only responsible that she advised us that there is a very big issue with the statutory services we provide to our residents.

4016. DCllr Report. DCllr. Wilkinson reported on the following:

a. NDC Head of Place Mike Tichford is arranging a meeting to hear proposals to deal with the homelessness and other issues that may arise from the properties in Woolacombe, that were 'served'. It needs to be made clear that the definition of '12-month holiday rental' is not the same as 'full time occupancy'.

b. There is to be a Coastal Issues Summit before the 2021 Year of the Coast celebration. The Devon coastline is not suffering as much erosion as the East Coast of the country.

c. With fire station closures at Lynton and Porlock the case to retain Woolacombe is strong. This may be further strengthened by a recent fire of farm equipment needing more than one appliance. It was noted that Ilfracombe and Braunton were unable to raise team to help. If the plan fails to save Woolacombe there will be a need to find a solution for the Co-responder based there. Devon and Somerset Fire Service insist that this is a re-arranging of resources and not a cost saving exercise.

4017. District Councillor Grant.

It has been agreed unanimously to apply for Grant money to produce a village map to be placed in a permanently sited frame located in a convenient spot in the village. Options are: - the Square, the Shop, the Triangle or the Community Field. Children from the local school are already compiling a map showing 'safe' places and it was suggested that they may like to undertake the production of a tourist map as a community project. The Chair agreed to contact the school about this. Quotes for production are to be sought.

4018. Footpaths.

- a. No concerns to report at this time, although they will be wet.

4019. Planning Decisions. The following decisions have been made by NDC:

- a. 66753 - Land East of Hillsdean West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NT. Erection of one Dwelling with Attached Garage. Refused.

4020. Planning Applications.

- a. 70366 – Willingcott Valley Holiday Village. Proposed improvements to leisure facilities together with woodland planting, landscaping and the erection of 107 holiday cottages and associated infrastructure works.

It was decided to have an Extraordinary Meeting as soon as possible to discuss further and the Council to be contacted to arrange an extension on their decision date.

- b. 70508 - Barn adjacent Spreacombe Lodge Farm Woolacombe Devon EX34 7HN. Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling house (Class Q(A)(B)). Majority Approval.

- c. 70250 - Dogs Trust West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NU. Erection of sculpture seated dog. Unanimous Approval.

4021. Correspondence.

- a. Letter from Tony Verney re: Co-option.
- b. Clerks and Councils Direct – September issue (float file).
- c. Citizens Advice Letter (float file).
- d. Supplementary Planning Document Consultation Letter (float file).

4022. Finance.

a. Bank Statements:

(1) West Down Parish Council as at 30<sup>th</sup> September £6,763.63 reconciled.

(2) 30 Day Notice Account as at 30<sup>th</sup> September £4,805.59 reconciled.

b. Petty Cash - as at 30<sup>th</sup> September £19.54 reconciled.

c. Cheques:

(1) Chq 623, £250 WDPHMC 50% grant.

(2) Chq 624, £550 WDPC 50% grant.

(3) Chq 625, £400 WDVGFA 50% grant.

d. Mid-Term Accounts produced and reconciled. To be published on the Website.

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
6/11/18

4023. Clerk Course.

Clerk Essentials Course, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Exeter. Vanessa Hunt found the course very interesting and feels she learnt a lot. Some items on the agenda need amending. 'Unresolved questions' is to be removed. 'Matters arising' is to remain but no decisions can be made on items under this heading, they must be put as an agenda item for next month. There should not be an 'Any Other Business' heading as all items to be discussed should be an agenda item.

4024. NDC Parish Forum attended by Cllr. Roy Drew and Vanessa Hunt, Clerk. An interesting and varied agenda. Working on a Corporate plan to achieve financial security, change working practices focusing on best customer outcomes. Planning department has a new Head of Place – Michael Tichford who took a lot of unhappy statements and questions onboard. He is heading up a Planning Overview to include what roles the Town and Parish Councils will play. Policing covered rural, wildlife, domestic violence and the lack of manpower. All speakers left us with a sense of commitment

4025. Unresolved Questions.

None

4026. Items to be added to next month's Agenda.

a. Application for Co-Option.

4027. Any Other Business.

a. Bradwell Mill Road resurfacing works was due 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> October.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.17pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

*Handwritten signature*  
6/11/19