

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 3rd June 2020 commencing at 7:30pm.

Present. Cllrs. C King (Chair), S Ayre (Vice Chair), R Drew, M Reeves, T Verney, S Squire,
K Oades, C Cllr. A Davis and D Cllr. M Wilkinson.

Apologies. Cllr. R Watts. Andy Frisby PCSO.

4129. Public Speaking.
None.

4130. Police Report.
a. Crime figures for Morteheo, Woolacombe, West Down, Mullacott and Bittadon.
Violence without injury x 2. Public order x 1. Possession of Drugs x 1.
Coronavirus – Stay alert please continue to socially distance.
b. It is advised to lock up your tools and gardening equipment.

4131. Minutes of the last meeting.
The May Minutes were approved and signed.

4132. Matters Arising.
None

4133. Report from County Councillor.
In Devon, as of 2nd June 2020, 1087 people have tested positive for Coronavirus and there have been 121 deaths. There are currently 2 patients in Barnstaple ICU and 12 hospitalised over the whole county. The Test and Track Scheme is to be implemented in the area soon. Two thirds of schools have re-opened, with 50% capacity, serving Reception, Year One and Year Six. West Down School are to mark the social distancing protocol on the pavement. The Recycling Centres are now open full time and most restrictions have been lifted but due to the time it takes to unload, no vans are allowed. Also, they are not allowing walk ins. Please use your roadside collections as much as possible. Trains are running for workers only; buses are still reduced. A sum of money had been promised for use on making roads safer for cyclists. A section of the A361 between Mullacott and Knowle is to be resurfaced before the next financial year.

4134. Report from District Councillor.
Coronavirus will cause a massive financial deficit. NDC will lose 3.4m from carparks and planning applications. Marine Drive car park will be opened in Woolacombe at 50% capacity. Since the relaxation of exercising rules, the parking around Woolacombe has been ridiculous and parking tickets have been issued at an alarming rate. The rubbish and human waste left behind has been horrendous. Dog mess is a big issue and can even affect the bathing quality on the beaches. Camp sites may be able to open after the 4th July.
The waste and recycling workers have requested glass to be separated from the other recycling and this has proved to be a time saver and less injuries have happened. A new bin is to be supplied in the near future for this purpose.

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4135. Footpaths.

The broken stile has been reported, the footpath by the The Old Vicarage needs strimming and Austin Hays No.11 needs trimming and this is the home owner's responsibility. A finger post sign has fallen off by the old Chapel directing up Garden Lane and needs putting back but the sign has disappeared. Councillors are to ask around and see if it is in safe custody. No.10 through the churchyard, the steps by the Manor House are overgrown. Mr Wiseman used to keep on top of it but since his passing it has been left. Cllr K Oades to trim.

4136. Planning - Decisions from NDC.

a. 71378 12 Thorne Park West Down.

Application for a lawful development certificate for proposed extension and alterations to dwelling. Approved.

b. 70366. Willingcott Valley Holiday Village. Approved (11/5/20)

4137. Planning Applications

a. 71533 – Greenways West Down. Erection of dwelling and garage with landscaping and formation of new access.
Unanimous approval.

b. Applications received after publishing of this agenda.
None.

4138. D Cllr M Wilkinson Grant.

There is the possibility of £250 grant and it was decided that a Village Name sign should be placed at the top of Ilfracombe Hill. It will not be possible to replicate the lovely sign at Dean Cross. The price of slate is to be investigated. Application for funds needs to be done this year.

4139. Climate and Environment Grant.

Cllr. T Verney and K Oades discussed the possibilities of items needed for the WDVGFA, having a composting toilet was discussed but rejected. A water supply was also mentioned as well as composting bins. On the Recycle Devon website it sends you to – getcomposting.com. A 220ltr Composting Bin costs £12.99 with free delivery. Water harvesting system is also being looked into. An electric charging point is deemed too expensive although the PH are happy to have more solar panels on the roof. To be revisited at a later date. Letter to be sent to the PH to see if it is an option. Cllr M Reeves to enquire about the cost of Solar Panels.

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4140. Acorn Developments – Social Housing.

It is worrying news that 2 families have been denied the promised affordable housing. Damien Hunter is the legal representative for NDC and says that Acorn are seeking a roll-over on the deed of validation on the grounds that they can't afford to continue with the S106 agreement. A similar case has gone to court in Norfolk and the decision is pending.

The Town and Country Planning act section 106a and 106ab says that this is a possibility. Acorn say they have had abnormal and unexpected expenses and that the site is no longer viable and they need to renege on the S106 agreement. It was felt that as major developers they should have allowed for this in their due diligence. It is unclear what monies have been paid to the council in line with the agreements in place. Some should have been paid to the council for the school to help them to extend to accommodate the new children that could potentially be moving into the village. The allocation of the affordable dwellings has been done for at least 3 families, giving them dates of December 2019 which was put back until January 2020 and then again put back and now told that the houses are no longer available. It is clear that the site was not popular in the first instance and one of the considerations was to supply 5 x social housing properties. They have flouted the conditions 13,14 and 15, yet despite a planning inspector visiting, one these items are still outstanding. A letter is to be written to NDC Head of Place Michael Tichford, Ken Miles CEO, David Worden (head of the council), Damien Hunter, Bob Pedlar, to point out the Parish Council's deep concern at the situation and all the circumstances that have led to this. It will include an appendix of supporting letters.

4141. Stang Lane crossing to Tarka Trail.

It was unanimously agreed to hold this item over until normal meetings resume.

4142. Review dog fouling situation.

There are now some new warning signs about dog fouling that are to be placed around the village. The fouling situation seems to have improved marginally but some have been left in high foot traffic areas and this needs to stop.

4143. Green space maintenance.

It was agreed that this item had been covered in item 8. Footpaths.

4144. Correspondence.

a. Information about support for domestic abuse has been received and placed on the West Down Website.

b. An invitation has been received to have an advocate to work with the Police Force. It is agreed that it would be a good idea to take this on. Cllr. S Ayre kindly came forward with support if needed.

c. Letters of thanks have been, received from WDVGFA, WDPHMC and WDPCC for the grant payments given.

d. An open letter has been received from NALC thanking all Parish and Town Councils and Clerks for the way that they have handled their meetings during the Corona situation.

e. G. Ellis & P. Swan have written again with regard to the planning procedure. It was decided to write back to them again stating that the process we follow had been explained previously and if they are still unsatisfied, they will need to take it up with NDC directly.

4145. Finance.

a) Bank Statements.

(1) Current Acc.	As at 31 st May 2020.	£ 4,712.22 reconciled.
(2) 30 Day Notice Account.	As at 31 st May 2020.	£ 4,807.19 reconciled.
(3) Petty Cash.	As at 31 st May 2020.	£ 30.00 reconciled.

b) Cheques.

648	NDC	Clerk Salary	£ 183.58
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4146. Unresolved Questions.

None.

4147. Items to be added to next meeting Agenda.

Climate and Environment Grant.

4148. Any other business.

a. The AGM Is to be postponed until such time as the Parish Council can meet in public. This has been confirmed as in order by the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). Cllr C King (Chair) and Cllr S Ayre (Vice chair) are both happy to continue until the meeting is possible.

b. In response to Philip Milton's letter about the Stang Lane crossing to the Tarka Trail, he was advised that it would be discussed when the Parish Council meets in public again.

c. The Village Forum will be discussed when the Parish Council meets in public again.

d. Zoom meetings are free currently if the next meeting is booked directly as the last one is finished. Concerns were raised about the process as situations had occurred where the meeting was cut off and unable to restart. A suggestion was made of an individual taking on a year subscription costing approx. £11.99 pa and being a host to all meetings needed at this time. It is hoped that there may be a pot of funds that we could claim this cost from.

e. It has been reported that the Coronation Tree is now growing around the railings that were there to support it in its infancy. As the railings are no longer needed, permission is being sort to remove them to avoid further damage to the tree. The go ahead has been granted so long as the plaque it retained. The WI are to be informed.

f. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks again to the Support Group set up for the village for their continuous efforts in helping the community and also the Parish Hall Management Committee for their help in securing funds on their behalf.

The meeting was closed at 21:33.

