

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies. None.

4246. Public Speaking.

4247. Police Report.

No newsletter supplied as yet; it is to be put on the village website when available.
The reported crime figures for **Morteheo/Woolacombe & West Down, Includes Mullacott & Bittadon.** Violence without Injury 3, Burglary Non-Dwelling 1, Shoplifting 2, Criminal Damage 1. None in the Village.

4248. Minutes of the last meeting.

The November Minutes were approved and signed.

4249. Matters Arising

a. 4227a. Climate and Environment Grant.

Grant Form completed by Cllrs C King and M Reeves and is ready to be sent to the Council.

b. 4227c. Planning Infringements – Wood Lane.

No further news has been received from North Devon Council.

c. 4227e. Remembrance Service.

The Poppy Wreath was laid and a short service was made that was very well attended.

d. 4227f. Stang Lane hedges.

Despite reminder to a believed landowner the hedges remain untrimmed. The Clerk is to contact them again.

e. 4230. Grit Box at Aylesdene.

Thanks to Cllr K Oades for freeing the grit box of vegetation and making it usable.

f. 4245. Parish Council Notice Board.

Thanks, given to Cllr R Drew for the maintenance done to the notice board.

4250. Report from County Councillor.

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council

The link below may be of interest to residents in the changing circumstances, as it has useful local information. The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon

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6/1/21

County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

Mass vaccination programme

The national COVID-19 mass vaccination programme is to commence in December 2020. The focus of initial vaccination will be staff and residents in care homes and those over 80 years of age. A significant amount of work is taking place locally across the system, to co-ordinate activity and ensure coverage across the county with an awareness of how and when people can access the vaccine.

The Exeter Nightingale received its first COVID-19 patients this week

Since the beginning of July, the Nightingale Hospital Exeter has been providing local people with fast and safe access to a range of important diagnostic tests. These additional services will now stop at the Nightingale facility to allow the hospital to care for COVID-19 patients. Diagnostic tests will continue to be available to those who need them through existing diagnostic services across the region.

The 116-bed hospital is designed to provide care for patients with COVID-19 and can support both ventilated and non-ventilated care. Patients with COVID-19 who need the additional services available within an acute hospital will be cared for there.

Supporting carers

A pioneering new project that supports unpaid carers has been heralded nationally and is shortlisted for a prestigious care award. It involves dedicated staff from Devon Carers, a service commissioned by Devon County Council and NHS Devon CCG, working closely with hospital teams to identify situations where carers are involved, and where support for those carers is needed for patients to return home safely, or prevent hospital admissions. DCC officers have been instrumental in driving this work and making it happen.

Safeguarding adult update

Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP) has launched an adult abuse public facing awareness campaign with the primary aim to increase the level of public awareness of adult abuse and how to recognise the signs. Between November 2018 - February 2019 only 7% of concerns were reports by non-professionals such as family, friends and neighbours indicating a lack of public awareness. There is a real need to generate awareness around these issues and to encourage reporting. The campaign will run until Christmas.

Team Devon Local Engagement Board (Covid related committee) update for November

The key messages from the November board meeting are:

Act now, take extra care and follow all national lockdown guidelines;

The cases continue to rise in Devon across all age groups and all areas, particularly working age population;

The latest national lockdown was yet to have impact on numbers

Concerns about increase in older age groups, cases in Care Homes and the impact on vulnerable and elderly;

Few deaths reported to date but this was expected to rise as more people were requiring hospital treatment, putting local hospitals under pressure

Local response of people and businesses continued to be good

University outbreak handled well and related numbers in Exeter had fallen; and

the local situation continued to be monitored based on good local data and local intelligence.

Devon leads £2 million bid to end holiday hunger

Devon County Council is leading the operation to organise networks of providers across the county, we will use a £2 million Government grant to support vulnerable children and families in the most effective way.

Over the next few weeks, a range of community kitchens, holiday clubs, charities and local businesses will be enlisted to coordinate help and support for those who need it the most in every district in Devon.

They will ensure that every child entitled to free school meals will be able to get free food over the Christmas holiday, during the Easter half-term and the Easter holidays.

We envisage that in most areas there will be a range of solutions and options that are geared to meet the needs of their individual communities. The top priority is to ensure those in receipt of free school meals have enough to eat over the holidays. But we also want to help and support people with wider vulnerabilities.

The latest statistics show that 14,774 children in Devon are registered for free school meals – 15 per cent of the total school population.

New streetlighting contract

All of Devon County Council's 79,000 streetlights will be converted to LED lights within the next two years – reducing carbon emissions by 75%.

It comes as SSE Contracting (SSEC) has been awarded the contracts to maintain the streetlights in Devon and Torbay for the next 10 years – with the aim of the contract being carbon neutral by 2030.

The streetlighting contract is extremely important as we continue to reduce our carbon emissions, and this new contract will enable us to develop our well-established collaboration with SSEC. Streetlights account for a significant amount of the Council's emissions, and working with SSEC will help us make further energy and carbon savings. The conversion to LEDs alone will reduce carbon emissions by more than 15,000 tonnes each year, the equivalent of taking 8,000 cars off the road. SSE is also committed to all of its vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes being electric by 2030, and for its depots to be carbon zero by 2025. Its regular supply chain partners are also aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

Schools

As you know schools have been fully open since the autumn term started. Teachers and staff have done an amazing job in organising their school, round the COVID 19 guidance and restrictions. COVID 19 cases were low to start with, but since the return to school after half term cases have risen. Last week we had over 2600 children self-isolating and over 400 teachers. This has put a real strain on schools, but most have remained open.

Schools are experiencing extra costs, including:

- 1, Supply teachers
- 2, Heating and Water (following COVID 19 guidance)
- 3, Extra cleaning and support staff
- 4, For Special Schools especially, extra PPE costs

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

telephone: 0345 155 1004

Berrydown Cross is closed due to roadworks. Patience is required.

Thanks, were given to C Cllr A Davis for all of her support.

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6/1/21

4251. Report from District Councillor.

a. The PSPO (Public Service Protection Order) for dog patrol went through. This means that people that don't pick up can be fined £100. A very welcome outcome.

b. Acorn/Planning Meeting. The report was published today. 4 options were offered. 1. Do nothing - 4. Go for the full agreement. The fact that the affordable housing houses are now on the open market was a surprise to NDC and they are looking for ways to stop their sale. This was asked of NDC by West Down Parish Council at the Extraordinary meeting in July but no action was taken. It is believed that it is a very strong case in the Villages favour. At the Planning Committee meeting, Cllr S Ayre is to speak on behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr M Reeves will speak from a business point of view and Cllr C King is to speak on behalf of the School. There are other local residents that are also going to make representations. NDC will be pulled up on their failings with this development.

Thanks, were given to D Cllr M Wilkinson for all his support.

4252. Village Sign.

Has now been sited and looks very good, thanks given to Cllr M Reeves and DCllr M Wilkinson for their work on this.

4253. Footpaths.

a. The annual Footpath Surveys are due to be done again. Forms will be distributed.

b. There are two Footpaths that need to be re-assigned. No.5 and 17. Cllr S Squire offered to take No. 5 and Cllr K Oades offered to take No.17. Thanks, given.

c. The Community Field bridge needs some heavy machinery, Cllr K Oades contacted Ros at P3 who is going to come and have a look. Gareth Hookway was also consulted and it's seems to be a big job. The Owners of the ground need to be contacted for permission. P3 will deal directly.

4254. Acorn Developments.

a. The working party have worked very hard and this is not the end. They will continue to push and do everything in their power to get the Village what it deserves. Thanks, were given to all concerned.

b. It was reported that signs had been placed at the site by person/s unknown, saying 'shame on you Acorn'. This was praised.

4255. Additional Councillor.

Two expressions of interest have been received that will be looked at in January.

4256. Standing Orders.

A new copy has been circulated with an Appendix attached to cover remote meetings.

4257. GDPR.

The Clerk is to contact NDC for advice.

4258. Planning - Decisions from NDC.

a. None.

4259. Planning Applications

a. None.

4260. Online Banking.

The Clerk is now a signatory on the account and is able to make payments online. However, this needs to be made secure by getting a second signatory to confirm payments online before they are processed.

4261. Finance.

a) Bank Statements.

(1) Current Acc.	As at 30 th November 2020. £ 5,163.35 reconciled.
(2) 30 Day Notice Account.	As at 30 th November 2020. £ 4,807.87 reconciled.
(3) Petty Cash.	As at 30 th November 2020. £ 4.20 reconciled.

b) Cheques.

662 Allways There	Grass Cutting	£ 367.50
663 NDC	Clerk Salary	£ 188.42

4262. Correspondence.

a. PTFA email requesting news of the Grant.

The school is in need of the money sooner rather than later. It was unanimously agreed to give them the funds in advance of April on the proviso that Bank Statements and Accounts are seen and receipts are supplied.

b. St Calixtus Church – Thank you for the 2nd 50% grant cheque.

c. A request for information of land owners around the river Caen and its tributaries who would be happy to have Beavers on their land. www.beavertrust.org. Letter to be circulated.

d. Affordable Housing Scheme. Letter to be circulated.

e. Flashing speed signs. Letter to be circulated.


6/1/21

- f. Precept application.
- g. Letter received from resident with regard to flooding into Lower Board Park. Resident advised to contact NDC Highways.
- h. Notice of rejection for Mr Milton's appeal for Foxhunters.

4263. Grass Cutting and Bus Shelter Cleaning Tender.

A tender has been received from Allways There at the same cost as last year - £735. The work was satisfactory last year and it was unanimously approved to accept the Tender for 21/22.

4264. Budget.

It was agreed by majority not to raise the Precept this year. 6/1 abstention.

4265. Unresolved Questions.

None.

4266. Items to be added to next meeting Agenda.

- a. Co-option.
- b. Online banking.
- c. Award Scheme.
- d. GDPR.
- e. P3 Footpath Surveys.
- f. Acorn.

4267. Any other business.

- a. The Parish Council Laptop needs repairing after taking a tumble. It was agreed unanimously to seek repair.
- b. Broken gutter on the bus stop at Dean Lane. Cllr R Drew offered to fix.
- c. Tarmac is breaking up on the bend in Stang Lane. To be reported to Highways.
- d. Roborough Bridge has had the weeds cleared from the rails along the edge, Thanks to Jamie Pearce. One of the posts has rotted away and needs replacing. It has been reported to Highways.
- e. Thanks, given by the Chair to all the Parish Councillors for the hard work put in this year.

The meeting was closed at 21:20.

King
6/1/21