

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 7:30pm.

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

Apologies. Cllrs. T Verney and K Oades.

4268. Public Speaking. None.

4269. Police Report.

No newsletter supplied as yet; it is to be put on the village website when available.
The November crime figures for **Mortehoe/Woolacombe & West Down, Includes Mullacott & Bittadon.** Violence with Injury 2, Violence without Injury 5, Sexual Offences 1, Criminal Damage 2, Public order offences 2, Trafficking of Drugs 1, Non-Notifiable Offences 3.

4270. Minutes of the last meeting.

The December Minutes were approved and signed.

4271. Matters Arising

a. 4249a. Climate and Environment Grant.

Grant Form completed by Cllrs C King and M Reeves has been accepted and a decision is pending.

b. 4249b. Planning Infringements – Wood Lane.

No further news has been received from North Devon Council. The Clerk is to contact them again.

c. 4249d. Stang Lane hedges.

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

d. 4252. Village Sign.

D Cllr Grant Funding for the sign has been refused because it was ordered before the application was completed. Thanks, given to the C Cllr Davis who is to fund instead.

The D Cllr Grant is still available for another project. A working party to discuss an alternative has been formed by unanimous approval. The re-siting of the sign is in the hands of Cllr M Reeves.

e. 4262a. WD School PTFA.

The PTFA have supplied bank statements and proof of expenditure and although it would not be usual to pay grants until the next financial year it is felt that in these difficult times and the schools need for help that an exception would be made. This was agreed unanimously. It is also noted that as this exception has been made for

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one then it should be made for all, however, it is felt that the general public and the other Grant recipients would understand that this payment is in the best interests of the children of the Village and surrounding area. It is noted that this will need to be amended in the policy in case of this situation arising again.

f. 4267a. Laptop repair.

A company in Barnstaple are willing to look at and quote for repairs. Unfortunately, with lockdown it can't get to them. The device is usable so is not urgent.

g. 4267b. Guttering on Dean Lane Bus Shelter.

This is still pending, Cllr R Drew to take a look.

4272. Report from County Councillor.

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council.

The link below may be of interest to local residents with the changing situation, this is a useful starting point for questions concerning the current situation in Devon.

The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon 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/>

Our recycling centres are still open, although the resale areas within them are closed.

The national lockdown advice right now is for us to stay at home as much as possible and only to make journeys out of the house for essential reasons.

Therefore, we are encouraging you to think about how you can reduce the amount of waste you create.

- Try to postpone projects at home that produce waste that would normally require you to make journeys to recycling centres

- If you do produce waste that you would normally dispose of at a recycling centre, can you temporarily store it at home safely instead, until we're out of the current lockdown restrictions

- Remember that garden waste and other recyclable material can be removed as part of your usual kerb side collections

If you make a visit to the recycling centre, please expect them to be operating differently during this lockdown period.

Restrictions are in place, including social distancing, which may lead to queues. If queues do start forming, we may need to restrict vehicles from joining the queues towards the end of the day and if queues become a safety hazard on the public highway, we may need to temporarily close the site.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/waste-disposal-and-recycling/>

Call for views and evidence from all those with an interest in rural transport.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-transport-rural-strategy-call-for-evidence>

The government published the [Future of mobility: urban strategy](#), in March 2019, the Department for Transport are now seeking views and evidence on what could be incorporated into a Future of Transport: rural strategy.

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There are three sections in the consultation document:

- the context of the Future of Transport: rural strategy
- our assessment of the mobility trends in rural areas, and the emerging opportunities for rural environments that we're witnessing in transport innovation – this section seeks views on whether we have identified these correctly and further evidence for these trends
- consideration of the approach that the government could take to help shape these opportunities to benefit rural areas

This consultation is part of the [Future of Transport programme](#), which aims to shape transport innovation and secure the UK's position as a leader in the transport sector of the future.

The consultation closes on the 16th February.

Finally, if you are a family who are worrying about money and struggling to pay for basic household essentials, please be aware that you can apply for help through funding that is available via the District Council hardship funds, this was the money sent to the District Councils from DCC for any households requiring extra help. There's more about what [financial and food support is available for families in Devon on the website.](#)

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

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

telephone: 03451551004

The Churchill Cross junction and the Ilfracombe Hill pot holes are in the system. The Stang Lane bend has been reported. The Gulley cleaning truck is due to visit the village in March.

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

4273. Report from District Councillor.

- a. A couple of letters have been received from neighbours of Willingcott about planning conditions not being adhered too. These have been passed to the Planning department and the enforcement team are looking into them.
- b. Regeneration programme grant for Barnstaple High Street. £9m was requested and £6.5m has been awarded. Areas to be looked into are pedestrianizing Butchers Row and extending the Pannier Market into the street and uplift of the regional centre.
- c. Concerns were raised of lockdown rules stating that second homes could not be visited but camper vans could travel. However, since the tightening of the rules this is no longer an issue. No travel is permitted out of your area.

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

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4274. Acorn Developments.

It was agreed unanimously to move Agenda item no.10 forward so as to include D Cllr M Wilkinson in the discussion before he leaves the meeting.

The West Down working party attended the Planning Committee Meeting where it was agreed unanimously that the full and original S106 agreement should be sought, 5 affordable homes and £118,201. Cllr S Ayre has checked through the draft minutes of the meeting of 9th December and there is an anomaly. The recommendation of the council stated that 5 affordable homes and the full amount of money are wanted and that this was recommended by the Head of Place. It is thought that the recommendation from the Head of Place was actually for 2 affordable homes and the financial contribution as per the agenda p121/122, and not the full s106 package. The audio recording has been reviewed and an alternative/amendment has been written by Damien Hunter. It is important that this document is correct. It is recommended that representation is made at the meeting of 13th January to keep the pressure on. It has been requested again that the Parish Council are kept in the loop by the Planning Dept. It must be made clear that this decision is important, not only to West Down but the whole of the rural communities throughout North Devon. The educational element was again raised and questions about how the sale of the affordable homes can be stopped. These are to be raised at the meeting. It is considered that the Parish Council has been overlooked and pushed aside as far as information is concerned. John Stainer, a member of the working party is looking into the land registry to see if the S106 dispute is registered against them.

Acorn have advertised how successful the site has been and that it is complete and all properties sold, however, a resident has advised that further street lighting has been delivered but not installed.

4275. Footpaths.

- a. The annual Footpath Survey Forms have been distributed.
- b. It is reported that all the footpaths are wet.

4276. GDPR.

To be reviewed again at the next meeting.

4277. Award Scheme.

It is felt that local people that have stepped up need recognition. Nominations are to be sought from the village by means of social media and the shop newsletter. Groups or individuals accepted. A notification and suitable award for presentation is to be researched and organised by Cllr C King.

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4278. Planning - Decisions from NDC.

a. 72230. Hilltop Barn, Willingcott Valley, Woolacombe, EX34 7HN
Conversion of barn to domestic garage, store and stables – Approved.

b. 72332. Land at Trimstone, West Down.
Prior approval for change of use agricultural building to one dwelling house (class Q (A&B)) – Approved.

4279. Planning Applications

a. None.

4280. Correspondence.

a. A letter from a resident re Willingcott has been forwarded to the Planning Dept.

4281. Online Banking.

Cllr S Ayre has been nominated to be the second signatory to confirm payments online before they are processed. Unanimous approval was received. The relevant links and forms are to be completed.

4282. Finance.

a) Bank Statements.

(1) Current Acc.	As at 31 st December 2020. £ 4,607.43 reconciled.
(2) 30 Day Notice Account.	As at 31 st December 2020. £ 4,807.91 reconciled.
(3) Petty Cash.	As at 31 st December 2020. £ 4.20 reconciled.

b) Cheques.

664	WDS PTFA	Grant	£ 500.00.
665	Fircroft Signs	Village Sign	£ 372.00.
666	NDC	Clerk Salary	£ 188.42.
667	V Hunt	Monthly Zoom Fee	£ 14.39.

4283. Unresolved Questions.

a. P3 money to spend, Cllr K Oades is talking with Ros. To be chased up.

b. DCllr Grant to be discussed. Covid PPE is a large expense for all. Standing orders suspended to allow D Ayre of the WDPHMC to speak. The hall has had grants but the field has not so suggested they may be grateful. It was unanimously decided to enquire with NDC and DCllr M Wilkinson if it is possible to claim for PPE that could be distributed to the groups. Church, School, Support Group, Parish Hall, Green Field, Shop.

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4284. Items to be added to next meeting Agenda.

- a. Rural Transport.
- b. Online banking.
- c. Award Scheme.
- d. GDPR.
- e. P3 Footpath Surveys.
- f. Acorn.
- g. Grant Fund Policy.

4285. Any other business.

- a. Woodlane Farm Planning infringement to be chased.
- b. Thanks to John Hookway for the distribution of the Salt bags and the scattering when necessary.
- c. A Police notification with regard to scam messages about the Covid Vaccine is to be posted on the Website and Facebook.

The meeting was closed at 21:45.

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