

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting held via Zoom on
Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7:30pm.

Present: Cllrs. C King (Chair), S Ayre (Vice Chair), R Drew, M Reeves, S Squire, T Verney, K Oades, M O'Halloran, C Cllr. A Davis and D Cllr. M Wilkinson.

Apologies: None.

4307. Public Speaking. None.

4308. Police Report.

The Newsletter is to be put on the village website. A summary of contents: - Coronavirus Information, Stay Alert, Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives. Wear a Mask, Social Distance and Wash Hands regularly.

A new Webchat facility for reporting non-emergency crimes is now available. Illegal off-road riding and driving and how to prevent. Lambing season. Domestic Abuse advice, where to go for help. Be aware of Fraud and Scams. Verify information and use official channels. How to protect yourself. Ways of contacting the Police.

The February crime figures for **Mortehoe/Woolacombe & West Down, Includes Mullacott & Bittadon.** 1, Non-Notifiable Offences 1. Burglary Non-Dwelling.

4309. Approval of Minutes from last meeting.

The February Minutes were approved and signed.

4310. Matters Arising.

a. 4289c. Guttering on Dean Lane Bus Shelter is still pending, Cllr R Drew to mend.

b. 4289d. The Rainbow Bench has arrived at the Parish Hall allowing the grant claim to be completed. Cllr T Verney has donated an anchor rod to secure it. The Parish Hall has been offered the bench as a gift from the Parish Council. This is to be discussed at their next Parish Hall meeting.

c. 4298. Rural Transport. Form is extremely difficult to complete. A letter is to be sent explaining the difficulties and the requirements of the area.

a. 4291e. Willingcott Planning infringements have not been updated.

S. Ayre
07-04-21

4311. Report from County Councillor.

Due to the report being lengthy it has been added as an Appendix.

The main points are: -

- Lynton Cross road works are due to start in the Autumn.
- A361, 40mph speed limits in places.
- Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council. Rates are down.
- Budget, £37m extra into adult and children's services. ¾ of total budget goes to the care of vulnerable people. Drainage and Hardship Fund have also been boosted. The Hardship fund is for Covid 19 related hardships and can be applied for.
- A Community Testing site is now set up in Barnstaple at the Civic Centre. This is for workers who are unable to get tested through their workplace. Please use the link devon.cc/testing to book an appointment. If you have a positive result but are asymptomatic you need to be tested through the NHS directly.
- Devon Recycling Centres are still open, these are very busy due to the good weather. Pick your time wisely. Cars will be turned away if the highway is blocked.

The gully cleaners were in the Village on 3rd March. Potholes on Dean Lane have been reported but they are still not filled. C Cllr A Davis will chase it up.

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

4312. Report from District Councillor.

- a. The North Devon Leisure Centre is coming on leaps & bounds. A great asset.
- b. The final funding payment has been agreed for Ilfracombe Water Sports Centre
- c. AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) meeting covered: -
 - Boundaries have been extended and now cover Lundy Island but does not come inland enough for West Down.
 - Rockham Bay steps are not funded at the moment.
 - Croyde. Planning is becoming an issue as it has been developed so much. It appears that a lot of people are moving to this area.
- d. The five-mile limit of covid restriction appears to have been flouted as Woolacombe has been inundated with visitors during the good weather.
- e. The tourist influx is expected to be high this year and concerns of traffic management are paramount.

The Climate and Environment Grant is still pending, D Cllr M Wilkinson to chase.

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

Beatty
07-04-21

4313. Waste and Recycling bins at Community Shop.

The manager of West Down Community Shop has requested a waste and recycling bin to be supplied and emptied by the District Council.

D Cllr M Wilkinson is to research the prices of such bins. Siting of the bin needs to be decided. After concerns raised it was decided to refer back to the shop and discuss further at the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr S Squire, seconded by Cllr K Oades. Unanimous approval.

4314. Acorn Developments.

An email has been received from Mr K Miles, CEO of NDC advised that NDC are pursuing £106,500 and 1 discounted, low-cost home, (the criteria for the sale of this property is unclear and is to be clarified). A new 106 contract is to be raised. Concerns were expressed with the lack of communication still, and again, from the Planning dept of NDC.

Thanks were given to the working party and the Parish Councillors for their tireless efforts on this issue.

4315. P3/Footpaths.

a. A tender quote of £750 + VAT has been received from G Hookway for Footpath 12. This was the only Tender. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr K Oades and seconded by Cllr M O'Halloran. Cllr S Squire declared an interest and the vote unanimous. The landowners of Easter Ground need to be contacted to grant access for a digger. £250 has been promised from P3 to help with the costs involved.

b. Cllr K Oades to ask G Hookway for a quote to fix two fingerposts and a handrail.

c. Cllr M O'Halloran has requested to take on all the work involved with inspecting and reporting of the paths. This is to be discussed and voted on at the upcoming AGM in May.

4316. GDPR.

Thanks were given to Cllr M Reeves from Cllr S Ayre for helping on this. The Parish Council does not need to register with the ICO (Information Commissioners Office). A DPO (Data Protection Officer) will need to be appointed.

Privacy notices for Councillors and volunteers are being drafted for approval. Agenda item for next meeting.

4317. Apologies and approval of.

Apologies need to be sent directly to the Clerk and not through another councillors. It was proposed by Cllr S Ayre and seconded by Cllr M O'Halloran that the following be added to the Standing Orders.

'The Clerk records the absence of a Parish Councillor and a reason for that non-attendance. This is recorded in the minutes for approval, if they so wish'.

Becky
07-04-21

Unanimous approval was given.

4318. Meetings after May.

With the current regulations on public meetings, face to face meetings will resume as of June. It has been suggested that AGM meetings are conducted before the 6th May to avoid a large group gathering.

4319. Award Scheme.

An award design has been reviewed and approved with the wording "Services to West Down Community 2020", at a cost of £42. Proposed by Cllr M Reeves and seconded by Cllr S Squire. Unanimously approved. A Certificate to all children nominated and a letter from the Parish Council to all other nominees. Proposed by Cllr M O'Halloran and seconded by Cllr S Ayre. Unanimously approved.

4320. Planning - Decisions from NDC.

a. None.

4321. Planning Applications

a. ENQ/1862/2021 – Foxhunters Garage, West Down. EX34 8NU.
Approval proposed by Cllr M O'Halloran, seconded by Cllr R Drew. Unanimous.

b. 72742 - Stocklands Heddon Mills Braunton EX33 2NQ
Demolition and rebuild of existing annex
Approval proposed by Cllr M O'Halloran, seconded by Cllr R Drew. Unanimous.

4322. Correspondence.

a. DCC highway resurfacing of A361 from Dean Cross to South Dean Farm.
Overnight closures from 7pm - 7am as of 4th May 2021 for 4 weeks.

4323. Online Banking.

The online banking worked well.

4324. Finance.

a) Bank Statements.

(1) Current Acc.	As at 28 th February 2021.	£ 3,247.89 reconciled.
(2) 30 Day Notice Account.	As at 28 th February 2021.	£ 4,807.99 reconciled.
(3) Petty Cash.	As at 28 th February 2021.	£ 0.25 reconciled.

b) Online Payments.

None.

4325. Unresolved Questions.

S. Ayre
07-04-21

a. None.

4326. Items to be added to next meeting Agenda.

- a. Award Scheme.
- b. GDPR.
- c. Acorn.
- d. Village Forum.

4327. Any other business.

- a. DALC Newsletter, Parish Online Training Webinar. Cllr M O'Halloran and Cllr M Reeves to attend morning session. Unanimously agreed. Clerk to book.
- b. Cllr M O'Halloran's New Councillor course has been moved from March to April/May.
- c. Poppy Wreath to remain on the memorial for the duration.

The meeting was closed at 21.51.

*Becky
07-04-21*

**West Down Parish Council
County Councillors Report
March 2021**

Lynton Cross

For many years I have been campaigning for improvements to Lynton Cross, it is with great pleasure that this has at long last paid off.

Government funding has been confirmed for a £2.2 million road safety scheme on the A3123 in North Devon.

Devon County Council introduced a series of safety measures at Berry Down Cross and Hore Down Gate on the A3123 last year – including a 40mph speed limit, new advance warning signs, solar-powered road studs, and high friction surfacing.

Now that Safer Roads Funding has been received from the Department for Transport, design can be finalised on the remaining elements of the improvements earmarked for the road at the other known collision cluster site on the route – Lynton Cross.

As part of the improvement scheme, a four-arm rural roundabout will be constructed at Lynton Cross, and works will also be carried out to the centre white lines along the entire A3123 to bring them in line with current standards.

North Devon Link Road.

I had the pleasure of turf cutting as Devon County Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development, to mark the start of the A361 improvements between South Molton and Portmore roundabout at Barnstaple.

Contractor Alun Griffiths will be carrying out the work to widen sections of the road in order to provide better and safer overtaking opportunities and improve journey time reliability.

Eight junctions will also be upgraded to improve safety, and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists will be introduced with new segregated pedestrian/cycle crossings of the road at Bishops Tawton and at Landkey Junction.

Work is initially starting in a number of locations which will be widened along the link road and temporary traffic lights will be in place for the first few weeks while both sides of the carriageway are cleared on these stretches.

Once these work sites are established, two-way traffic flow will be maintained but a 40mph limit will be introduced to protect the workforce and members of the public.

The scheme, which is due to be completed by the end of 2023, is expected to boost the local economy and it will also accelerate plans for 6,700 new homes in the region.

Every effort will be made to minimise traffic delays but unfortunately it will be unavoidable while this work is carried out. However, the long-term benefits will outweigh the short-term disruption.

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council

The link below may be of interest to residents with the situation changing and many interested in what is happening locally this link is a useful starting point for questions and 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/>

*Becky
070421*

Mass vaccination programme

- Work is continuing across the county at pace to deliver the local mass vaccination programme. The CCG is producing regular vaccination briefing notes and I shall endeavour to circulate these as they are published. People aged 70 and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable have begun to receive invitations for vaccinations as of the 18 January, alongside frontline Health and Care staff and the over 80s who were the initial priority groups.
- With so much going on and at such pace it can be hard to keep track with developments. To date there are three main ways the vaccine is being delivered in Devon:
 - All four of the county's main hospitals – in Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay and Barnstaple – are giving the vaccination to priority groups in line with national guidance
 - GP practices are working together in groups to set up local vaccination centres. Across the county, 20 centres are now in operation, serving all 123 of Devon's GP practices
 - GP-led facilities are delivering the vaccine to residents and staff in care homes

Barnstaple Community Testing Centre,

The Test centre is in the car park at Barnstaple's Taw View, Civic Centre, on North Walk road, and will be open 9am to 5pm, seven days a week, with extended hours 7am to 7pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

It provides lateral flow tests for anyone who leaves the house to work or volunteer, and who comes into contact with others.

The purpose of community testing is to identify people likely to have the virus, so that those testing negative can continue their day while still following public health rules. Anyone testing positive is instructed to go home and self-isolate.

The tests are for people who may not know they are carrying the virus. One in three people with coronavirus do not show any symptoms and could be going about their day passing it to others unknowingly.

People who can't work from home and who are in contact with others regularly are encouraged to take these quick tests twice a week to prevent the potential spread of the virus.

The results are back with you within the hour. If you test positive, you'll be asked to self-isolate for ten days. If you're negative, you can continue your day while still adhering to public health rules – keep your social distance, wear a face covering when indoors in a public space, and wash your hands regularly.

Community Testing Centres are for people who are not showing any symptoms and who aren't already accessing regular testing, through their employer for example.

To book a rapid test and to find out more about Community Testing in Devon, visit devon.cc/testing

Devon County Council Budget 21-22

More than £37 million extra will be going into vital services with an additional £21.7 million for adult care and health and £11.4 million more for children's services.

In addition, there will be £600,000 extra to tackle the county's potholes and road drainage and a £600,000 hardship fund for residents who have been hard hit economically by the pandemic.

In total the council's spending will be almost £580 million in 2021/22.

The budget provides significant additional resources to adult social care and health, children's services and highways.

Be
C
07-04-21

Caring for the elderly and disabled, children and the vulnerable are our highest priorities. We know that we have immense pressure on both our adult and children's services, we want to maintain and improve what we are offering.

We will continue to support rurality, rural buses, and highways but we will also look to invest in our green agenda.

Continue to invest in LED lighting on our streetlights, saving money but also cutting our carbon emissions.

There will be more charging points for electric cars, solar panels on the roofs of DCC buildings and we are looking for more land to plant trees to offset our carbon footprint.

The average Band D council tax bill for Devon's services will rise by 4.99 per cent to help pay for it – that's 1.99 per cent for general services and 3 per cent dedicated solely to adult care. It means the Band D bill will rise by £71.82 to £1,511.28 – the equivalent of £1.38 a week extra.

We are very conscious that many people living in Devon are on fixed and low incomes but every year we have to balance imposing more costs on them with the need to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the help and support they need and deserve and all our residents get the best services we can provide. The budget for 2021/22 includes significant investment in core services to support the most vulnerable people in Devon, some 73 per cent of the budget spend is on the most vulnerable.

The backdrop to the budget is one of huge uncertainty and risk – we do not know how long the pandemic will continue or what the longer term impact on the economy, public health and demand for services will be.

We are in unprecedented times and the authority faces significant risk of increased demand for services, increased costs and reducing funding. We face a challenging future in every respect, and it will not be an easy path to navigate.

Devon Recycling Centres are still open, with restrictions.

Our recycling centres are still open, **they are very busy**, 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 only.

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 curb 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/>

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:

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

telephone: [0345 155 1004](tel:03451551004)

Andrea Davis

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Becky
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