

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT WEST DOWN PARISH HALL ON 4TH MARCH 2020

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

Apologies. Cllr. R. Watts.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

4095. Public Speaking.

a. Maya Ellis, sent her apologies and a covering email regarding Item 13 of the Agenda. Please see 4106 below.

4096. Police Report.

The main points on the Newsletter are: -

Crime figures for the area of Morteheo/Woolacombe, West Down, Mullacott & Bittadon.

Violence without Injury 4, Sexual offences 1, Vehicle offences 2, Criminal Damage 1, Trafficking of Drugs 1.

It is Lambing Season and we ask that care and attention is taken controlling your dog in and around areas with sheep. Dogs by nature may want to play or chase livestock which may unwittingly cause harm. Please be aware sheep worrying is an offence.

It is legal for landowners to shoot dogs to protect their livestock, providing there was no other way of stopping the dog worrying their animals and they report the killing to the police within 48 hours. Livestock also includes domestic fowl, geese or ducks.

Always Be Aware of the signs of modern slavery and call Modern Slavery Helpline with concerns on 08000 121 700. Learn how to Spot the Signs of modern slavery, including general indicators and key signs relevant to the major types of exploitation, including child exploitation. Find out how to spot the signs here <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/about/spot-the-signs>

It is estimated there may be as many as 13,000 victims in the UK alone. There is no typical victim of slavery.

Victims can be men, women and children of all ages and cut across the population, but it is normally more prevalent amongst the most vulnerable, minority or socially excluded groups.

Vulnerable members of our society, such as rough sleepers, are often targeted as the next victims of modern slavery. Homeless people may be targeted at night shelters, day centres, soup kitchens, hostels and on the street. They are offered work in agriculture, construction, paving, domestic work and other areas into labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and criminal exploitation.

4097. Minutes of the last meeting.

The February Minutes were agreed and signed.

4098. Matters Arising.

a. 4082a. Emergency planning information has been received. Further action is needed and Cllr. King will forward the info to all other Cllrs. It is felt that the Parish Council should not take sole responsibility, it needs to be a combined, community-based venture. It was felt that this subject would cause alarm with the Coronavirus situation. It is recommended to ensure that everyone has emergency supplies and medication to see them through the next few weeks.

b. 4082b. The D Cllr. Grant for the Poster Case has been approved and can be claimed when the case has been installed.

c. 4082c. Everyone is happy with the village maintenance agreement at this time.

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- d. 4082e. The Dog Waste Bin situation on the Green Field is still a concern. The operative has emailed to say that 'they will find a way to manage'. Cllr. T Verney is to check if it is emptied on the 5th March 2020.
- e. 4083. Trimstone Lane is cleared and the road is now passable.
- f. 4088. The Child Padi Pads have arrived and are in the AED box. It is noted that we need to ensure that the village residents know that the AED is in the shop porchway.

4099. Report from County Councillor.

“Reminder of how to report a highway problem.

With the excessively wet weather we are experiencing an emergence of potholes, please help by reporting them either on the website or via the telephone.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>
or telephone: 0345 155 1004 (Road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs, and public rights of way.) Please keep a note of the reference number.

Potholes

The increase in potholes has been significant. Highways had been not just filling safety defects but adjacent potholes but this had to be suspended whilst we concentrated on filling the actual safety defects. This has prompted an increase of annoyed customers, however it is the correct decision to prioritise the work in this way, and the teams are clear that they want to return to the Doing What Matters work, once the safety defect levels have dropped.

The Report IT website has been updated so that some defects have a due date put against them (they appear with a roadworks symbol). It's not perfect, there are some glitches in the system and there is some data cleansing required.

Works Programme Information

This has now gone live on the webpages at

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/liveroadworks-information/>. Again, the team are aware that it is not perfect, and that there is still some development to do, which is planned for the next month, but it does start to produce future information which is currently lacking.

Dragon Patcher's

Having considered the work that Dragon Patcher's have carried out in the County, and particularly the impact of the work on the minor road network, the service has decided to increase the number of machines to 4. These now have to be built for Skanska, so they won't appear on the network immediately, however Skanska are looking at trying to hire in older machines until these new ones arrive in several months' time.

Coronavirus advice

We understand that our residents and visitors may have concerns about coronavirus. We would like to reassure you that the government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

The council is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with [Public Health England](#). We are taking all possible steps to keep you safe. Visit the [NHS website](#) for the latest information and advice and the current situation in the UK or you can follow Public Health England's [Facebook page](#) or [Twitter feed](#) for the latest updates, information and advice.

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Useful links

[Latest Government advice](#)

Regularly updated information for the public on the outbreak, including the current situation in the UK and advice about the virus and its symptoms, as well as statements from the Chief Medical Officer on confirmed cases in the UK.

[PHE blog: novel coronavirus – what you need to know](#)

PHE is addressing common questions on its Public Health Matters blog.

[PHE blog: what is contact tracing?](#)

One of the ways in which PHE seek to protect the public from infectious diseases like novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is contact tracing. In this blog Nick Phin, Deputy Director at PHE's National Infections Service, answers some questions about how this works.

[Advice sheet on home self-isolation](#)

What to do if you are told to self-isolate.

[PHE Campaign Resource Centre: novel coronavirus](#)

PHE has launched a UK-wide public information campaign to advise the public on how to slow the spread of coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services. Its Campaign Resource Centre holds materials which can be used by councils for distribution to their communities.

[Coronavirus – what you need to know](#)

PHE has created a page of FAQs, that will be updated regularly.

[If you do have any concerns or questions please visit the NHS website for further information.](#)

Devon County Council Budget 2020/21

Devon County Council recently approved its budget with more money for vulnerable children, adult social care and roads and drainage.

More than £43 million extra will be pumped into vital services with an additional £23.7 million for adult care and health, £11.5 million more for children's services and £2 million more to help deal with drainage issues on the road network.

In total the council's spending will rise by £43.1 million from £498 million in 2019/20 to just over £541 million.

The average Band D council tax bill for Devon's services will rise by 3.9 per cent to help pay for it – that's 1.9 per cent for general services and 2 per cent dedicated solely to adult care.

It means the Band D bill will rise by £55.17 to £1,439.46 – the equivalent of £1.06 a week extra.

The budget provides significant additional resources to adult social care, children's services and highways which are the things that matter most to our Devon residents. Although there has been a small increase in support from the Government, we need the certainty of future income to protect services.

Caring for the elderly and disabled, together with children, are our highest priorities. Against the backdrop of increased demand and cost pressures on adult social care and health and children's services, we feel it is necessary, reluctantly, to increase council tax by 3.99 per cent, which provides just over £21 million of additional funding.

In 2020/21 the authority's core funding will increase by 1.63 per cent, which is a welcome change from the 11 per cent average annual reduction since austerity began in 2010.

There are significant ongoing pressures in both adult and children's services with the greatest area of concern being the funding shortfall on the High Needs Block (children with special needs) and the lack of information from Government on what they intend to do about it."

We have had significantly wetter weather this winter which means we are having more drainage problems leading to the breakup of our roads and so we have put an extra £2 million into improving drainage.

We will still support rurality, rural buses, and highways but we will also look to invest in our green agenda. We will be investing in LED lighting on our streetlights, more charging points for electric cars, solar panels on the roofs of our buildings and looking for land to plant trees to offset our carbon footprint.

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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.

In cash increase terms, this is the best budget we have had for a decade. The independent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy had judged the finances of top tier councils across the country against a number of measures of resilience. Devon's finances had been judged to be good and robust.

As a reminder of what Devon County Council is responsible for, I have drawn up a quick guide with some numbers in it. This is by no means comprehensive; the budget book is over 150 pages.

Devon County Council – roles and responsibilities

Devon County Council is one of 26 County Councils in England. The authority, which has 60 elected County Councillors, represents 795,000 residents and administers an area spanning 2,534 square miles, the third largest in England.

The Council is led by a Cabinet of nine senior councillors, chaired by the Leader of the Council, John Hart.

The County Council works in partnership with eight District Councils, over 300 Town and Parish Councils, the Great South West region's LEPs and neighbouring County and Unitary councils.

Our services

The County Council has a total budget of £1.1 billion and provides a wide range of public services – some directly and some commissioned from other organisations. The County Council's main service groups are:

Adult care and health including services for older people and adults with physical or learning disabilities.

- care at home for 10,000 people a year
- 13,000 people with dementia

Children's services including education and learning; services for vulnerable children and families; safeguarding; looked after children and care leavers.

- supporting 16,500 children with special needs or disabilities
- over 200 children adopted or fostered a year
- 97,000 pupils
- 398 schools

Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity including planning, transportation and environment; economy, enterprise and skills; trading standards; libraries; community safety and emergency planning.

- 50 libraries and four mobile libraries
- free school transport for 14,500 pupils a day
- funding for 185 bus services, 60 voluntary car schemes and 16 community ring and ride schemes
- nine new primary schools built or due to be completed in 2020

Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste including road and bridge maintenance; waste disposal and recycling; and the County Council's capital programme.

- 8,000 miles of road (England's largest local network)
- 62,000 potholes filled a year
- managing 357,000 tonnes of domestic waste a year

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- 19 recycling centres
- £114 million invested every year on major infrastructure projects.

Legal, Human Resources and Communications including democratic support and scrutiny; Crown services; registration of births, marriages and deaths, and the Coroner services.

County Treasurer including Revenue and Capital budgets; Investment and Treasury management; Devon Audit Partnership and the Devon Pension Fund.

Digital Transformation and Business Support including ICT; procurement; property management; customer service and information governance.

Northleigh

Patching will be done this year (hopefully, programme has slipped somewhat due to the wet weather), this is a prelude to surface dressing next year to seal the surface.

Any safety defects will be dealt with, please report on the number above. Repairs are failing however due to the wet surfaces, but we do have a duty to deal with any category 1 faults even if we know the repairs are unlikely to hold.

The road was last inspected on 14th February by the local highway officer.

2 parts of the Tarka Trail are still to be obtained; planning has been agreed but it is an ongoing situation. The Willingcott stretch is to be completed in phase one of their build.

Berrydown road is closed for fitting of solar powered cats' eyes.

A resident has told of his distress about Higher Aylescott Lane being impassable. The situation needs to be reported to the Highways Dept and a reference number is needed from his reported complaint so that the C Cllr can chased it up if necessary. "

4100. Report from District Councillor.

Due to the Coronavirus Ken Miles is making preparations for his staff to work at home. Ricky Cormack has resigned and Ken Miles is running the section until a replacement is found.

A Climate and Environment Grant has been set up by Malcolm Prowse to replace the parish grant scheme. It is available to areas of population under 1000. Kate Johnston to be contacted to ascertain what grants are available. This may cover the Electric Charging Unit as part of Climate change. It is necessary to discuss suitable claims from the 20k as soon as possible. The National Trust planted 5000 trees in Woolacombe. These included Oak, Hawthorne and Holly. Jane Williams still has 30 Oak trees available, Cllr Verney to discuss with the WDVGFA.

An Electric Charging Point for a domestic property can cost approx. £1000. Braunton and Croyde have them installed. Generally, the cabling is not sufficient making it a difficult and expensive decision. Government funding is available and is to be looked into.

The Grant for £250 has been approved. More grants are to come in the new financial year starting 1st April 2020 so it is necessary to think about schemes now. They are available to any organization in the village.

The Council Tax has risen by 2.8% (on a Band C property it is an increase of £5 per year.)

New solar powered waste bins are being introduced that compresses waste. A mobile bin is currently on trial in Barnstaple.

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4101. Footpaths.

a. Footpath allocation.

Cllr, T Verney is to have footpath 12. Cllrs K Oades and T Verney to walk it together. It is possible that he may also take on 14a, this is to be advised.

4102. Planning - Decisions from NDC.

70800 – The Old Stable, formally Snow drop cottage. Approved.

4103. Planning Applications:

None

4104. Road Warden Scheme.

Cllr K Oades applied by email for information but has not none received any to date. The equipment available is for loan only. Cllr C King mentioned that the training and insurance availability looks interesting. A risk assessment course is long but needs doing in light of lengths men being a thing of the past. Litter picking and sign cleaning is not covered by the insurance so is at own risk.

4105. Parish Forum.

A parish forum is needed to discuss VE day 8th May. There is a lot happening in Braunton so village events will be scaled down. Cllr. K Oades to check hall availability for Thursday 2nd April at 7pm, to meet and again in the Autumn.

4106. Electric Charging Point.

An email was received from Maya Ellis as follows,

“Unfortunately, I’m not able to attend this evening.

I have tried to find out from North Devon Council how you would apply for the funding but haven’t had a response yet. If I have any information, I will forward it to you.

I don’t know the village well enough, but I do know that parking is an ongoing issue as we have found it difficult to park with the free car park being full and often over flowing. So, I’m not sure where we could have one installed if it’s not in the public car park? The parking bay has to be available 24/7 with unrestricted access to qualify for the funding (up to £7,000). It may not be an issue now, but with the government banning the purchase of all new diesel and petrol cars by 2035 and with the purchase of electric cars on the rise it’s not something that should be ignored.

Location options:

- Public car park – this is already at full capacity – how would this be managed? Could a space be created on the road-side? Georgeham Parish Council have had an electric charging bay in their public car park for a number of years now and I understand Mortehoe Parish Council are looking at doing the same.
- Next to community shop... would encourage visitors to buy from shop and is ideally located in the centre of the village. Next to post box or opposite the shop.

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- Would The Crown Inn consider providing a space? – The Williams Arms in Braunton and Heanton have recently installed one in their car parks - to encourage trade.
- The Parish Hall car park – this may be too far for those that really need it in the heart of the village – cottages with no access to off street or roadside parking.”

After discussion of possible locations and the note from DCllr Wilkinson

‘An Electric Charging Point for a domestic property can cost approx. £1000. Braunton and Croyde have them installed. Generally, the cabling is not sufficient making it a difficult and expensive decision’.

Government funding is available and is to be looked into. It was decided that the expense was greater than the need at this time. It is to be discussed again after available funding is assessed.

4107. Correspondence.

Coronavirus information from DALC.
Councils Direct publication.
Selaine Saxby MP surgery dates info.

4108. Finance.

a. Bank Statements.

(1) Current Acc.	As at 29 th February 2020.	£ 2,019.50 reconciled.
(2) 30 Day Notice Account.	As at 29 th February 2020.	£ 4,806.60 reconciled.
(3) Petty Cash.	As at 29 th February 2020.	£ 30.00 reconciled.

c. Cheques.

638	NDC	Clerk Salary	£ 183.58
639	NDC	Dog Bins	£ 132.00
640	St Johns Ambulance	Pedi Pads (child)	£ 89.20
641	Greenbarnes Ltd	Poster Case	£ 583.34

We have received an anonymous donation towards our Map Case. We would like our thanks to be noted.

4109. Unresolved Questions.

None

4110. Items to be added to next meeting Agenda.

DCllr. M Wilkinson Grant
Climate and Environment grant
Road Warden Scheme.

4111. Any other business.

A service is to be held at St Brannocks Church on 15th March Cllr R Drew is attending.

Meeting Closed at 21.07.

Vanessa Hunt
6/5/20