

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
West Down Parish Hall
Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Present Cllrs: S Ayre (Chair), M Reeves (Vice Chair), S Whitby, T Verney, I Lavender.
Also present: C Cllr Davis, D Cllr Wilkinson, Daniel Bleasdale (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: R Kenshole, H Knight. Absent S Tanton

5394. Declarations of Interest
None.

5395. Public Participation
John Hookway – Praised the Parish Councillors work throughout the year, however he was concerned over the way in which small grants were awarded, in particular the procedures was not followed properly for some of the Small grants.

5396. Approve & Sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th November 2024.
Cllr Reeves proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2024 be accepted as a true record which was seconded by Cllr Verney. Decision unanimous (Except Cllr Lavender who was not present).

5397. Matters Arising
Cllr Reeves raised the query of the missing speed sign outside Fox Hunters, DCC Davis was informed that the sign had been vandalised and would keep us informed.
Cllr Reeves requested that the Clerk to update the asset register.
Cllr Ayre asked the Clerk to send around some bin options for a replacement bin at the bus stop.

5398. Police Report
There has been an up-tick in the theft of farm equipment in neighbouring Parishes.

5399. Report from County Councillor on Website.
Cllr Davis reports the disposal of soft furnishings will not be allowed at Ilfracombe waste and recycling from the 31st December 2024. It was noted that this could increase fly tipping.
£4000 has been received from C Cllr Davis for the reactive speed sign. Cllr Reeves has contacted Westcotech and the price of the units previously quoted remain unchanged, however they no longer sell the lithium ion battery as they proved to be unreliable.
Some poles for the reactive speed signs need to be installed once permissions are granted.
The Tarka trail is still an ongoing work.

5400. Report from District Councillor.

ND Cllr Wilkinson noted that precepts and budgets are being discussed everywhere at the moment and it is important to note that its a few pounds not hundreds of pounds per household It was also worth noting that second homes which are substantially furnished will be included in that precept year.

North Devon Council has more land for the 5 year land supply initially thought.

ND Cllr Wilkinson attended a coastal issues meeting in which bathing water quality figures were published, ND Cllr Wilkinson reported "it sounds promising but there are concerns" due to poor ratings at Wildersmouth and Instow. Sea level temperatures are rising 9 out of 10 of the warmest years have been recorded since 2002.

The RNLI has reported that water related suicides have increased.

The BBC reported that 84 low carbon affordable homes in Lynton, West Down, Georgeham, Parracombe, Woolacombe are going to be built by community land trusts, some of these already have planning permission.

5401. Reactive Speed Sign: Covered earlier in the agenda. Three sites are due to be confirmed.

5402. Planning Decisions:

Approved

78661 Conversion of outbuilding into 'granny annexe' for use exclusively by existing family at Homeleigh 5 South View Cottages West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NR

5403. Planning Applications:

79313 Erection of an agricultural shed over existing silage clamp at Cheglinch West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NW Approval proposed by Councillor Verney Seconded by Councillor Reeves, decision unanimous.

79467 Demolition of redundant barns and erection of 3 dwellings and associated works. (Utilising fallback position 77493, 77494 and 77784 for five dwellings) at Green Park Farm Cheglinch Braunton Devon EX34 8NW Approval proposed by Councillor Reeves Seconded by Councillor Verney, decision unanimous.

79400 Erection of two buildings to create 7 industrial units & associated parking at Commercial Point Mullacott Cross Industrial Estate Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8FH Approval proposed by Councillor Whitby Seconded by Councillor Verney, decision unanimous. Councillors do have concerns regarding available parking at the site.

5404. Footpaths

Forms need to be sent out to the councillors that are assigned footpaths.

Cllr Whitby reports that rubble has been dumped near her footpath.

P3 funding will be investigated by the Clerk.

Cllr Lavender noted that the spaying of chemicals on the footpaths earlier in the year, this will be mentioned in future to the contractor.

5405. S106 expressions of interest: Bus Shelter upgrades. PTFA would like to receive funding for installation of play equipment. Village hall improvements. The Clerk will not email until organisations have had meetings.

5406. CLT The CLT have had their annual meeting and will continue looking for land.

5407. Car Park Lease
Laura at Samuels is waiting on NDC Solicitors.

5408. Internal Quarterly Audit
The Audit document was handed to Cllr Verney.

5409. To Consider the Grass Cutting Quotation request document
The grass cutting poster has been finalised and will be circulated.

5410. Budget
The budget was decided proposed by Cllr Verney, seconded by Cllr Whitby approved unanimously, see attached.

5411. Precept
The Parish Council Precept £22,000 proposed by Cllr Whitby, seconded by Cllr Verney approved unanimously

5412. Finances
a) Balances: Treasures Account: £25361.19
Business Bank Account £4907.23
b) Received invoices for payment:

North Devon Council	Clerks Salary	£382.20	
	Admin Charge	£7.72	£389.92
M.R.L Landscaping			£2640
Bespoke Electrical Solutions			£5350.00
	Total Payment		£8379.20

5413. Correspondence
DALC updates.

5414. Unresolved Questions
The Clerk will chase back payments due to the NALC retrospective pay increase.
Cllr Reeves defended the earlier comments made by Mr Hookway, saying that the events regarding the applications were done in good order and approval to discuss was sought and given by councillors at the November

meeting, despite some late applications and lacking information, which has now been received, this will be minuted better in the future.

5415. Items to be added to the next meeting Agenda

- a) Reactive speed sign
- b) Grass cutting contractor interest/quotations
- c) Community Plan
- d) Clerk Review
- e) Foot Paths
- f) S106
- g) Internal quarterly audit.

5416. Any Other Business

- a) Cllr Verney, noted that Ilfracombe road has not been cleaned.
- b) Cllr Whitby made the point that North Devon Council are going to have less money next year, and the parish council may have to do more to assist the community. Self help is going to be more of an issue in future.
- c) A few more items to be added to the asset register.
- d) Cllr Lavender brought the issue of parking on the end of Dean Lane being dangerous, it has been raised to the police. The idea of double yellow lines was discussed, however it was likely that this will not be enforced.
- e) Cllr Lavender is doing a lot of DALC training.
- f) Former Clerk Val Ford wished the council a happy Christmas.

PART B – THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ARE EXCLUDED FROM THIS PART OF THE MEETING.

5417. None

The meeting closed at 9:29 p.m.