

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
West Down Parish Hall
Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Present Cllrs: S Ayre (Chair), M Reeves (Vice Chair), T Verney, R Kenshole, S Whitby, H Knight, C Cllr Davis, ND Cllr Wilkinson.

Also present: ,, Daniel Bleasdale (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllrs I Lavender, S Tanton,

47/25 Declarations of Interest: None.

48/25 Public Participation: None

49/25 Approve & Sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th February 2025.

Cllr Reeves proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th February 2025 be accepted as a true record which was seconded by Cllr Verney. Decision unanimous.

50/25 Matters Arising

Cllr Reeves requested circulation of the complaint letter sent by the Clerk to Devon County Council Highways regarding the fly tipping letter received by those clearing roadside debris. Cllr Reeves noted that the North Devon Council Climate and Environment grant was approved on the 14th February; the council got 80% of what we had applied for, £2730. The Community Park are going to use the money for hedging and wild flowers and cordless electrical maintenance equipment, they may contribute the remainder themselves as there is a shortfall. The North Devon Climate and Environment grant over the last 4 years has provided the Community Park with £7,776 and the Parish hall has had £7910, making a total of £15,686 for our community.

51/25 Police Report

No crimes were reported for the month of February.

52/25 Report from County Councillor on Website.

C Cllr Davis full report is available on the website.

C Cllr Davis reports spoke of bus shelter subsidies for 50%. Cllr Ayre has obtained a quote for £2300 to replace the wooden bus shelter at Foxhunters.

The budget is in the report council tax is increasing by 5%, 3% is for general services and 2% will go on adult social care, an extra 4 million for pot holes specifically. There is no rural services grant this year.

The reactive speed sign location is going to be looked at by the highways officer.

Cllr Kenshole asked about speed signs between Mullacott and Barnstaple, C Cllr Davis confirmed that both average speed and AI cameras are going ahead.

53/25 Report from District Councillor.

D Councillor Wilkinson reported on the current devolution plans, the draft proposals have to be in the 21st March, which is a very short time frame, the final proposals have to be in by the 28th November. The government will make their final decision in June 2026 and will have to be implemented by April 2028. These proposals will consist of how Devon is divided up to form a unitary authority.

At full District Council this week the police super intendant resigned and has been replaced with police super intendant Emma Butler Jones, who is very big on community policing. The government has announced a 4.7 million pounds boost going to Devon to increase neighbourhood policing.

The Councillor advocate scheme, every quarter we should meet with the regional inspector, Cllr Ayre noted that the Parish Council was once involved in such a scheme, however the police seemed very disengaged.

Representations about the roll out of 5G at the District full council meeting were heard, people were complaining that the District Council does not have any say in where the poles go, potential health issues were discussed.

Culture for well-being, ND Cllr Wilkinson judged the flourishing culture group in North Devon.

54/25 Reactive Speed Sign: The sign and accessories have been ordered and are on the way. Cllr Reeves has sent around an email regarding the poles, the Clerk will also try and get some quotes before the next meeting. A new location was discussed regarding the sighting of one of the poles, a survey will need to be carried out by County Highways.

55/25 Planning Decisions:

Approved

79467 Demolition of redundant barns and erection of 3 dwellings and associated works. (Utilising fallback position 77493, 77494 and 77784 for five dwellings) Greenpark Farm West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NW

79574 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 77557 (demolition of existing barn & erection of dwelling) to allow use of cedar cladding on the upper sections at Hay Bale Barn West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NX

79576 Proposed replacement dwelling and associated works at Pig Heaven West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NW

56/25 Planning Applications to consider:

a) 79830 Erection of a double garage and storage room to serve existing dwelling together with associated works at The Brackens West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NU. Approval proposed by Councillor Whitby Seconded by Councillor Verney, decision unanimous.

79834 Demolition of barn and erection of a single 3 bed dwelling & self-contained 2 bed annexe together with associated works (fallback to planning permission 75554) at West Stowford Farm West Down Devon. Approval proposed by Councillor Kenshole Seconded by Councillor Whitby, decision unanimous. Except for Councillor Verney who hadn't had time to read the plans.

79628 Erection of porch & associated works at The Oaks Woodlane Farm West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NH. Approval proposed by Councillor Reeves Seconded by Councillor Kenshole, decision unanimous. Except for Councillor Verney who hadn't had time to read the plans.

57/25 Footpaths

P3 Footpaths forms have been handed to the Clerk for the completion of the P3 grant application. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Verney to complete the form before the next meeting and circulate beforehand.

The Contractor that has been hired to do the extra work has been and completed more than half the work. The main contractor is starting to do the regular maintenance this month. New Benches are needed to replace the older benches, the Clerk will send out options.

58/25 Road Warden Scheme: To discuss details of possible DCC scheme for West Down.

This has been looked at previously, however this is being looked at again, as it will cover the Parish Council putting up and rotating the position of the reactive speed sign as it will cover the Parish Council on the insurance.

59/25 \$106 expressions of interest: A response from the Community shop was received.

60/25 New Bins at Foxhunters bus shelters: The bins have been ordered, once received the Parish Council are happy for the clerk to arrange the install.

Cllr Reeves agreed to contact the appropriate persons at NDC to add the bins to a list for collection.

61/25 Car Park Lease:

Version 5 has been received, a few changes have been made, air space has been taken out, everything else the Parish council has asked for has been added.

Cllr Ayre contacted the solicitor and received an update.

62/25 Quarterly Audit:

The Clerk and Cllr Verney are meeting next week to complete the last financial year audit.

63/25 Update of the Asset Register:

The Clerk will update the Asset Register, adding Radios, TV, Emergency Equipment and air ambulance pole.

64/25 Finances

a) Balances: Treasures Account: £23,463.21
 Business Bank Account £4919.47
 b) Received invoices for payment:

North Devon Council	Clerks Salary			£580.62
	+Admin Charge	£7.72	=	£588.34
North Devon Council	Dog Waste Collection			£205.14
DALC	Training Courses			£90.00
A-DS Tree and Garden	fp6 fp12			£520.00
Total				£ 1,403.48

Proposal for payments Cllr Kenshole seconded by Cllr Verney, decision unanimous.

65/25 Correspondence

Devon Communities Together, informed Cllr Reeves that they have circulated the CERT copy of emergency plan around all the emergency services. Braunton and Ilfracombe Council have invited Cllr Ayre to their civic services.

66/25 Items to be added to the next meeting Agenda

- a) Road warden Scheme
- b) Financial year end
- c) VAT

67/25 Any Other Business

- a) The Clerk has signed his contract but has not handed it in.
- b) The Clerk has requested the drains be cleaned.
- c) A letter to Tony George has been written and will be delivered.
- d) The Community Park had an informal public meeting and want more committee members. It was also suggested by a member of the public at their meeting that the Parish Council could increase the precept and have a formal agreement with the Community Park. This has not been requested before and would need to be requested formally by the Park Trustees/Committee before any possible consideration to this could be given.
- e) Small grant invoices reminder to be sent out by the Clerk.

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

None

The meeting closed at 9:10 p.m.