

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT WEST DOWN PARISH HALL ON 7th AUGUST 2019.

Present: Cllr C King (Chairman), DCllr Wilkinson, Cllrs K Oades, M Reeves, S Squire, S Ayre and R Watts.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm with apologies from CCllr A Davis and Cllr R Drew.

3979. Public Speaking.

Requests were made by 3 members of the public with regard to planning 66753 - One dwelling in garden of Churchill House.

Mr Guy Lawrence said he objected to the plans because due to the height difference it would need 1½ metres to be backfilled against his property. There would also be a hedge lost. Additionally, the car parking would lead to fumes entering his property through the vents and air bricks that are ground level outside but ceiling level in his kitchen. He feels it is unnecessary development and would destroy the enjoyable space of the neighbouring properties.

Mr Tom Harding said he objected to the plans because he feels it is too close and overbearing on the neighbouring properties. The plans show a lounge and bathroom window overlooking the garden of Churchill House where a young family currently live. He feels the build and the loss of the stone wall on the road side would take away the character of the area. He also has concerns about the root protection zone where they plan to build the soakaway. This will also mean that the soakaways of 3 properties will run into his garden which could be detrimental to his property. He pointed out that the government plan is to get 21 new dwellings into the village between 2011 and 2041. Currently we will have 24 by the end of 2019, so we are already over what is needed.

Mr Peter Kelly said he objected to the plans as he feels that it is not in keeping with the area and that it would be shoehorned in. Parking would be lost on the street which is already at a premium. He pointed out that it is a busy junction and at a particularly awkward angle. He also has concerns about the impact on the young families currently living around the proposed build. In addition, he has concerns about the impact on the bio diversity and bats in the area. He feels the village has been disrupted enough with other building works and wonders what Mr Mervin Philips would think of these plans if he were still alive.

3980. Police Report.

A notification was received stating that West Down has been included in the newsletter for the Braunton Neighbourhood and the crime figures are for Morteohoe, Woolacombe, West Down, Mullacott & Marwood.

Violence with Injury 1

Violence without Injury 3

Burglary Non-Dwelling 2

Other Theft 1

Public Order Offences 1

3981. Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last Meeting were approved and signed.

3982. Matters Arising.

a. 3945c. The tree stump by Pine Dean is still there. ELMS (Environmental Land Management Services) are monitoring its movement.

b. 3945g. 'No Man's Land' on FP14 – no further news at this time.

c. 3949b. Cllr King advised that FP15, the footpath from Roborough Bridge is passable. The stile and sign have been cleared.

d. 3952. Review Standing Orders. After further investigation following his attendance on a 'Being a good Councillor' course, Cllr Mike Reeves has reported that the gender issue is still in favour of the males and in general these have not been changed and that the items that are in bold are compulsory and should not be changed. It was agreed unanimously that they remain unchanged at this time. We thank Cllr Mike Reeves for his due diligence.

e. 3964d. Ash die back is in the village. Chair, Carole King has advised the residents with affected trees of their duty to ensure that the trees do not cause a danger to the public. It is reported that 98% of Ash trees will die from this root fungus which causes them to fall over.

f. 3965b. Chair, Carole King didn't feel that Lord Bassam's white paper gave a true picture of the area's problems of educational standards. Regeneration of the coastal area is needed and businesses need to be encouraged to the area to give employment to local people.

g. 3968a. S.106 Funding Projects. Ken Miles is the contact for clarification if needed. The Parish Council could claim dispensation and leave the decision to the District Council.

3983. CCllr Report. CCllr Davis. No reported issued.

3984. DCllr Report. DCllr Wilkinson reported on the following:

a. There is a public meeting of over 150 people with regard to the closure of local Fire Stations. There is a real concern that the figures used have been misrepresented in terms of miles from towns and arrival times, it appears that they have used 'as the crow flies' data. Woolacombe is under threat and if it goes it will mean the nearest full-time station is Braunton which is 4/5 miles away and would take at least 15 minutes to arrive. Ilfracombe only has standby operatives and can not always raise a team. The larger engines with turntable hose layer and longer ladders are in Barnstaple with an even greater arrival time. Records show that the Co-responder/emergency response unit based at Woolacombe was called out on 7 occasions for category risk 1 emergencies, the most life-threatening emergency. Woolacombe and the surrounding areas population raises from 1400 to 15000 over the summer. Boris has pledged millions to the NHS/Ambulance and Police but not the Fire Service.

It would be in our interest to write to Devon & Somerset Fire Authority, Cllr Frank Biederman and Cllr Jeremy Yabsley, to voice our concerns and to encourage the community to do the same.

b. An Invitation to North Devon Council's Parish Forum on Thursday 19th September 2019. We were all encouraged to attend.

c. Planning application 66753. As we entered a 'No comment' last time we need for or against this time, with reasons so that DCllr Wilkinson can request it to go to committee. The planning committee will meet on the 1st Wednesday in October at Barnstaple Rugby Club and a 3-minute spot for speaking can be requested. Objectors will be informed of the outcome. All parish councillors agreed that it needs to go to committee.

d. Don't miss out on the Councillor Grant available. Ideas needed.

3985. Footpaths.

- a. If anyone gets any info on 'no man's land' please let Cllr K Oades know.
- b. Cllr S Squire informs us that Stocklands has been cut back. We wish to thank the individual who did it.

3986. Annual Review of H & S.

- a. Cllrs K. Oades and R. Drew are to review and report back at the next meeting.

3987. Litter Bins.

- a. Cllr S. Ayre has been dealing with the emptying of the bins in the bus stops and the car park. The car park is causing confusion as it is not registered to a property and it is clamped to a post and has no available key. This is an ongoing situation. The dog waste bins are getting back to normal but it was decided to reiterate the relevant collection dept with their whereabouts. Thanks to Cllr Sue Ayre for dealing.

3988. Parish Council Awards.

- a. This item was held over for the last meeting so Cllr Sue Ayre could be included in the discussion. We would like to raise awareness of the Parish Council and have agreed to issue a framed certificate to a nominated individual who is shown to be doing good and useful things for the village. This will be raised at the next Village Forum.

3973. Planning Decisions. The following decisions have been made by NDC:

- a. 66605 – variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 54388 (solar pv development consisting of mounted solar panels comprising 26,500 modules, power inverter systems, transformer stations, security fencing & associated access gates) to allow various amendments. Approved.

3974. Planning Applications.

- a. 66796 – Erection of one dwelling – Garden of Churchill House. Majority Refusal – Reasons: Over intensification; Road safety; Not in line with the historical core of the village.
- b. 66753 – Erection of One Dwelling with Attached Garage at Hillsdean West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NT. Unanimous Refusal – Reasons: Should have agricultural tie; Could encourage sporadic development; Not enough information.
- c. 66845 - Erection of One Wooden Frame to Enable Siting of One Non-Illuminated Sign for Trimstone Manor AT Picnic Area A361 At Trimstone Cross West Down. Majority Refusal – Reasons: Intense advertising (3 other signs on the same highway); Road Safety, visual distraction on the highway in an area of multiple accidents.

3975. Correspondence.

- a. Parish Forum 19th September 2019. In float file.
- b. No batteries in bins – Public asked to stop putting batteries in their recycling after second fire at NDC recycling hall. In float file.
- c. P3 Newsletter and Vegetation Cutting and its impact on birds. In float file.
- d. Devon Community Resilience Forum and Neighbourhood Planning Courses. In float file.
- e. DALC Newsletter. In float file.

3976. Finance.

a. Bank Statements:

(1) West Down Parish Council as at 31st July £2,911.57 reconciled.

(2) 30 Day Notice Account as at 31st July £4,805.19 reconciled.

b. Petty Cash - as at 31st July £23.20 reconciled.

c. Cheques:

(1) Chq 621 to North Devon Council, quarterly charge for dog waste removal. £156.00

3977. Unresolved Questions.

None

3978. Any Other Business.

- a. Clerks salary and courses. Majority approval for salary to be processed by NDC all charges to be paid by Parish Council. Agreed to pay 10 hours for June and 18 hours monthly thereafter.
- b. Pearl Dean kerbs are already scuffed from vehicles driving over or into them.
- c. The Fullabrook Road is open.
- d. Cllrs agreed to write letters to the Devon and Cornwall Fire service, with regards to item 3984.
- e. The verge at the top of Ilfracombe hill has been strimmed. Well done and many thanks to the individual concerned.
- f. A Prospective Councillor visited the meeting.
- g. Add to next months Agenda. Cllr Grant (trees, maps).

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.55pm.
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th September.