

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

West Down Parish Hall. (Main Hall)
on Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. S Ayre (Chair), M Reeves (Vice-Chair) R Drew, S Squire, K Oades,
M O'Halloran, and D Cllr M Wilkinson.

Apologies/Approvals. C Cllr A Davis. (AONB meeting). Cllr T Verney is unable to attend until September due to work commitments. Apology accepted.

4393. Public Speaking/Question Time.
None.

4394. Beavers – Presentation.

The Beaver Trust gave a short presentation explaining how Beavers can benefit the surrounding land by helping to create natural flood plains and marsh land for the benefit of other species. A Q&A followed. The hope of the Beaver Trust is to get landowners with waterways through their land, to allow Beavers to be introduced, initially on upland areas. It is planned to give a larger insight into their work at a public meeting to be held in the near future.

4395. Police Report.

The Braunton Neighbourhood Police Newsletter July 2021 has been circulated to the councillors and posted on the village website.

The main points are:

Dogs die in hot cars. Never leave a dog unattended in a car. How to prevent moorland and countryside fires and what to do if you spot one. Don't invite thieves into your home this summer, shut all windows and doors when out. Ask a neighbour to look after your home when away.

Crime figures for Morteohoe/Woolacombe & West Down, includes Mullacott and Bittadon.

Violence with Injury x 1, Violence without Injury x 1, Theft x 5, Public Order offences x 2, Vehicle Offences x 2, Other Offences x 1, Burglary - Dwelling x 1, Criminal Damage x 1, Possession of Drugs x 1 and Non-notifiable Offences x 1.

Only 2 of these recorded crimes were in the West Down Parish.

4396. Approve of Minutes from the last meeting.

The June Minutes were unanimously approved and signed.

4397. Matters Arising.

4373 - Recycling Chapel Court – no further forward.

4373 - Climate and Environment Grant – the criteria for this grant have been changed. It is now usable for areas such as Orchards and Wild Flower meadows.

4392e. The Village Sign is back in place. Thanks, given to Cllr M Reeves and assistant.

4398. Report from County Councillor.

The A399 will be closed between Mockham Down (near the Bratton Turning) and Aller Cross Monday to Thursday inclusive the next two weeks, so if anyone needs to get to the link road on these dates between 8am and 8pm they will need to find an alternative route.

S. Ayre
6-8-21

4399. Report from District Councillor.

The Rural Housing Alliance have produced an information guide called, Affordable Rural Housing: A practical guide for parish councils that is available online. Following on from the CLT presentation it could be an interesting read. It looks at problems with the new planning applications but is more directed to towns and cities.

Cllr Wilkinson mentioned two other grant funds that were worth looking at, both via the AONB North Devon:

- 1) The Sustainable Development Fund has £26K available for expressions of interest for grants of up to £4K
- 2) The Nature & Climate Challenge Fund, with grants of up to £4K.

Info and help can be sought from Laura Carolan of AONB on 01271 388628 or email laura.carolan@devon.gov.uk

North Devon Leisure Centre and the Watersports Centre in Ilfracombe are on track for completion on time.

D Cllr Grant - Website. £400-450.

Cllr M Reeves has acquired quotes for a website that vary from £475 to £745 these figures include training and setup. A quote from one potential supplier is less to set up but slightly higher ongoing costs, against a quote from a company with more experience and lower ongoing costs. It is recommended that the Councillors look at other Parish Websites in the area, Fremington, Berrynarbor and Morteohoe in particular, and give their opinions at the next meeting.

4400. Acorn Developments.

A copy of the Acorn/NDC agreement signed 23/06/2021 has been received. This is in place of the original S106 agreement upon which viability did not allow them to deliver. The revised states that monies to be paid are, to the Community £67,838. Education £34,084.23 and School Transport £4,577.77. The total monies payable are £106,500. The community money is payable to NDC within 20 working days from the agreement date (21/7) and then within 10 working days to West Down Parish Council (01/8). The Education & School Transport money is to be paid to Devon CC before the occupation of the 13th dwelling. A letter to be sent to K Miles about the importance and urgency of the Education contribution.

NDC Complaint department, Jo Teasdale is looking into the case this week. A conclusion is expected by the 9th July. A letter will be sent prior to Friday 9th to say we accept but are not happy with it, is proposed by Cllr. M O'Halloran, 2nd Cllr M Reeves. Unanimous approval.

The Head of Planning is now Maria Bailey (not Head of Place).

4401. CLT (Community Land Trust).

The Ilfracombe presentation was directed more at the public. The money side seems less that land owners would expect. Affordable planning permission is easier on land offered. There is a need to establish what our need would be. Information received indicates there are 15 local people on the housing needs list. NDC confirmed. Cllr Oades mentioned that he believed a survey was done when Lower Broad Park was planned. Large support would be needed from the community and available land sought.

Becky
6-8-21

4402. Co-option vacancy.

A Closing date of Friday 30th July was proposed by Cllr K Oades, 2nd Cllr M O'Halloran. Website and posters to be amended to reflect this.

All applicants to be discussed and a decision taken at the next meeting.

4403. P3/Footpaths. Report by Cllr M O'Halloran.

F3 - From the bottom of the climb on this route, it is heavily overgrown with Foxgloves, but still accessible. Not clear to walk through from the middle of grid 4050. Need to show map. At the top of the route prior to Stocklands, the fields are sectioned off for the horses by electric fence so not really accessible

F5 - Fairview Cottages to Cheglinch, NTR.

F6 - Michael Hunt has cleared R6 - still a significant number of sheep in the field, however, the pathway and style are clear.

F9 - NFTR.

F10 - NFTR.

F11 - NFTR.

F12 - The bridge on the route needs to be cut back, see photos.

F13 - The road up and down this route has been flattened which making the route more accessible and easier to walk.

F14 - The field is growing now quite rapidly and was wet when I walked, the gate/hedgerow adjacent Titching Park Cleaves, hasn't dried up.

F14a - Very heavily grown vegetation at both gates but accessible.

F15 - NFTR.

F16 - Redone this route and still quite stony down the lanes, very steep climbs both sides but nice route. Walked from Little Comfort Farm along the river to the right of Buttermills Wood, passed Beer Mill Kennels to join the foot of Route 3. Nice walk.

F17 - New post still standing pathway accessible to the styles at the bottom, however, I conducted the walk in heavy rain, water was fast flowing down the walkway which was very slippery so caution needed.

F20 - NFTR.

4404. Dog Bins.

To be monitored.

4405. Map Case.

The map case is now at Pipcott. The bush has been removed and replanted, in readiness. No further update from the school as yet. Items available to fill on a temporary basis. Cllr's R Drew and M Reeves to fit asap.

4406. Community Award Scheme.

Cllr M O'Halloran has produced a suggested plan that has been forwarded to all councillors. To be discussed at the next meeting.

4407. Village Forum.

Forward to next month Agenda.

4408. GDPR Training.

A course for Cllr M O'Halloran is to be found after 19th July. Clerk to source.

Becky
6-8-21

4409. Planning - Decisions from NDC:

a. 73394 - 5 Barton Road West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NN.
Pre-approval not required.

4410. Planning Applications:

a. **73364.** 14 Lower Willingcott, Willingcott Valley Woolacombe Devon EX34 7HN
Variation of Condition 3 (10-month occupancy restriction) attached to planning consent 2/85/949/66/3 to allow for 12-month occupancy.

Approval proposed by Cllr S Squire, 2nd Cllr M O'Halloran, unanimous approval.

b. **73359.** Foxhill Farm.

Erection of Livestock Building at Foxhill Farm. Road from West Down School to Winsham Down House West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NF.

Dispensation granted for Cllr K Oades, M Reeves, R Drew and Mark O'Halloran as the Parish Council use Mr Hookway for works.

Cllrs S Ayre (Chair) and S Squire declared an interest. Quorum met. (4)

Cllr M Reeves (vice Chair) took the Chair.

Approval proposed by Cllr M O'Halloran, 2nd Cllr R Drew. Unanimous.

c. **8105A** appeal. Land and buildings on the south side of Trimstone Cross, West Down, Ilfracombe, Devon EX34 8NT. Unauthorized change of use consisting of the storage of a motorhome.

d. Applications received after publishing of this agenda.

i. 73387 Cherrytree Thorne Park West Down Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NG
Installation of obscure glass window to a downstairs WC.

Approval proposed by Cllr M O'Halloran, 2nd Cllr S Squire. Unanimous.

4411. Correspondence.

a. Selaine Saxby – has agreed to come to West Down on 4th August at 10:30am and is happy to have a pop-up surgery at 11:30 in the square.

b. Airband high speed internet is on its way.

c. Resignation from Vanessa Hunt. 3-month notice given. Accepted. Position to be advertised asap.

4412. Finance.

a. Bank Statements.

(1) Current Acc. As at 30th June 2021. £ 4,533.63 reconciled.

(2) 30 Day Notice Account. As at 30th June 2021. £ 4,808.15 reconciled.

(3) Petty Cash. As at 30th June 2021. £ 0.00 reconciled.

b. Online Payments

J Snooks	Audit Fee	£125.00
Parish Online	Annual Subscription	£40.50
Wilcox Electronics	PC Repair	£40.00

Becky
6-8-21

NDC	Clerk Salary	£195.73
DALC	Course Fees	£54.00

- c. i. Bank Mandate Variation Form for Cllr M Reeves requires 2 x signatures.
Cllrs S Squire and K Oades sign.
ii. Bank Online for Business – Application requires 2 x signatures.
Cllrs S Squire and K Oades sign.

4413. Audit Report from J Snooks.
The report received was hand written and difficult to read, agreed to ask for a type written report. Moved to next months agenda.
A Practitioners guide is to be downloaded to help with regulations etc.
4414. Unresolved Questions.
None.
4415. Items to be added to next meeting Agenda.
Julie Snooks
Co-option
Community Award Scheme
Village Forum
CLT
Acorn.
Clerk position
GDPR
Parish Online.
4416. Any other business.
Asset Register to be signed. Done by Cllrs K Oades and R Drew.
July Diary, Code of Conduct to be reviewed and agreed.
Order salt bags. Ask John Hookway if storage still ok.
Diary item. May, review Insurance and Pay.
Minor injuries unit – Tyrell is closed – re-open campaign. West Down support?
Cllr S Ayre proposes support to reopen 2nd Cllr S Squire. Cllr S Ayre to write, in support. Essential place for holiday makers and locals alike.

Meeting Closed 9:40

*Becky
6-8-21*