Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday August 15th 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Members: K Cook (Vice Chairman), O. Bell, J Richards, S Woodman, D Barron, M Wilkinson, Andrea Davis (Briefly)

Clerk: D Bleasdale
Also Present: Five members of the public.

165/2022 Apologies for absence: D Duffield, (Chairman), Jimi Dicker

166/2022 Public Speaking: Amanda James manager of the Watersmeet Hotel asked if the council would be interested in selling Combesgate toilets, for the purpose of turning it staff accommodation.

Jenny Carey-Wood from the AONB, Mrs Carey-Wood summarised the concerns of the AONB

Landscape

• Skyline development on one of the highest points in that part of the AONB
• Site visible from many viewpoints across the North Devon and Torridge parts of the AONB
• Effect on tranquillity and remoteness both in terms of visibility and sound
• Impact on dark night skies of the festival lighting over the three nights

Nature/Biodiversity

• The potential effect on biodiversity of activity in this site (e.g. skylarks in the fields), which is being managed to improve biodiversity according to the National Trust team
• Contradiction between stated aim of restoring biodiversity to the area and holding the festival, justified by saying it is a 'poor' field nature-wise and would probably only hold events for three years until biodiversity has increased

Development Management

• Setting a precedent for future development on this site
• Setting a precedent for other landowners to consider major events in remote and tranquil locations in the AONB

Timing

• Holding the event in the main season (May to September) and at a peak holiday period (half term school holiday) not necessary when sufficient activity and high visitor numbers already
• Sustainable Tourism developments are preferable that target the shoulder season/non-school holidays and new activities to bring in additional and new visitors.

This discussion lead into item 9 on the agenda and the meeting with Wavelength and the National Trust two weeks earlier, when Jonathan Fairhurst stated the National Trust that the grass on Woolacombe Down had purposely been cut short to discourage grass nesting birds.
It was pointed out that the National Trust have better sites in the area to hold a festival.
It was also noted that after the festival it took almost 2 months to fully vacate the site.
There are numerous red list species on the site and it is felt that this was not taken into consideration.

Sue Black – Stated that Woolacombe Down was and is the wrong site for the Wavelength festival, it added nothing to the area and the wildlife concerns go against the very ethos of the National Trust. Mrs Black also stated that she believes this festival is planned for the wrong time and the roads cannot take the additional capacity.

167/2022 Police Report: Mortehoe/Woolacombe.
Anti-social behaviour 1
Violence and sexual offences 1
Sandy Lane
Violence and sexual offences 1
Pool Lane
Burglary 1
Mill Lane

168/2022 Declaration of Interests:.J. Richards, Planning application 75648 family friend.
O. Bell, 75628 lives on same road.

169/2022 Minutes:
It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on July 18th 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber. **Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

170/2022 County Council Report: None Received

171/2022 Planning

75648 Prior approval for erection of an agricultural building for the storage of fodder and machinery at Higher Willingcott Farm Woolacombe Devon EX34 7HN Proposed APPROVAL Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

75628 Loft conversion with dormers at Heatherdale North Morte Road Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon EX34 7ED Proposed APPROVAL Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

75149 Alterations and extension to form new first floor and side extension together with re-roofing of detached garage at Seascape Sunnyside Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7DG Proposed APPROVAL Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

75663 Demolition of store, erection of extensions and swimming pool together with alterations to dwelling at Gull View Beach Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AD Proposed APPROVAL Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

75705 Demolition of existing garage and construction of a single new dwelling at Garden of 3B Seymour Villas Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AQ Proposed APPROVAL Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

172/2022 District Council Report:
District Councillor Wilkinson reported that the new parking order that is due to come into effect in Woolacombe Residential area will allow businesses to have 3 parking permits. This will be investigated by the Clerk and Councillor Wilkinson as it is not believed that this was part of the consultation.

173/2022 Questions for the National Trust: Not Present

174/2022 Correspondence i) None

175/2022 Register of Outstanding Matters, Planning is still being done by Open Reach to connect the pavilion and then we can install CCTV, this will be a long process.

176/2022 The Accepted Resignation of Ron Ley: The Clerk will contact the District Council to find out the time frames and the procedure for recruiting a new councillor.

177/2022 The Water Fountain – The Clerk said he would research this and report back.

178/2022 The Esplanade: The ongoing issue of parking enforcement was discussed but no decision was arrived at.

179/2022 The Meadow and Pavilion: A new floor is still required, quotes will be requested over the coming months.
Skate Ramp: The Skateboard ramp is in need of a full resurfacing, the council feel that the ramp is becoming an endless expense and that this needs to be addressed by a more Permanent solution.

180/2022 Combesgate: The Garden with bindweed is being dealt with by Tommy in the week after this meeting.
The White Posts: Due to the dry weather the white posts around Combesgate have been coming out of the ground. The Clerk believes they should be reviewed after the busy season.

181/2022 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman:
Concerns about pharmacy closing where discussed but it was agreed that the council do not have any authority on the sale of private businesses, although this is a cause for concern.

182/2022 Cheques and payments for approval and Signature. The following payments were approved and signed at the meeting. The R.F.O. provided a list of payments in conjunction with bank statements which were also checked and approved at the meeting:

Payments for Authorisation

A/C	Name & Contact	Balance
AFS	A.F.S. Fire & Security	127.44
BG	British Gas	195.50
BLOOM	Bloom Brothers	2135.00
CROWN	Crown Estates re Knight Frank Rental Acc	16.44
JEW	Jewson Ltd	48.70
LAND	PLandscape	604.80
STAFF	Emma Stafford	60.00
Gordon		1674.00
NDDC	NDDC	229.39
STAR	Pete Starbuck	1521.70
Daniel Bleasdale		1329.59
Roy Walker		746.05
Maria Hedger		746.05
Gary Roger		1158.62

PAYE		940.35
	Totals:	11533.63

Part 2
Correspondence not requiring discussion is available in the Council Chamber
Part 3
Confidential Matters

Yours faithfully ***Daniel Bleasdale***
The meeting ended at 10:05 p.m.
The minutes of previous meetings are available from the Parish Clerk
The order of the agenda items may be altered with the consent of the chairman
Date of the next meeting: August 19th 2022 Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 p.m.