Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday September 18th 2023 at 7.00 p.m.
Present: Members: M Wilkinson , J Dicker, O Bell, S Phillips, D Duffield (Acting Chairman), J Richards.
Clerk: D Bleasdale
Also Present: 3 members of the public.

153/2023 Apologies for absence: D Barron (Vice Chairman), K Cook (Chairman), S Woodman, A Davies DCC.

154/2023 Public Speaking: Mr Bill Carless spoke regarding mismanagement concerns of the National Trust car park at Little Roadway Corner, the car park not being locked as the planning indicated and overnight camping.

155/2023 Police Report: Mortehoe parish, West Down, Mullacott, Bittadon, Violence less Serious 12, Vehicle Crime 1, Criminal Damage 3, Theft 2, Fraud 1, Other Notifiable Crime 3

156/2023 Declaration of Interests: None

157/2023 Minutes: It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on August 21st at 7pm in the Council Chamber.

158/2023 County Council Report: See Attached.

159/2023 Planning

77016 Erection of 2no. dwellings with associated access at Land off Poole Lane Woolacombe Devon - No Decision was reached regarding this application.

PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED
77518 Prior notification for creation of slurry store at Lower Twitchen Mullacott Cross Ilfracombe Devon EX34 8NP

APPROVED
77259 Erection of low level decking at Sunningdale Woolacombe Station Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AW

77381 Extensions, raising of roof & conversion of loft space together with internal alterations to dwelling & associated works (Amendment to approved permission ref 76553) at 63 Chichester Park Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BZ

77339 Regularisation of ancillary accommodation (following on from planning approval 71166) at Quarryside Upper Claypark Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon EX34 7EA

77368 Erection of garden shed & conversion of garage to additional living accommodation at Atlantic View Mortehoe Station Road Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon EX34 7EZ

160/2023 District Council Report: Attended LGA Costal issues AGM, a lot of the meetings focused on regeneration, well being and health.

The LGA Coastal issues group strongly feel that the government should appoint a Coastal Issues minister.
There is a very strong case for banning single use vapes due to the level of pollution they create as they are unrecyclable.
Strategy and Resources meeting outcome, applications from HMO's to have restrictions lifted to facilitate short term lettings, while this goes against NDC policy, it does have to go to consultation.

161/2023 Correspondence i) None

162/2023 Register of outstanding matters / matters arising from the minutes: none

163/2023 The Parish Plan / Emergency Committee: Martin Rich will come and do a presentation just before the next meeting 6:30pm**.**

164/2023 The Pavillion/Meadow and Ramp:
Play Areas: The Play area equipment is mostly installed, the climbing frames will arrive over the next month.
The Clerk is awaiting quotes for the CCTV equipment.
The Clerk will remind the school of the rusting fence in Woolacombe play area as it is their fence.

165/2023 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman:
The Clerk is working with the website designer to upload information in a test environment.
Mr Starbuck will remove the rubbish left on the school path.
Spreacombe has a large puddle on the left, this will be reported to DCC

166/2023 Payments for Authorisation

MORTEHOE PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 18/09/2023
Time: 12:05:05

Payments for Authorisation

Report Date:	#####	**Supplier From:**
Include future transactions:	No	**Supplier To:**
Exclude Later Payments:	Yes	

**** NOTE: All report values are shown in Base Currency, unless otherwise indicated ****

A/C	Name	Balance
BG	British Gas	304.99
BLOOM	Bloom Brothers	1585.00
CROWN	Crown Estates re Knight Frank Rental Acc	1750.00
DRAG	dragon play	12366.48
FIR	Fircroft Signs	456.00
HIS	S Hiscock & Son	3199.89
JEW	Jewson Ltd	104.77
LR	Lee Rulton	820.00
MORTHALL	Mortehoe Village Hall	35.00
NDDC	NDDC	385.40
NT	National Trust	240.00
SFB	SOURCE FOR BUSINESS	114.38

SIMP	Simpsons Excavating Contractors Ltd	546.00
STAFF	Emma Stafford	160.00
STAR	Pete Starbuck	2083.33
SWW	SWW	45.72
VAN	Vanguard 2000	5376.00
Roy Walker		569.29
M Hedger		1004.26
D Bleasdale		1771.65
S Duncan		1453.94
N Zeale		87.20
nic/paye		1146.39
	Totals:	35605.68

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

167/2023 The Parish Clerk has requested a few days off this month.
168/2023 The Parish Clerk will ask our solicitor about what happens if we refuse to hand back Marine Drive.

Yours faithfully ***Daniel Bleasdale***
The meeting ended at 8 p.m.

County Councillors Report
September 2023

Free Tree Scheme 2023/2024

This year, Devon County Council are offering free tree packs to landowners and communities within Devon, for the fifth consecutive year. Each free tree pack will contain 45 trees comprising three types of native broadleaved tree commonly found throughout Devon.

There are currently plenty of schemes and initiatives encouraging landowners and communities within Devon to plant native broadleaved trees. Doing so will help replace the vast number of ash trees that are now dying through ash dieback, as well as supporting wildlife, enhancing our landscapes for people to enjoy, and helping to reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Last year, Devon County Council gave away 150 packs of free trees to landowners across Devon, thanks to the Emergency Tree Fund.

Are you eligible?

If you have a field corner or another area where you would like to establish a small copse, linear woodland or extend an existing woodland, you can apply for a free tree pack. In previous years free packs of 45 saplings containing oak, birch and rowan trees have been supplied to eligible landowners. To give trees enough space to develop a good crown and

grow to maturity, we advise planting at 3m random spacings, which requires an area of approximately 400m sq. (e.g. 20m x 20m) for 45 trees.
How to make an application:
To apply, please complete our online form by 27th of September 2023. This is the deadline that would enable tree packs to be delivered in time for you to plant in National Tree Week (25th of November – 3rd of December). Applications after this date would be subject to availability. You will be notified if you have been successful before the end of October 2023 and your tree pack will be dispatched to you on a date confirmed by the tree nursery we appoint.
If you are interested in the scheme, please do not delay applying. In previous years, the scheme has been extremely popular and highly oversubscribed.

Growing Communities fund

This DCC grant aims to help local groups and organisations become mere resilient and help those in the communities cope with financial pressures. Groups that are encouraged to apply include those who bring communities together for meaningful activities and social interaction, offer people a warm, safe haven or alleviate food poverty. The aim is to build self reliance and resilience within a community.
You can complete and submit the grants application form online.For more information, please contact communitygrants@devon.gov.uk or telephoning 01392 383379.

Rural Give Way marking project

This project is aiming to remark all the rural Give-Way and Stop markings across the whole of the County. In addition to simply remarking them DCC are using a more robust product that will improve the life-expectancy and lead to a lower whole life cost and reduced carbon cost.

There are approximately 6,000 rural Give-Way markings that will be treated. For your information there is another 1,500 in our market and coastal towns. The project is estimated to take 4-5 years to complete.

Lining works to include:
To remove existing markings and refresh

- single dashed white lines
- double dashed white lines
- stop lines
- give way triangles
- up to 5 centre lines from the junction

Safety Defects

Following the extremely high numbers of publicly reported potholes across the network during the first part of the year, and the increase in repair gangs as a response, numbers have gradually stabilised through the spring and into the summer, however, remain above average for the time of year. This has meant that there is still some residual pressure on inspection teams in assessing backlogs. Evening and weekend working has remained in place in some areas to assist with this. Work is underway to improve the messaging on the 'report a problem' webpages to reduce the number of defects that are incorrectly reported – since January this year this represents around 55% of all reports received.

Following a very challenging winter for asset condition and safety defects, the numbers recorded across the network had reduced sufficiently that Highway Safety Inspectors (HSI) were able to re-start the identification of non-safety or 'serviceability' defects in June. This process offers HSI's the discretion to record defects that do not meet investigatory criteria in our Highway Safety Policy.
The 'Elastomac' trials demonstrated at the Members event in Spring is continuing. The product is envisaged to provide a lower carbon and cost-effective means of repairing carriageway defects. The mastic product uses up to 70% recycled materials, including lorry tyres, that would otherwise be incinerated and, in the right scenarios, allows reactive works gangs to undertake repairs much more quickly when compared to conventional techniques.

Winter Service

Preparations for winter have been taking place over the summer, with the fleet of gritters receiving their annual servicing and calibration checks. Works to install solar panels on some of the salt barns have also been progressed and salt stocks are being replenished ahead of winter.
By keeping the age of the gritting vehicles under 10 years old maintenance costs are reduced and ensures the fleet is safe and appropriate for the task in hand. In preparation for this winter, 8 of our oldest/most costly gritters will be traded-in against 6 nearly new vehicles. This will reduce the secondary fleet from 12 vehicles down to 10, an appropriate balance of service resilience against financial pressures.

Gully Cleaning

Over 5,000 drainage issues identified by the gully cleaning crews and highway officers have been resolved since April. The challenge remains dealing with over 15,000 outstanding reported issues with funds available.
The ongoing trial to pre inspect gullies due to be cleaned on the cyclical programme has shown 49% of gullies inspected to date do not require cleaning. The aim of the trial is to ensure plant and equipment is being deployed where it is most effective.
A joint trial with Devon's Flood team to place gully sensors in selected streets in Devon is in the preparation stages. It is hoped this externally funded trial will offer insight into whether technology can be used to inform policy or reaction for cyclical gully cleaning. The trial intends to run for an 18-month period from the winter period.

Roadwarden Scheme

It is a formal agreement, between Devon County Council and a town or parish council, which enables them to deliver minor works in or around the public highway.
The Road Warden Scheme allows communities to:

- organise minor works either on or off the live carriageway (see types of work below)
- carry out minor works either on the live carriageway or away from the live carriageway.

- Pothole repairs (when they do not meet our intervention criteria).
- Clearing weeds.
- Cleaning signs.
- Cleaning drainage (gully grating).
- Cutting grass.
- Repairing finger posts.
- Cutting hedges.
- Set up a road closure for special events.

- Managing verges for wildlife

All works must be discussed, in the first instance, with the local highway neighbourhood officer. This list is not exhaustive. Work must be undertaken in line with guidance (method statements) provided by Devon County Council. Please see the 'Details' tab for guidance documents.

Road Wardens would not be responsible for carrying out safety repairs as this remains the responsibility of the council.

A Road Warden should:

- be nominated as suitable by the town or parish council
- be the communication link between DCC and the parish council
- agree to work within the arrangements set forward by the Road Warden agreement
- co-ordinate any minor works which are undertaken within the parish or town
- ensure that risk assessments are undertaken and are easily accessible upon DCC request.

A Road Warden volunteer should:

- be nominated as suitable by the town or parish council or similar body
- have received suitable training to carry out minor works
- agree to work within the arrangements set forward by the Road Warden.

In my parishes who have joined the scheme it is proving to be very popular and useful. Parishes can apply for funding for equipment etc. I would be very pleased to support any application from the Parish.

Snow Wardens

Gentle reminder to order any salt you need, the colder weather will soon be upon us. You may need to update contact details if there has been any change in who your snow warden is, with an election earlier this year I am aware we may have forgotten to talk about this during the summer.

Grit bins should be filled but if you would check just in case that would be really helpful, if they need filling the link is below;

Grit Bins map – Road and Transport (devon.gov.uk)

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;

Report a problem - Roads and transport (devon.gov.uk)

0345 155 1004