Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday December 18th 2023 at 7.00 p.m.
Present: Members: M Wilkinson, O Bell, D Duffield,, (Vice Chairman) D Barron, (Chairman) K Cook , S Woodman
Clerk: D Bleasdale
Also Present: Cllr Andrea Davies and 1 members of the public.

211/2023 Apologies for absence: J Richards, S Phillips, J Dicker, County Councillor A Davies,

212/2023 Public Speaking: None

213/2023 Police Report: Violence less Serious 2, Theft 3, Arson 1, Other Notifiable Crime 2

214/2023 Declaration of Interests:

215/2023 Minutes: It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on November 20th 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.

201/2023 County Council Report: See Attached.

202/2023 Planning

77680 Conversion of garage to form ancillary accommodation and replacing flat roof with pitched roof at Fernleigh South Street Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BB. Approval proposed by councillor Duffield, Seconded by councillor Barron, all in favour, approved unanimously. However, the council is concerned the pitched roof may protrude into the road and be vulnerable to damage on a very narrow road.

77949 Extension & alterations to dwelling at 81 Chichester Park Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BZ. Approval proposed by councillor Duffield, Seconded by councillor Barron, all in favour, approved unanimously.

77497 Conversion of Large HMO (Single Dwelling), Launderette and Office to 6 holiday letting units (amended plans) (amended description) at Lauderdale South Street Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BB. Comment proposed by Councillor Cook seconded by Councillor Bell, all Councillors agreed except Councillor Wilkinson who abstained. The parish council are concerned that this application does not take in to account the desperate need for housing, this property has in the past served the needs of workers and people living in the village. At a time when there is a clear need for more local housing this application seems to go against this. As this property already has planning for full residential occupancy and conversion to a holiday home would have a maximum occupation of 4 weeks.

APPROVED
77345 Application for a lawful development certificate for existing unrestricted residential use at both cottages at Daisy & Violet Cottages Woolacombe Station Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AW
77757 Demolition of side extension & garage and erection of two storey side extension and garage with balcony at 1 Kinevor Close Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon EX34 7EE
77690 Replacement dwelling following on from recent approved application (ref 76683)at High Cleve Beach Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AA

77806 Variation of condition 1 (seasonal usage) attached to planning permission NI-12008 (proposed holiday caravan site) to allow for unrestricted period of occupation at Golden Coast Holiday Village Woolacombe Station Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7HW

203/2023 District Council Report: 77912 First floor extension and alterations at Pipers Pool that the Parish council approved at the last meeting, has now had objections from local residents that the council wasn't aware of at the time, the planning officer has been contacted and reassured Councillor Wilkinson that he would look at it in light of the objection the parish council was unaware of at the time.
Jenny Carey-Wood has resigned as the lead officer for the AONB.
At the last strategy and resource meeting one of the agenda item was about HMO's being allowed to be used for short term holiday lets, the response to the consultation was 147 responses, 19 said NO 126 said YES, 2 no answers, as a result the district council policy won't be altered to allow HMO's to be used as holiday lets.

204/2023 Register of outstanding matters / matters arising from the minutes: The Clerk said the Website should be up and running as soon as all the information is uploaded and a gov.uk address is still trying to be obtained.
The Clerk reports that quotes are going to obtained for play area railings for Woolacombe play area.
The hedges have been reduced at the cemetery.
Meadow CCTV installation will take place at the meadow on the 15th January.
The Clerk reported the Policies and Standing orders are being updated.

205/2023 Traffic Measures: The priority to remove double yellow lines at the top of South Street, replacing them with white lines and turn the South Street area into a residents only parking area, with a 1 hour no return policy in areas, has been requested.
The suggestion of a 20mph limit from Woolacombe Sands, to The Esplanade to Mortehoe village centre will require volunteers to check speeds, it was agreed that this check would be better done at a busier time of year along with a public consultation.
Talk of a light up speed sign on beach road is ongoing.

206/2023 The Parish Plan / Emergency Committee: Emergency plan: People have been sounded out to be on the emergency committee, due to holidays I will arrange a meeting with Martin Rich in January or February.
The Parish plan: Documents of what we have so far were sent to council members, we would like to engage with more members of the public on this going forward.

207/2023 Bus Shelter: It was agreed that a pre application would be the starting point for any change of usage and then a public consultation.

208/2023 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman:
North Devon Surfing Reserve has secured a secured a grant for $10,000 from save the waves coalition for in part to put towards the National; trust scheme at Twitchen to go towards leaky dams and water quality testing.
Some concerns have been raised over the Bay Hotels car park building work, the Clerk will make some enquires.
The water bill for Mortehoe Cemetery is still being disputed.

209/2023 Payments for Authorisation

A/C	Name	Balance
BG	British Gas	305.81
BLOOM	Bloom Brothers	1250.00
DALC	Devon Ass of Local Councils	72.00
DRAG	dragon play	598.80
INTER	Intercard	0.89
JEW	Jewson Ltd	260.89
LR	Lee Rulton	70.00
NDDC	NDDC	385.40
NICH	Nicholsons SW	26.28
OCC	Occasional Suppliers	529.84
PD	PD Electrical	210.00
RICOH	Ricoh UK	214.20
SFB	SOURCE FOR BUSINESS	114.38
STAFF	Emma Stafford	146.46
STAR	Pete Starbuck	2083.33
SWW	SWW	45.72
VAN	Vanguard 2000	48.00
Shelly duncan		1159.16
Daniel Bleasdale		1748.45
Elaine		83.40
paye		786.32
	Totals:	10139.33

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

210/2023 The National trust meeting was discussed.

Yours faithfully ***Daniel Bleasdale***
The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Mortehoe Parish Council
County Councillors Report
December 2023

Peninsula Transport Draft Transport Strategy consultation

Many of my Parish councils kindly got involved with the Peninsula Transport vision consultation, we are now consulting on the draft Transport Strategy.
The consultation on the draft transport strategy is now live, running from Monday 11 December until Monday 5 February (inclusive).
Although the work goes wider than Devon by working together all authorities are speaking with a collective voice on our strategic transport links – filling the gap between local and national ambitions. It is a strategy for the user and there it is important that we understand if it meets the needs of those relying on our transport links, so please do send us your views.

Peninsula Transport are hosting the consultation online, you can access the consultation space here: https://www.peninsulatransport.org.uk/peninsula-transport-strategy-consultation/
Please find a briefing here: http://www.peninsulatransport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/PT_TS-consultation-stakeholder-briefing_FINAL.pdf
In the new year there will be webinars, free and open to all should you wish to come along and find out more about the work, it is also an opportunity to ask the project team any specific questions you may have. Please register your interest here: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=RkWht04KI0q32HCbMr9jNeWYdbrjdStFrZlzNBj4_TxUMzlZNFFGQlVaRUpCSzZRSlNIMVhIUFVUMi4u

Growing Communities Fund
The Growing Communities Fund is intended to support proactive, effective, measurable, and sustainable actions to enable individuals and communities to tackle the current cost of living issues through reducing food and fuel inequalities, building self-reliance, community resilience and improving mental health and wellbeing.
The Growing Communities Fund will commonly provide grant awards of between £500 and £1000. You can apply for up to £3000 if you feel you have an exemplary project and are able to accept payment in arrears. Applications, regardless of value, will be assessed using the same process.
Projects can*:*

- link to already established work and add value
- be new and in response to an identified need
- use innovation to improve efficiency, reach a wider range of people and improve provision.

The fund can support projects that:

- could offer a warm welcome and a safe space, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity and address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity,
- build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals.
- tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem.
- Have a clear and direct community benefit as well as consider the environment during this climate emergency.

Applications for both project and core costs will be considered, subject to meeting eligibility criteria. Also, the inclusion of reasonable costs associated with evaluation and identifying learning, sharing and promoting good practice.
The fund cannot be used for:

- projects or items that are the responsibility of another public body (for example, NHS, Local Authority)
- activities that are contributing to general fundraising

- projects that are delegating any acquired funds to third parties
- projects that are solely for the benefit of animals
- projects that are solely counselling based
- projects that are in support of a single faith without wider community benefit. This includes fabric repairs to church buildings, church yards and cemetery walls.
- retrospective applications for projects or activities that have already been completed, or items that have been purchased
- alcohol or medication
- large projects where the link between a grant awarded and overall project outcomes are not clear
- loss of income
- applications from individuals, sole traders, for-private-profit or grant-making organisations (where funding is requested for grant making)
- political activities
- salaries, wages, or expenses of persons employed by a not-for-private-profit organisation unless these are finite, sessional charges and do not imply any ongoing commitment
- projects that provide support to more than 25% of beneficiaries living outside of the Devon County Council administrative area

Who can apply?

- Not-for-profit, voluntary or community groups, registered charities or social enterprises that are providing services or activities for the benefit of people and communities in Devon
- Schools, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the wider community and is over and above statutory provision.
- Churches or church/faith groups, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the wider community and is not promoting a specific religion or worship.
- Parish or town councils, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the local community and is not replacing statutory provision.
- National charities, where there is a local branch that is managed locally and has its own bank account.

How much can I apply for?

The amount you can apply for depends on the type of project and the costs involved. Grants will typically be between £500 and £1,000 and these grants will be paid to organisations prior to work taking place.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted online and funding used or allocated before 31 March 2024.
Complete the grant application form now

North Devon Link Road

Information about closures.
Currently night-time closure Aller Cross to Landkey 8pm to 6am
https://community.alungriffiths.co.uk/projects-in-your-area/north-devon-link-road/

Grit bins and information about gritting routes

With the colder weather we can expect to be using the grit bins, if you find a bin which needs filling there is an easy to use grit bin map on the website, just click on the icon and ask for it to be filled, damaged bins can also be reported here.

There is a map of the gritting routes in Devon but I would advise that when out driving in icy conditions to treat all roads as if they haven't been gritted as it needs friction for the grit to work.

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

Highways preparations for winter and defects

A lot of work has gone into the preparation for this winter with the aim of preventing a repeat of the difficulties experienced following the extended freezing conditions through late November and into mid-December last year.

With regard to the winter service and gritting operations, the Highways and Traffic Management Service has been very busy over the summer, preparing for the winter season. This downtime is the opportunity for all the gritters to be serviced and calibrated. This ensures the spread rate and spread pattern for salt is as intended.

Six of the oldest gritters have been replaced with newer models. The approach is to purchase second hand, relatively new gritters and replace them as they approach 10 years old. This ensures the plant is safe and minimises the initial financial outlay and helps to minimise revenue costs.

While last winter was challenging for the service, all the preparation this summer has been achieve while planning for and responding to, an unusually high number of named storms through the summer and autumn. Particularly the two significant flood events and more recently Storm Ciaran.

Devon County Council's Contractor, Milestone undertook a resource analysis in Autumn to identify where there may be capacity in the current planned works and re-programmed some work to free up additional resource (to add to the reactive and gritting teams) through November and December.

This additional resource is being directed to address non-safety 'serviceability' defects ahead of the worst of the weather.

In addition, a 5th dragon patcher has been employed this summer to help address the backlog of serviceability defects. This additional machine has been working in tandem to the trial of Elastomac, an innovative low-carbon repair technique and the wider patching works which aims to pick up clusters of defects. We had this come to Barbrook last week, following my intervention about the awful defect we had, the other non safety defects nearby were also attended to on this visit.

The Government's announcement ahead of the Autumn Statement of an £8.3 billion investment for road maintenance over the next 11 years is very welcome. Devon will receive an extra £6.663 million this financial year and next. It is unclear how the funding will be allocated beyond next year. The funding is being put to use immediately to carry out patching work and other serviceability repairs.

However, the majority of the funding will enable the County Council to bring forward resurfacing schemes earmarked within its future works programme. The schemes have been identified based on 'need' using the Council's asset management approach. Road condition surveys and pothole data, together with local knowledge has been used to prioritise the next 60 resurfacing schemes in the forward programme. Bringing forward this work will replace worn out road surfaces and prevent the formation of potholes.

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;
Report a problem - Roads and transport (devon.gov.uk)
0345 155 1004

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

Merry Christmas

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