Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday 19th December 2022 at 7.00 p.m.
Present: Members: D Duffield (Chairman), M Wilkinson, S Woodman, D Barron, J Richards, K Cook(Vice Chair) , Andrea Davis
Clerk: D Bleasdale
Also Present: 1 member of the public.

266/2022 Apologies for absence: J Dicker, O Bell, S Parker

267/2022 Public Speaking: Mrs S Cook voiced concerns over the doctors surgery and pharmacy closures and would like an update on both these concerns and it to be published in the Mortehoe and Woolacombe magazine, the council provided as much of an update as possible, and will seek clarification on both these issues.

268/2022 Police Report: Not received

269/2022 Declaration of Interests: none

270/2022 Minutes: It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Financial meeting held on November 21st 2022 at 6:30p.m. in the Council Chamber.
It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on November 21st 2022 at 7:20 p.m. in the Council Chamber.
It was Proposed to reject as a correct record and sign the minutes of the extraordinary finance meeting held on 4 December 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

270/2022 County Council Report: See attached or end of minutes

271/2022 Planning

76291 Conversion of redundant agricultural barn into a single dwelling at Highridge Barn Woolacombe Devon EX34 7HL. Approval proposed by councillor Woodman, Seconded by councillor Barron, all in favour, approved unanimously.

76255 Demolition of conservatory together with erection of rear extension to dwelling at 16 Hartland View Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7HB. Approval proposed by councillor Wilkinson, Seconded by councillor Woodman, all in favour, approved unanimously.

76330 Proposed new balcony at Gordon Lodge Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon EX34 7DZ. Approval proposed by councillor Barron, Seconded by councillor Cook, all in favour, approved unanimously.

272/2022 District Council Report: North Devon Council have voted to increase prices in their car parks across North Devon

273/2022 Questions for the National Trust: not present

274/2022 Correspondence i) None

275/2022 Register of Outstanding Matters/ Matters Arising from the Minutes.

276/2022 Play Areas: It was suggested that we invite Richard Slaney to assess the feasibility of S106 payments for play area projects. The parish clerk will issue the invite.

277/2022 Skate Ramp: Councillor Cook voiced the opinion that the skate ramp should be ran and owned by a separate legal entity and this process should be done in a proper and transparent manner.

278/2022 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman:
Sally Hocking requested that a tree be planted on Combesgate green, the council had no objection to this.

279/2022 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	
BG	British Gas		233.66	
EDF	EDF		490.93	
JEW	Jewson Ltd		19.77	
LAND	PLandscape		604.80	
NDDC	NDDC		229.40	
STAFF	Emma Stafford		160.00	
STAR	Pete Starbuck		1470.00	
Daniel Bleasdale				1619.42
PAYe			341.40	
		Totals:	5169.38	

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

Yours faithfully ***Daniel Bleasdale***
The meeting ended at 08:55 p.m.

The minutes of previous meetings are available from the Parish Clerk

County Councillors report
December 2022

Financial position of Devon County Council
Devon County Council provides vital services to over 800,000 people from a net revenue budget of £630 million. Devon has the largest local road network in the country and a larger proportion of older people compared to the national average. In the eleven years up to and including 2021/22 the authority's core funding from Government reduced by over £180 million or 72% in real terms. The County Council ended the 2021/22 financial year

with a £3.3 million overspend, the first time this had happened in 30 years. We are not alone. New research by the County Councils Network shows 17 English authorities face a combined deficit of more than £500 million in 2023/24.
As you know from my previous reports to the Parish Council, there has been a huge amount work from mid-summer examining every item of spend and what DCC can change, pause or cease in order to present a balanced outturn i.e. what we actually spent compared to the budget, at the end of every financial year for 2022/23, as well as the need to do build a balanced budget for 2023/24, where the current gap between money we have and money we must legally invest in services is going to be tough to achieve. Work continues apace, so that by the end of this month, going into very early January, targets will have been set, and we will now what the settlement figure we will receive from Government will be.
Council agrees to amend North Devon Link Road plans due to rising costs
Rising costs as a result of inflation are behind a decision by Devon County Council to amend its ongoing North Devon Link Road improvement plans.
Improving the safety of the road, while delivering improved economic benefits to North Devon and Torridge economies - two of the main objectives to the scheme - remain very much a priority.
The £67 million improvement programme, the vast majority of which is funded by the Department for Transport, were costed back in 2019 when the economic landscape was very different.
The unexpected coronavirus pandemic, which has had and still is having a dramatic impact on businesses, followed by the unforeseen rise in costs of materials and energy compounded by the war in Ukraine, inflation, and rising interest rates, and £67 million no longer buys as much in 2022 as it did in 2019.
The entire construction programme is managed within a number of contracts, with one contract in particular accountable for the main work. That's where the problem is now is. Due to rising inflation, the contractor's costs have increased beyond what might usually be expected by more than a quarter, since first costed.

The Council has spoken to the Department for Transport, as the main funder for the project, to see if there's any more funding from them available. There's not. That's the reality of what's happening in construction and other business sectors everywhere
It means that we've had to look within the £67 million budget, outside the scope of the main essential work, to see what we can do differently to reduce costs, that does not compromise the purpose of the improvements.
In addition to the main improvement work, the Council's plans had been to improve junctions at Heywood, Buckleigh, Westleigh, Bishops Tawton, West Buckland and Borners Bridge.
To absorb the extra costs within the main contract, we need cut back on costs elsewhere. So, we will continue our plans to improve junctions at Heywood, Buckleigh, Westleigh, West Buckland, and Borners Bridge, but we will now redesign the Bishops Tawton Junction, to remove what was to be an underpass, and instead install safe crossing facilities.
Plans for a section of overtaking lane between Portmore and Landkey roundabouts, and for a footbridge over the road in that vicinity, will however now be removed from the programme. Plans do still include a footbridge located at the Landkey junction.
We've considered all options, not just by cost, but also considering road safety. Removing the overtaking lane and the footbridge and redesigning the junction at Bishops Tawton will allow us to divert funding to the main work, to meet the additional costs of construction.

With regards to the footbridge, we will be looking for developer contributions in future to help pay for improved walking and cycling access in the area.
The main works are still on track to be completed by the end of 2023, but the Bishops Tawton junction may be delayed until mid-2024.
Consultation on DCC's Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy From 2030 the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles is expected to end – the draft Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy sets out how and where we will need to intervene to deliver the needed infrastructure to increase the uptake of electric vehicles across the county.
The strategy is just one of a series of documents that will form part of the emerging Local Transport Plan (LTP).
The EV Charging Strategy, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, Devon's Bus Service Improvement Plan, and rail plans for Devon Metro are essential to ensure that Devon achieves net-zero by 2050, as outlined in the Devon Carbon Plan.
The strategy itself includes detail on numbers of current and predicted EV users, capacity, number and location of existing charging points, detail about current local and national policy as well as forecasts of future EV uptake and chargepoint demand.
If we want to reduce carbon emissions and ensure that Devon becomes net-zero we must decarbonise transport. This strategy will set out what we need to achieve and help us to unlock further funding from Government for new electric charging infrastructure and will ensure that we are well placed to take advantage of new capital funding opportunities as they arise.
Current position; We have almost completed delivering the first 80 car chargers in public carparks and we expect to be able to soon announce plans for more in the future. But this is just the start – we need many more.
You can give your views via our Have Your say website.
Businesses can sign up for a webinar at 6pm on Tuesday 6 December. To register, please email the project team at transportplanning@devon.gov.uk.
Paper copies of the strategy and questionnaire will be available in every library.
For further information, please write to: Transport Planning, Matford Offices, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD.
Highways Devon's gritting teams have been out already this winter and they're prepared to face whatever the elements throw at the county's roads over the next few months.
Gritting depots across the county are fully stocked with around 24,000 tonnes of salt and Devon County Council's upgrade of its winter fleet has continued, with eight of its 37 frontline gritters replaced with newer models this year, reducing revenue spend on maintaining outdated vehicles.
This winter, Devon's fleet of gritters are running on sustainably sourced Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), which is a waste product from the food industry. The fuel produces 90% less CO2 than regular diesel which will help meet Devon County Council's net zero targets by 2030. Devon's snow warden scheme, which celebrated its 10 th anniversary last year, continues to provide additional support for communities as part of the Council's winter self-help scheme. The 325 volunteer snow wardens across the county treat their priority routes during prolonged spells of severe weather.
Any grit bins that need refilling please report on the DCC website, link below.

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

Andrea Davis