Minutes of the meeting of Mortehoe Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday July 18th 2022 at 7.00 p.m.
Present: Members: D Duffield, (Chairman) , K Cook (Vice Chairman), O. Bell, J Richards, S Woodman, D Barron, M Wilkinson (late arriving due to prior commitments),

Clerk: D Bleasdale
Also Present: One member of the public.

142/2022 Apologies for absence: Andrea Davis, Jimi Dicker, Ron Ley

143/2022 Public Speaking: none

144/2022 Police Report: Mortehoe/Woolacombe & West Down, Includes Mullacott & Bittadon.
Violence with Injury 1
Stalking and Harassment 1
Criminal Damage 1
Public Order Offences 5
Other offences 3
The Clerk will ask if these reports can be specific to the Parish.

145/2022 Declaration of Interests: J Richards 75527 Treetops, mother is neighbour, O Bell 73115 lives near by, K Cook 72538 Member of AONB planning.

146/2022 Minutes:
It was Proposed to APPROVE as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on June 20th 2022 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber. ***Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

147/2022 County Council Report:

DCC Finance

Devon County Council is facing an unprecedented black hole in our finances caused by the cost of living crisis and spiralling demand for help for vulnerable children and adults.

The Director of Finance, Angie Sinclair predicts that we could overspend by more than £40 million in the current financial year. And she says urgent action must be taken by every council department to rein in spending.

A panel of senior officers is already looking at options for councillors to consider including spending cuts, remodelling services to save money and cancelling or delaying building projects. Unlike central government, local councils are required by law to balance their books every year.

There is a report to Cabinet.

The council has never before faced a combination of demand growth and price shock pressures of this scale. The pandemic and geopolitical situation has created huge financial pressures nationally and the county council is not immune from that.

The current forecast is unprecedented and immediate action must be taken to safeguard the financial stability of the authority.

A financial stability programme has been created comprising senior officers from each service who are examining every option to save money.

The report details the financial pressures facing us with children's services forecasting an overspend of £17.9 million with a big increase in demand and the rising cost of placing children in care.

It includes a £7.7 million overspend in education with the bulk of that taken up by transporting children to school because of spiralling fuel and wages.

Adult care services are forecasting an overspend of £6 million.

There is also a risk that inflationary pressures could result in costs, in addition to this overspend, of more than £10 million this year.

National pay negotiations are at a very early stage but indications are that increases to the National Living Wage coupled with the cost of living crisis will result in a higher than expected pay claim this year. The estimated cost of this has been included within the forecast overspend.

Although It is very early in the financial year and much will, of course, change as the year progresses. However immediate action must be taken to safeguard the financial stability of the authority."

Devon is not alone in dealing with these pressures. Most councils are facing the same problems, according to the Local Government Association. In addition, the County Council Network is highlighting the particular cost pressures on county authorities because of the nature of delivering services in large, sparsely-populated rural areas.

Woolacombe/Morethoe enforcement.

There was Special Operation early on Sunday morning (10th July) PCN's were issued from 0255 in the morning. However, one of the van sleepers did wake up and ran up and down shouting advising that we were there so some did move off before we were able to issue, but they did move on which was good.

We are hoping to plan another operation at the end of July and August, but if this isn't achievable definitely in August. Along with our usual coverage of Woolacombe.

We have had some not so good news, one of the North based CEO's is leaving at the end of the month. We have an ongoing recruitment campaign and finding it very difficult to employ especially in North Devon Civil Enforcement Officers, and I know other employers are also having issues.

Please if you know of anyone point them in my direction.

Below are some statistics which I hope will be useful for you, I will continue to send these to you, some of the observations numbers are high compared to issued, this is good in respect that people have moved on when seen the officer and hopefully encourage compliance.

Woolacombe statistics

April	Visits	Observations	Issue
Esplanade	11	111	97
South Street	4	2	0
West Road	7	52	8
Barton Road	6	2	1
Totals	28	167	106

May	Visits	Observations	Issued
Esplanade	7	34	18
South Street	5	16	4
West Road	7	23	3
Barton Road	7	12	1
Totals	26	85	26

June	Visits	Observations	Issue
Esplanade	26	84	39
South Street	18	42	4
West Road	33	138	9
Barton Road	29	64	5
Totals	106	328	57

upto 12th July	Visits	Observations	Issue
Esplanade	14	96	52
South Street	20	28	2
West Road	22	101	5
Barton Road	20	35	2
Totals	76	260	61

Along with the usual advertising we are also now linked to a site that provides job opportunities to Ex-service personnel county wide, we also have contacts within areas of the

county that look after migrants and especially those who have come from Ukraine that require jobs. We have seconded a supervisor to the North to specifically look at the area and help with parking and recruitment.

We use our Exeter based resource to cover Barnstaple which enables our North based resource to concentrate on other North areas including Woolacombe. We continually offer overtime for those that want to work extra hours on days off or make there working day longer. We are able to justify overtime due to the amount of vacancies we have, once fully staff the overtime would discontinue.

Martinhoe Bridge

Not in the parish but a very popular area for residents to visit.

Concerns have been raised over the internal steel tensioning system of the bridge, which is integral to the structure.

We are urgently exploring the possibility of locating a temporary bridge which would allow the road to be re-opened. At this stage it is unknown how long the road will need to be closed.

It is essential that this bridge is closed in order to keep people safe. The findings of the recent survey were very unexpected but our teams have acted swiftly in the light of those safety concerns with the structure. Hopefully a temporary bridge can be found and installed as soon as possible.

148/2022 Planning

75529 Erection of conservatory. Flat 2 The Baycliffe Chapel Hill Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon EX34 7DZ. **Proposed APPROVAL Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

75527 Extension to dwelling & extension to decking together with creation of terrace area. Treetops Woolacombe Station Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7AW. **Proposed APPROVAL Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

75507 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 74393 (extension and alterations together with change of use of holiday flats to create three residential units with two additional parking spaces) to allow amended design. Blue Horizon Upper Claypark Mortehoe Woolacombe Devon EX34 7EA. **Council unable to decide as we do not know what condition 2 is, the clerk will contact S. Emery and find out.**

75597 Single storey extension to dwelling at 5 Narracott Apartments Beach Road Woolacombe Devon EX34 7BS. The Council thinks that this is not in sympathy with the original structure and is not in keeping with the area. The council believes that this alteration poses a danger to traffic leaving the site. **PROPOSAL REFUSED Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

149/2022 District Council Report:

WHITE CROSS FLOATING WINDFARM
I have circulated information regarding some proposals to construct a massive windfarm in the Celtic Sea. I am going to a briefing on Wednesday to gather more information but it seems that the site that would be nearest to us is approximately 20 miles the other side of Lundy.

PLANNING APPEAL
Two appeals have been registered this week. One is for Lee Carter's application for a dwelling in the rear garden of his property in Woolacombe Rise and the other is for Trevor Jordans erection of two chalets on his land in Poole Lane.

MEETING ON THURSDAY
I have a meeting on Thursday with Dominie Dunbrook and Tara Jenkins. Tara has just been appointed as the Senior Engineer to NDC. Her specialism is the coast so I will be asking questions about Rockham Steps and our erosion problems along the Esplanade.

6 SOUTH STREET (THE OLD CHIPPY)
Wales & West Utilities are going to dig up the shared lane leading to Arlington Place to lay gas connection pipes to the new buildings. They plan to start on August 11th and will take 9 days. There will obviously be problems with parking. I am talking with the company representative tomorrow morning.

150/2022 Questions for the National Trust: Four new information signs are being put up in the sand dunes.
Plans for a new car park at the top of Challacombe Hill road are to be submitted in a month or two.
Skylarks are returning to the area after the Wavelength Festival, when the grass was cut short to prevent nesting.
New trees that have recently been planted in the area as an experiment are not doing well after the heatwave and will require some aftercare.
The new path at the side of Potters Hill is reportedly becoming popular.

151/2022 Correspondence i) None

152/2022 Register of Outstanding Matters, Planning is still being done by Open Reach to connect the pavilion and then we can install CCTV

153/2022 The Esplanade: The reports of a vehicle that keeps staying on the esplanade for three to four days at a time, the vehicle has reportedly been ticketed many times.
The council will consider releasing a statement to advise parishioners of the actions they can take to register their concern over the caravan on the esplanade, the clerk will draft a statement for councillor approval.

154/2022 The Meadow and Pavilion: The gate post has been replaced and a new key system will come into effect later in the month when everyone who needs a key has one.

Combesgate: The Garden has serious bindweed, this is going to be treated by Tommy Courtney of Bloom Brothers.

155/2022 Tarka Trail: The County council would like to know if benches can be placed on the tarka trail section that comes through the parish. The council agreed that benches could be placed on the tarka trail.

156/2022 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman:

White Cross Windfarm: Councillor Cook attended a webinar on the proposed plans for the floating wind farm 25 miles east of Lundy Island, Councillor Cooks report was largely positive, he raised concerns about damage to the biosphere and its effect on the waves, it was also noted that the cable will make landfall near Braunton and this maybe an ongoing.

The Royal: A Motorhome has been illegally parked at the Royal Hotel, it was agreed that the clerk would contact the liquidation company and inform them of the situation.

Bins at Upover: Their green bin was full of black bags of rotting rubbish. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the holiday letting agent and let them know.

Dugout: Permission was granted by the council and the national trust for the football team to continue building the dugout that the previous team left unfinished, the clerk has applied for a grant to do this.

157/2022 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
AMAZON	Amazon	644.80
BARF	Barum Friend Security Co	177.72
BG	British Gas	204.18
BLOOM	Bloom Brothers	760.00
BRITGAS	British Gas	114.14
BT	British Telecom	371.44
EDF	EDF	316.58
GORDON	Gordon WIndow Cleaning	1620.00
JEW	Jewson Ltd	39.64
NDDC	NDDC	463.39
NICH	Nicholsons SW	131.70
NT	National Trust	45.00
PAT.C.	PAT COURTNEY	220.00
PLAY	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	317.40
RICHWATH	Richard Wathen	18.00

RICOH	Ricoh UK	107.09
SFB	SOURCE FOR BUSINESS	114.38
SRP.MFT	JASON J POULTON	374.00
STAFF	Emma Stafford	149.00
STAPLES	Staples Direct	0.01
STAR	Pete Starbuck	1417.80
SZEALE	SAM ZEALE	259.00
Wages	Roy Walker	945.05
Wages	Marie Hedger	1347.85
Wages	Gary Rogers	1270.90
Wages	Daniel Bleasdale	1888.25
	Totals:	13317.33

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

158/2022 FunderIsland: Laura at Samuals is reading through the lease agreement and licence agreement to try release the council from this contract.

159/2022 Wavelength Festival: The Council is meeting with Wavelength on the 2nd of August at 7pm in the council chamber to discuss the event.

160 S106 funds: Councillor Wilkinson is 99 percent certain that the S106 funding commitment from the sale of the Byron apartments stays with the freeholder.

161/2022 The alleged illegal caravan on the esplanade: Other avenues are being explored and people who call in and complain are advised to contact Devon County highways.

162/2022 Park Run: The idea of park run participants being able to get a stamp on the way in allowing them half their money back in if they leave before 10:30am on a Saturday was rejected by the council.

163/2022 Combesgate Toilets: As these toilets cost a lot to maintain, the clerk suggested that part of the grass bank be lowered, this would allow a mobile beverage or food vendor to use the site and this would mitigate some of the costs. The clerk was asked to provide more information on the current running cost of the toilets.

164/2022 Dead flowerbed: The clerk proposed the removal of an unmaintained flowerbed near the council chamber and for it to be replaced with a bench as this requires less maintenance, the Clerk was asked revisit this idea after next month.

Yours faithfully ***Daniel Bleasdale***
The meeting ended at 9.55 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 15th 2022 Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 p.m.