

Minutes of the meeting of Morteohoe Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday 16th March 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: S Woodman, (Chairman), J Richards, D Duffield, E Bond, D Barron, G Webb, M Wilkinson (7.25) and K Cook

Also Present: Councillor Barker N.D. C. and 1 member of the public

Clerks: Mrs Keiff and Mrs Hocking

42/2015 Apologies for absence: Councillors Davis and Lamb.

43/2015 Public Apeaking

Mr A Ashford - Mr Ashford informed members of his intention to make an offer to the planning office in conjunction with his current application to include a contribution towards the upgrading of the steps and path between Bay View Road and the Esplanade. He asked whether the council would be amenable to the offer. *(51/2015 members thanked Mr Ashford for his offer and agreed to defer any decision regarding the matter until notification of the planning decision had been received. They pointed out that they had already made their response on this application)*

44/2015 Police Report – there was no report available this month

45/2015 Declaration of interests

58856 Councillor Richards declared a personal interest in this application as owner of a similar business in the area.

46/2015 Minutes:

It was ***Proposed to*** approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 16th 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Council Chamber. ***Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**47/2014 County Council Report – the following report was read out by the clerk
Council tax up by 1.99 per cent to safeguard services**

[Devon County Council](#) has agreed an increase of 1.99 per cent in council tax bills.

The increase will support spending of over £500 million including a reprieve for threatened school lollipop patrols, continued support for vulnerable people on welfare and extra winter road gritting. There will also be an extra £100,000 to cushion bus service cuts and £40,000 for the [Citizens' Advice Bureau](#). The council tax increase will bring in an extra £6.2 million over the next year to help safeguard services. The budget still calls for reductions of £46 million as a result of a 14 per cent cut in Government funding.

In the [Tough Choices](#) consultations, over three quarters of respondents had backed a modest council tax rise to prevent even harsher cuts while 55 per cent said they were satisfied with the way [Devon County Council](#) had managed the tough choices.

The council tax increase for 2015/16 will add less than 50p a week to the average bill but will prevent even tougher cuts in hard-pressed services. An average Band D taxpayer will now pay £1,161.27 for county council services – up £22.68 on last year. The County Council are not expecting any change after the General Election, no matter who wins as all the main political parties are committed to keeping the current spending plans for the next two years and for Devon that means at least £34 million will have to be saved next year. The situation is unlikely to change much in the short to medium term.

Residents in rural areas like Devon receive some £153 less in Government support on average than urban residents and pay £79 more in council tax. Every child in every Devon school receives nearly £300 less than the national average. If we received average national funding that would be an additional £23 million. And under the public health heading, Devon is the seventh lowest funded authority at £29 per head against an average of £51. Average funding for that would bring in another £16.5 million.

Public transport review - To help meet the £50 million budget reduction required by Government spending cuts next year, Devon County Council now face making savings of £1.7m from our annual public transport budget. It will be the first time that the Council has proposed making service reductions for four years. Most bus services in Devon are run commercially by bus companies at no cost to the Council. However, £5.376m a year is spent to support nearly 200 public bus services, carrying around 4.5m passengers every year. These services would not run without this support. The County Council also manage the National Bus Pass Scheme for 175,000 pass holders in Devon. This costs us more than £9m every year. The County Council would like to find out what local residents think about the proposals to reduce services. Please let us know what their impact might be on you. The consultation ends on April 20th

48/2015 Planning

58817 Variation of condition 2 (use restriction) attached to planning permission 44691 to allow 5 year temporary change of use to a workshop & storage of machinery for personal use at Land at Station Road, Woolacombe.

Members felt that the preservation of the agricultural nature of this land was important and that there was no demonstrative or significant need for the change of use of the building to a machinery workshop. *Proposed REFUSAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

58856 Erection of replacement leisure building & shop & relocation of 24 caravans at Woolacombe Bay Holiday Village Ltd, Woolacombe.

Members were mindful of the comments of the A.O.N.B. regarding this application particularly regarding the potential for light pollution and the relocation of the caravans. They felt that the design for the replacement building was an improvement on the present building but expressed concerns regarding the potential for glare from the large expanse of glass on the new design.

Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

58862 Demolition of existing & erection of new dwelling at Woodlands Bungalow, Woolacombe Station Road, Woolacombe.

Members expressed concern regarding the access to the property and felt the provision of a visibility splay should be included in approval for the application.

Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

58696 Variation of condition 2 (amended plans) attached to planning permission 57243 to allow amended siting of temporary agricultural workers dwelling & agricultural building at Little Ivycott, Woolacombe.

Members had no objections to this proposal. *Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

58832 Conversion of 1 dwelling incorporating a 1 bed holiday apartment at Cleeve House Hotel, North Morte Road, Woolacombe.

Members had no objections to this proposal. *Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

58921 Alterations & extensions to dwelling at Falbala, Western Rise, Woolacombe.

Members had no objections to this proposal. *Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

Planning Permission Received:

58636 Enlargement of existing balcony at

Watersmeet Hotel, The Esplanade, Woolacombe.

58709 Erection of new electricity substation and associated works at Narracott Hotel, Beach Road, Woolacombe.

58810 Application for non-material amendments to planning permission 57207 in respect of landscape modifications: alteration to footprint, window and ridge position: addition of weatherboard cladding to two areas at Wayside, Upper Clay Park, Morteheo.

Planning Permission Refused:

58157 Extension & alterations to 1 & 2 Parade House together with erection of one dwelling (additional information) at Parade House, The Esplanade, Woolacombe.

49/2015 District Council Report

Meeting with Eric Pickles M.P. - Councillor Barker informed members of her recent lengthy meeting with Local Government minister, Mr Eric Pickles during which she raised a large number of questions regarding local government, planning, localism and the impact of government cuts to the local authorities.

Neighbourhood Plan - Councillor Barker informed members of grants available for Parishes in the formation of Neighbourhood Plans which had become increasingly important in planning priorities. Georgeham and Croyde had recently undertaken the project and was nearing completion.

Full Council Meeting - the full council had recently met and were informed that local business rates would soon be returning to local government with a rebate of £3.2 million.

Fullerbrook Wind Farm - a recent meeting between local residents, the district council and the wind farm owners had recently taken place. In order to comply with noise levels the owners had agreed to monitor the noise levels and to mitigate the noise nuisance and flicker effects from the turbines.

Lightning Strikes – it had also been agreed that further scientific tests were to be carried out to measure the alleged increase in lightning strikes in the area and possible effects on electrical equipment caused by the turbines.

50/2015 Questions for the National Trust – the clerk was asked to contact the Trust regarding progress of the forthcoming repairs to Rockham steps.

51/2015 Correspondence: i) Letter from Woolacombe and Morteohoe Lunch Club – members were pleased to support the club and were encouraged that new members had come forward in recent months.

ii) Letter from Mr A Ashford Re: Planning Application 58637 - members thanked Mr Ashford for his offer and agreed to defer any decision regarding the matter until notification of the planning decision had been received.

52/2015 Register of Outstanding Matters

South West Water – the clerk reported that the exceptional low tides in February led to the exposure of the metal supports for the old sewage pipe at the northern end of the beach. S.W. Water responded very quickly to my request and removed all the visible iron work on the very lowest tide on February 20th.

Palm/vegetable oil on the beach – following reports of a lard-like substance on the beach, daily inspections were carried out by the council, Parkin Estates and the National Trust. Warning signs have been erected at the beach entrances and on Marine Drive and on the dunes. Mullacott Vets report no cases since the end of last week.

TAP Funding – the clerk reported that an application for this grant has been submitted in conjunction with Georgeham Parish Council. The grant is for £2, 873.29. The money will be put forward to the provision of Play Bark for Morteohoe Play area and the installation of outside lights on the entrance path to the Pavilion.

Combesgate Toilets Community Grant – an application has been submitted for this grant.

Meeting with Conservation Officer, Colette Hall and Planning Officer Mrs M Pool – Members expressed thanks to the district council planning office for the recent visit and felt that meeting had been most valuable.

53/2015 Devon County Council Public Transport Consultation

Alterations to routes:

Service 7/303 Present level of Service – Summer Sundays and Public Holidays serving Barnstaple, Braunton, Ilfracombe, South Molton and Woolacombe

Proposal : Complete withdrawal of service

Service 302 Serving Ilfracombe, Mullacott and Woolacombe

Proposal: The National Bus Pass to be no longer valid on this route.

Service 303 Serving Woolacombe, West Down, Braunton, Heanton Punchardon, Ashford and Barnstaple.

Proposal: On Tuesday the route would not serve West Down, Braunton, Heanton or Ashford . Consultation ends on 20th April 2015

Members regretted the loss of the Sunday service, the 7/303 and 302 and felt that it would lead to a reduction on the opportunities to access Woolacombe both for visitors to the resort and for those working and commuting in the holiday season as it represented the only Sunday service link to the villages. They also regretted the curtailing of travel for those making use of the National Bus Pass.

54/2015 Adoption of Safe Guarding Policy – Members agreed to the formal adoption of the policy. The document was duly signed.

55/2015 Consultation on Marine Conservation Zone

The clerk informed members that the government consultation on whether 23 new Marine Conservation Zones should be put in place later this year. Two of the areas under consultation are in North Devon. Bideford to Foreland Point - and Hartland Point to

Tintagel. Members supported the extension of the present scheme but were disappointed that the area North of Lundy (which is not included in the present scheme under consultation) was not included as an area for conservation. Members felt that local studies and recent surveys (conducted in conjunction with the Atlantic Array research), indicated that the area contained a higher than average species diversity for the South West. They hoped that the area would be included in the forthcoming schemes.

56/2015 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman

Camberley – The clerk was asked to write to the owners to request the removal of the rubbish wheelie bins from the pavement at the property.

Ticket meters, The Esplanade – the clerk was asked to contact Devon County Council to enquire whether the ticket machines could be refurbished as many were in a very poor decorative state and did not give a good impression for visitors to the resort.

Defibrillator, Woolacombe - the clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of grant funding for the provision of the defibrillator to be sited in the village centre. Various locations were suggested.

Beach Nominations – the clerk was asked to write to Parkin Estates, The National Trust and Mr R Tucker to congratulate them on the recent nomination as ‘Best UK Beach’.

Meeting with the Conservation Officer and Mrs M Pool – members agreed that the meeting had been most useful. The clerk was asked to write to the planning office to request the following amendments to the current conservation area appraisal.

1. The removal of the quotation from Nicolaus Pevsner 5.7
2. 5.8 – More should be made of the links between the Chichester family and the parish to include more information about the family links to Parade House i.e Rosalie Chichester was both born and died in the house. The gifts of land for the church, medical centre and school plus local links in the street names in the Parish (Rosalie Terrace; Arlington Place, Chichester Arms, Rawnsley Lane, Parade Road.
Gift of land for public enjoyment ie. Morte Point, Woolacombe Downs (Potter’s Hill)
The future protection of the landscape in strict planning covenants on all land and buildings owned by the estate.
3. Architecture – Parade House should be mentioned as a building of historic importance and as one of the first to be built on the Esplanade in 1889- Links to the Arlington Estate.

Wishing Well, North Morte Road - queries were raised as to the ownership of the wishing well as Western Power had requested the re-siting of a telegraph post close to the well. The clerk was asked to investigate.

57/2015 Licence Applications: None

58/2015 Cheques for Approval and Signature.

The following cheques were signed by two members prior to the meeting:

18	103908	Mr K Ash	1,613.30
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The following cheques were approved and signed at the meeting by two members:

16	103909	S Hocking	1,196.33
16	103910	J Keiff	220.85
16	103911	D Hodges	225.00
16	103912	Inland Revenue Month 11	845.96
16	103913	Petty Cash	40.00
16	103914	Ricoh	123.95

16	103915	S McCarthy	160.00
16	103916	Cancelled	
16	103917	Gliddon & Squire	218.94
16	103918	P Starbuck	810.00
16	103919	Simpsons	86.40
16	103920	J & J Bins	69.33
16	103921	Crown Estate	1,050.00
16	103922	P Landscape	256.20
16	103923	Columbaria	84.00
16	103924	Coastline Autos	18.00
16	103925	Mullacott Caravans	75.00
16	103926	W & M Luncheon Club	251.30
16	103927	Golden Coast Service Station	32.24
16	103928	B.F.S	126.00
16	103929	Fircroft Signs	201.60
16	103930	National Trust (Meadow)	180.00

Part 2

Correspondence not requiring discussion is available in the Council Chamber

Part 3

Confidential Matters

Correspondence to Note:

1. Devon Talk - D.C.C. Magazine plus Monthly News Round-Up.
2. Village Green
3. Junk Mail - Community Recycling Network
4. 'Everyone's Tomorrow' – Newsletter from Senior Council Of Devon
5. Devon Senior Voice - Newsletter.
6. Health Watch Voices

Yours faithfully

Sally Hocking

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: April 20th 2015 at 7 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8 .20 p.m.