

Minutes of the meeting of Morteoh Parish Council held in the Council Chamber, The Esplanade, Woolacombe, on Monday 17th March 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Members: D Duffield, D Barron, S Woodman, (Chairman) M Wilkinson, E Bond, and J Richards.

Clerks: S Hocking and J Keiff

Also Present: Councillor Barker (N.D.C.); P.C. Kirk and 1 member of the public

39/2014 Apologies: Councillor Davis: Councillors: Lamb, Cook and Webb, J Fairhurst and S Mulberry (N.T.)

40/2014 Public Speaking Time

Peter Brown – North Devon Journal - Mr Brown introduced himself as the local reporter from the North Devon Journal and presented his contact details. He hoped that members would keep him in touch with events in the Parish.

41/2014 Police Report – P.C. Kirk reported on the current crime figures for the year: January 2014 2 (0) ; February 5 (4) ; March 6 (4) (2013 in brackets)

P.C. Kirk pointed out that the crime figures remain low for the year

Drug Culture - P.C. Kirk reported that there had been no specific logs or calls of drug related incidents but asked members to remain vigilant and to report any matters of concern or suspicion.

42/2014 Declaration of Interests - none

43/2014 Minutes

It was Proposed to approve as a correct record, and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on February 17th 2014 at 7.00 p.m. at the Council Chamber. Seconded. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

44/2014 County Council Report - the clerk read out the following report on behalf of Councillor Davis.

Consultation on future of youth service - [Devon County Council](http://www.devon.gov.uk/youthreview) has launched a public consultation on a fundamental change in its youth service. The county is considering moving from a universal service to a more targeted approach aimed at early help and prevention. Skilled youth workers would work with social workers and other partners to identify and provide early help and support to vulnerable young people and those most at risk. This targeted approach means the County Council would no longer manage or run more traditional centre-based activities aimed at universal support for all youngsters.

The youth service currently costs £3.7 million a year and employs 114 full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff. The county council has to save £110 million from its spending by 2017 and has consistently warned that all services would come under the spotlight.

To take part in the consultation go to: www.devon.gov.uk/youthreview Consultation ends on 27th April 2014

Council launches consultation following day service review

A significant fall in the numbers of older people attending [Devon County Council](http://www.devon.gov.uk/youthreview) day centres has led the Council to rethink how it delivers the service in future. The Council says that there will be no reduction in support to people and that everyone eligible for a service will receive it. The Council has seen a 66% drop in the numbers of people attending its day centres since 2005. More people are choosing to pursue other hobbies and interests during

the day, or attend activities such as memory cafes or luncheon clubs in preference to attending council day centres. And increasingly more and more people are using their direct payments and personal budgets from the Council to pay for the services they want.

Many Council run day centres are running well under capacity, and the people who use them say that the council needs to modernise. They and their carers want a more flexible range of day opportunities to choose from that are based in local communities. People have also told the council that they want more help and information to be available about a wider range of services for people to access. People with complex needs and their carers say that for the minority who need building-based day centres, they should be modernised, offer more choice, have better integration within local communities, and be available as drop in centres. Fewer attendees to council day centres means that the cost per person to provide the service is rising significantly. The council wants as well to provide a range of different levels of support, that include:

- Providing basic advice and signposting to local services
- Offering time-limited support geared towards helping people access and find local services they can use
- Encouraging people to use personal budgets or direct payments from the council to pay for services they want from voluntary and community groups and care providers
- Investing in a limited number of building-based day services, provided by the Council or independent and voluntary sector, for people with intensive care needs.

The Council is proposing to reduce its 35 day centres to 9; merging 6 day services into 3 centres; and using private sector provision in place of 26 centres.

The consultation can be found at; <http://new.devon.gov.uk/daysservices>

Consultation ends on 19th march 2014

Council proposal to transfer care to private sector - In a further review of services, [Devon County Council](#) has been talking to voluntary groups, charities, and private sector providers about how it will meet the growing demand for residential care in future. While most people are supported in their own homes these days, appropriate care for some means traditional residential or nursing care. The Council wants to see more extra care housing in Devon in future and needs to work closely with housing providers, developers and national housing and regeneration agency, the Homes and Communities Agency. Otherwise, the Council relies a lot on the private sector for residential care home placements. Private sector care homes currently account for about 85 per cent of people (approximately 1,986 placements) whose residential care is publicly funded by the County Council. County Council-run homes account for just 15 per cent (approximately 337 placements), but with many of its 20 homes under-occupied and in need of considerable redesign to support changing needs in future, the Council's costs to provide care is far higher than the equivalent in the private sector. Where the council pays private care homes on average £433 a week for a care bed, its own homes cost on average £970 per bed per week. Despite considerable efforts to drive down costs, the Council is now proposing to join the majority of Councils in ceasing their provision of residential care and instead purchasing care in the private sector; becoming the commissioner of care, rather than the provider. The move would echo Care Minister Norman Lamb's recent comments in the Commons, who spoke in favour of separating social care provision from the commissioning of care services. Mr Lamb supported the MP for Newton Abbot, Anne Marie Morris's view that it seems 'bizarre that (local authorities) should do both, because that must surely give rise to a conflict of interest.' However no change would be made to people's entitlement, everyone eligible for residential care will continue to receive it. No changes are planned in the eligibility criteria or the funding available to meet people's assessed need. Excluded from the proposal are the Council's specialist Centres of Excellence for people with dementia, opening this year in

Newton Abbot and Torrington. The Council sees these helping to plug a shortage in specialist provision for people with dementia, and will be working alongside the private sector to meet the growing demand.

- **Devon County Council proposes to formally cease providing residential care services at its residential care homes and to arrange and purchase alternative services for residents in the independent sector.**

Should this proposal be accepted we are committed to achieving these changes over a period of time therefore minimising disruption for residents, using all of our experience gained over many years of moving people from our homes as their needs change, allowing a smooth transition of residents to new homes. <http://new.devon.gov.uk/residentialreview/>

Devon triples teams tackling pothole repairs - Devon County Council has almost tripled its number of pothole repair teams in response to the storm damage to roads across the county. Over the winter storm period, since 23 December, the County Council has recorded more than 1,300 reports of fallen trees and branches on Devon's roads, more than 150 embankment slips, and more than 4,000 flooding incidents across the county. Around 11,500 potholes have also been reported by the public or found by highway inspectors so far in 2014. In response, the number of teams dealing with pothole safety defect repairs has increased from 13 to 34, with an extra 52 staff tackling the problem. The approximate additional cost of the work is around £65,000 a week. The clear-up of the storm damage is estimated to cost around £3 million to the end of the financial year, but the County Council is yet to finalise a figure for the damage caused by the storms as the road network and structures are still being assessed.

Devon County Council is still left with the legacy of the remaining repairs from the £18 million of damage caused by the storms of 2012/13, which will have to be funded from future capital allocations.

The maintenance backlog to bring Devon's roads up to scratch currently stands at £770 million. Devon's 8,000 mile highway network, the biggest of any authority in the country, needs around £64 million of investment a year to maintain the current condition of Devon's road network. The County Council will receive £35 million (this includes bridges as well as roads) for its capital highways budget from Government for the next financial year.

Council Tax - Unfortunately we have had to raise council tax rise for the first time in four years to safeguard hard-pressed services. The Council is already reviewing a range of services in order to save £110 million by 2017. Which is what the consultations earlier in this report refer to. The 1.99 per cent increase will minimise the need for even deeper spending cuts and will add less than 50p a week to the average council taxpayer's bill but will bring in £24 million over the next four years.

45/2014 Planning

56986 Extension to conservatory at Apartment 2, White Rose, The Esplanade, Woolacombe .

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

56989 Extension to existing wall, repairs to walls & paving & installation of new seating & exhibition display units at Lime Kiln Terrace, Challacombe Hill Road, Woolacombe.

Members felt that the proposed changes would greatly enhance the area and welcomed the investment in the facilities. ***Proposed APPROVAL. Secoded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.***

56883 Proposed erection of 12 residential flats and associated flats and associated car parking at Land adj Sandy Lane Court, Sandy Lane, Woolacombe.

Members noted the comments of the National Trust. They looked forward to the introduction of an affordable element within the proposal. *Proposed APPROVAL. Seconded. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

56968 Retrospective application for extension & alteration to dwelling to provide additional living accommodation at Green Top, Headlands View Avenue, Morteheo.

Application withdrawn.

Planning Permission Received: None

Planning Permission Refused: None

Certificate of Lawfulness : Granted for Existing Use of a caravan – land at Highcroft Farm, Shaftsborough Lane, Lee.

Highways Act 1980 Section 119

Devon County Council (Footpath Nos.11,12,14 and 14a, Morteheo & footpath 42 Ilfracombe. Public Path Diversion Order and Definitive map and statement modification diversion order 2014 - Members had no objections to the proposed changes in the route

Highways Act 1980 Section 119

Devon County Council (Footpath 21 & Bridleway No 5, Morteheo)

Public Path diversion and definitive map and statement modification diversion order 2014 - Members had no objections to the proposed changes in the route.

46/2014 District Council Report –

Printing Costs - Councillor Barker reported on the reduction of Council printing costs from: **£29,000 in 2010/11 to £22,2000 in 2012 to £15,489 in 2013**

Broadband - Councillor Barker welcomed the ongoing work in the area to improved broadband connections.

Councillor Expenses - Councillor Barker explained the recent changes in the method of reviewing councillor expenses. If members wish to claim expenses, there will be an annual rise in line with inflation..

Proposed N.D.C. relocation - Councillor Barker informed members of the exploration of a number of locations and options within the area for the proposed relocation of the council offices and operations.

Tidal Energy – Councillor Wilkinson reminded members of the need to explore other ways of generate energy and cited the Swansea Lagoon as an excellent example.

47/2014 Questions for the National Trust

Coastal Path - members felt that the recent storm damage and ongoing problems on the footpaths and coastal path could have a serious detrimental effect on tourism in the region and felt that discussions with both the Trust and D.C.C. should take place.

48/2014 Correspondence: i) Letter from N.D.C. Re: Planning Consultation – members recommended that all plans should be sent as paper copies and felt that the cost of the

printing and distribution of the plans should be part of the cost for an applicant. Members felt that both the public and councillors benefited from the accessibility and public display of full size and full colour copies of the plans which are available in a local and central location. Members felt that the viewing of plans on line was impractical in many parishes and that not all members of the public had access, ability or broadband speed to be able to access the plans on line. In a recent example for a major planning application in Woolacombe, the plans consisted of 54 document files. Members felt that it would be unrealistic and unfair for the cost of printing and display of such plans should be passed on to the limited resources of Parish Councils.

- ii) **Surfers Against Sewage ‘Big Spring Beach Clean’ Letter from Natalie Brettell.** – *members thanked Ms Brettell for her work in organising the beach clean.*

49/2014 Register of Outstanding Matters

Footpaths and Beach Access – Formal Closures have been made by D.C.C. on the following paths.

Combesgate Steps – the steps have been cleared in a joint operation between the Parish Council and the National Trust. County Highways have indicated that they will pay for work to secure loose rocks on the cliff face. Confirmation on this point is required as is a likely timescale for the work to be completed. Estimates for the cost of the repairs to the railings are being sought.

Footpath 18 below Castle Rock – subsidence on this path is likely to mean that it will be closed for some considerable time.

Rockham Beach – awaiting confirmation on possible options for access to the beach.

Grunta Steps – major work is required to create a safe access on the first section of the access path.

Shellsborough Steps – Have been repaired again.

Caravan Warning Sign Spreacombe – Councillor Davis requires suggestions for the best siting for the sign and confirmation on the ownership of the land on which any sign can be situated.

Vandalism at the Meadow – on the evening of Monday 10th March, security lights were destroyed and all the picnic tables were vandalised. The gate leading onto the pitch was also damaged. The Police have been informed.

Meadow Playing Fields - the council’s landscape contractors inspected the pitch on Wednesday 12th and arrangements have been made for a light roll of the pitch when the area is dry enough to accommodate the machinery.

Woolacombe Play Area - 20 tonnes of play bark has been delivered and distributed in the play area prior to the annual safety check. Two new swing seats and chains are also required on the Junior swings. The safety inspections have now taken place and new seats have been fitted.

50/2014 Consultations from D.C.C. on: i) the Transfer of Care to the private

Sector. *Members regretted the proposed loss of purpose-built and well used facilities within communities and felt that the loss of such centres would lead to greater isolation of individuals. The council expressed disappointment in the proposals and felt that they were short sighted and would effect the most vulnerable and defenceless in our society. Members hoped that a very careful review of these facilities should be made before any closures were made. They were particularly disappointed in the proposed closure of Burrow House in Ilfracombe which it was felt provided an much needed and valuable service to the community. Members disputed the claim that the centre was underused not cost effective.*

ii) Day Service Review; Members regretted the proposed loss of purpose-built and well used facilities within communities and felt that the loss of such centres would lead to greater isolation of individuals. The council expressed disappointment in the proposals and felt that they were short sighted and would effect the most vulnerable and defenceless in our society. Members hoped that a very careful review of these facilities should be made before any closures were made. They were particularly disappointed in the proposed closure of Burrow House in Ilfracombe, which it was felt, provided a much needed and valuable service to the community. Members disputed the claim that the centre was underused not cost effective.

iii) Provision of meals service. – Members felt that the provision of such a basic provision of hot and nutritious food for the elderly was of great importance and that the practicalities of the proposed alternatives in rural areas were not acceptable. Community organisations and volunteers were not always available to assist and that older people were not always in a position to either source or cook meals in their own home.

51/2014 Matters Brought Forward with the Consent of the Chairman

Illegal parking of Taxis in Woolacombe Village Centre – the clerk was asked to contact the parking authorities and the taxi companies to help deter the parking of taxis in the village centre which it was felt was causing obstruction and nuisance.

Potholes – the clerk was asked to report potholes in the Parish and the general road state of the Esplanade .

Mortehoe Car Park Charges - members expressed dissatisfaction at the recent increase in prices on the car park and the impact that the significant rise was having on local businesses and tourism.

52/2014 Licence Applications: None

53/2014 Cheques for Approval and Signature.

The following cheque was signed prior to the meeting by two members:

24	103644	Mr K Ash	1556.32
24	103645	Petty Cash	250.00

The following cheques were signed at the meeting by two members:

17	103646	W & M Luncheon Club	134.40
17	103647	J & J Bins	138.66
17	103648	Mullacott Marine	62.24
17	103649	Gliddon & Squire	668.91
17	103650	N.T. Meadow Rent	180.00
17	103651	Crown Estates	1,050.00
17	103652	Plandscape	249.95
17	103653	Cancelled	
17	103654	Staples	99.35
17	103655	Jewson	1,971.88
17	103656	BFS	198.60
17	103657	Inland Rev Month 11	810.39
17	103658	S Hocking	1,158.99
17	103659	J Keiff	216.33

Part 2

Correspondence not requiring discussion is available in the Council Chamber

Part 3
Confidential Matters

Meeting ended at 840 p.m.