

WEST DOWN PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
West Down Parish Hall
Wednesday 7th August 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs S Ayre (Chair), M Reeves (Vice Chair), R Kenshole, T Verney, S Whitby and H Knight

Also present: Val Ford (Clerk) 1 member of the public.

Apologies/Approvals.

Apologies had been received from Cllr S Tanton

5307. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ayre declared an interest in Planning Application 78936, the Wind Turbine application at Mullacott.

5308. Public Participation

None.

5309. Approve & Sign Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd July 2024.

The Minutes had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **Cllr Verney proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd July 2024 be accepted as a true record which was seconded by Cllr Kenshole.** There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.

RESOLVED – THAT THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD JULY 2024 BE APPROVED AND THEY WERE DULY SIGNED.

5310. Matters Arising

5296 – NDC Climate & Environment Grant. Cllr Reeves had completed the first draft of the application form, with Terry King (Parish Hall Management Committee) being sent a copy. Terry King had made a few comments. Cllr Reeves hoped to finalise this tomorrow and will then send it to Mr King who will circulate this to the Parish Hall Committee members and Cllr Reeves will also circulate this to the Parish Councillors who had already given him permission to go ahead and submit when finalised. If there are any comments or additions these need to be given as soon as possible as Cllr Reeves wanted to get this application in as soon as possible. The Clerk will then submit this to NDC Grants department together with attachments.

5311. Planning Decisions

78659 – 5 South View Cottages, West Down, EX34 8NR. Certificate of lawful development. Approved.

78749 – Land Adjacent B3343, West Down. Change of use of agricultural building to a mixed use agriculture and private equestrian use. Approved.

5312. Planning Applications

a) To comment on the following planning applications.

78902 – Alterations, extension and remodelling to dwelling and ancillary accommodation together with replacement garage and woodshed at Little Comfort Farm, West Down, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2NJ.

Cllr Reeves referred to this application being contained within the existing house

boundary. He could not see any problem with this application. There were four local Consultees, with no one making any comment. **Cllr Reeves proposed that this application be approved which was seconded by Cllr Whitby.** There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF PLANNING APPLICATION 78902.

78673 – Retrospective application for the removal of damaged external rendered block wall and erection of new closed board wooden fence with access and associated works at Church Cottage, West Down, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 9NQ.

No concerns were raised about this retrospective planning application and no neighbours had commented. **Cllr Kenshole proposed that this application be approved which was seconded by Cllr Verney.** There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF PLANNING APPLICATION 78673.

Cllr Ayre left the room whilst the following planning application was discussed, with Cllrs Reeves taking over for this part of the meeting.

78936 – Variation of Condition 3 (Timescale) attached to planning permission 52212 (erection of one wind turbine (height 79.6 metres, height to hub 55.6 metres, blade diameter 48 metres) together with associated cabling works, erection of inverter house and creation of access track) to allow an extended timescale to 40 years for the continued use of the wind turbine at Wind Turbine at Philip Dennis Foodservice, Mullacott Industrial Estate, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 8PL.

Discussion took place about the original planning application 52212 being approved in November 2011. This wind turbine is approximately half way through its projected life span. Philip Dennis Foodservice are asking for a further time limit as they want to make some investment into the food service. The turbine only supplies them. They are a bigger business now and it is likely this will provide further employment. There were 25 local Mullacott Business Park Consultees with not one responding. **Cllr Verney proposed that this application be approved which was seconded by Cllr Kenshole.** There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.

RESOLVED – THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF PLANNING APPLICATION 78936.

b) To comment on any planning applications received after the Agenda was published.

None.

5313. Finances

a) To receive the balance in the bank accounts.

Balance in the Treasurer's Account as at 31.07.2024	£16,249.40
Balance in the Business Account as at 31.07.2024	£ 4,889.77

b) To receive and agree the invoices received for payment.

North Devon Council	Clerks Salary	£395.53	
	Admin Charge	£ 7.72	£ 403.25
North Devon Council - Dog Bin Emptying April to June 2024			£ 205.14
Mrs V A Ford – Colour & Black printer Ink			£ 39.49
PKF Littlejohn – External Audit Report			£ 252.00
Total Payment			£ 899.88

Cllr Knight proposed that these invoices should be paid which was seconded by Cllr Whitby. There was unanimous agreement to this proposal.

RESOLVED – THAT THE INVOICES TOTALLING £899.88 SHOULD BE PAID.

5314. Correspondence

- a) Email received from the PTFA at West Down School regarding the climbing frame and sand pit they had purchased from the Parish Council Small Grant Fund. This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Following discussion at the meeting it was agreed that the PTFA could keep the balance of the money which they had used for items of equipment for the school. The Clerk will contact the PTFA accordingly.
- b) Cllr Ayre had received an email from Jamie Pearce regarding Stang Lane. He wondered if the road closure for the planned electrical works would be an opportunity to carry out other essential maintenance work. This was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Ayre had responded to Mr Pearce thanking him for pointing out the issues, with some of them being outside the remit of the Parish Council but they can signpost where necessary. Cllr Ayre had reported the issues regarding pot holes but it seems these could not be found. Cllr Ayre had requested a meeting with C Cllr Davis to see what is going on regarding the main road as there have been accidents there.
- c) A reply had been received from the Royal Mail regarding the concerns raised about mail deliveries to West Down. This had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Royal Mail advised that they are doing all they can to improve the service as quickly as possible including recruiting additional posties for Ilfracombe Delivery Office. Once vacancies have been filled they are confident that mail will be consistently delivered to West Down six days a week. It was agreed that the Clerk would give this information to Mr Hookway who had raised this issue at the last Parish Council meeting.
- d) Email received from the shop requesting Road Safety Markings outside the shop. Copy circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. This will be discussed further at the September meeting.
- e) Email received from the History of Political Thought Journal, Exeter. This was about trying to find out how many Parish Councils in Devon, if any, have a ban on keeping either just roosters or chickens in general. It was agreed that this is not an issue in West Down.
- f) Email received from Ron Skinner inviting Councillors to a Public Meeting at Clovelly Parish Hall on the 31st July 2024 regarding the Regional Emergency

Response to Declared Climate Crisis. This had been circulated to Cllrs on the 11th July 2024.

g) Email received from Devon Communities Together thanking us for renewing our membership and enclosing our membership certificate. They wanted to remind the Parish Council that they have access to a wide range of services and support, discounts and communications.

5315. Any Other Business

a) Cllr Kenshole had been contacted by a Parishioner about refuse collection. There is a new driver who is refusing to go down past Peards House as he refuses to reverse back up the road. Residents have to leave their bins at Peards House. This is a steep hill for older people to pull their bins up. The Parishioner who reported this is trying to get the Supervisor to come out. If he does not get anywhere then maybe the Parish Council can try. Cllr Ayre had also had a conversation with the same Parishioner and suggested this be put on the Devon County Council Website to report as an issue. Cllr Kenshole will endeavour to find out if the Parishioner has had any success.

b) Cllr Whitby referred to the path down to Little Comfort and wondered if the vegetation could be cut before the Fun Run. Cllr Verney stated that the landowner would need to be contacted for permission. Cllr Ayre will make contact with the landowner.

c) Cllr Ayre referred to it being six months since ex-Cllr Squire resigned from the Parish Council. Cllr Kenshole will now close the email account.

d) Asset Register. Cllrs Ayre and Verney had done some work on this on Monday. A Teams meeting needs to be set up to look at the overall asset register and ensure it complies with the information in Julie Snooks' (Internal Auditor) report.

e) There had been two expressions of interest for the vacancy for Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer. Cllr Ayre will email Councillors the details of these. Cllr Ayre had sent out the Timeline for filling this role and suggested three Councillors be on the interview panel.

f) The Clerk will contact Tracey Blackmore (NDC Planning Department) to ensure she is coming to the September meeting to talk about Barn Conversions and Fallback.

The meeting closed at 7.46 pm