

Minutes of Morval Parish Council Meeting held at Widegates Village Hall on Wednesday 2 July 2025

Present: Councillors Kitson (Chair), D Kirkland, C Pearn, G Tamblyn, S Hutchins, S Murdoch, B Pengelly, Parish Clerk, Councillor M Gibbons (CC), 1 member of the public

25/90 Apologies for Absence

Councillors A Jackson, T Patterson, PCSO D Billing

25/91 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

None

25/92 Open Forum/Public Participation

M Wilmott gave the following reports.

(i) Problems as described by me

- Local affordable housing: initial plans agreed, then amended to (many) expensive houses
- NDP: largely ignored
- S106: promised, changes, delays, bankruptcy, new company/same people who acquire the assets but not liabilities
- Water pressure: low
- Sewage: overstretched, sight of sewage wagons parked in layby near school, waiting to get into site

(ii) Possible Solutions offered by me

- Affordable housing changes: exceptionally & developers carry all costs (inc. CC's appeal costs)
- NDP: needs to be effective, and strengthened if necessary
- S106: lodged as unrecoverable bond, with penalties (e.g. stop sales) if deadlines breached. 2nd bond if necessary (cover council costs if developers don't do work), returned if developer does the work
- water pressure & sewage disposal: need addressing at planning stage, with Utilities agreement required, (who carry the costs of any failure in agreed system upgrades).

(iii) Regarding Dark Skies

Dark Skies: other DS areas have made a significant difference to Winter economy. Cornwall could do so if there was a group of Cornish MPs (of whatever party) working together to assist this with government help (financial & otherwise) and liaising with Cornwall Council

(iv) Response from Anna Gelderd's office

We have written to Morval Parish Council about the ongoing issues in Widegates with water pressure fluctuations and the sewerage infrastructure. I have offered to contact SWW on their behalf to request an update on any plans to upgrade the facility and address pressure concerns.

Statistics from South West Water show that there were 31 sewage discharge incidents recorded in 2024. The discharges lasted for a total of 17 hours. As you know Treatment Works overflow into a tributary of the River Seaton. All of which is clearly not acceptable.

Regarding housing and infrastructure, I have written to the Minister asking for their comments on how current legislation and planning policy might be strengthened to:

- Ensure affordable housing commitments are upheld throughout the development process;
- Prevent post-approval amendments that reduce affordable housing provision;
- Link infrastructure improvements more robustly to planning approvals;
- Increase transparency and accountability in developer-community interactions.

As an Office we want to promote the cultural, environmental, and mental health benefits of Dark Skies and seek wider engagement and support for your activities and events. The team are working on a plan for such engagement and how to take this forward in my work with Cornwall Council. If you can help with this work by providing updates and diary dates, that would be appreciated.

Morval Playpark

The potential hazards associated with accessing the new playpark next to a main road:

- children coming from Trenode School and crossing the road
- children coming from Morview Road & Lydcott Crescent and crossing the road
- cars parking adjacent to the playpark, reducing effective road width and visibility

If a zebra crossing could be installed, the distinctive black and white striped markings of the zebra crossing, and the "Belisha beacons" would make drivers aware, and who would be prepared to stop and allow pedestrians (who automatically have the right of way on a zebra crossing) to cross safely. Furthermore, the zig-zag markings at crossings (where cars may not park) should ensure that drivers and pedestrians can see each other clearly.

A speedwatch reported had been circulated from J Collins. It was noted that a session along the A387 in Widegates village (both ways tested) on Tuesday, June 10, resulted in five vehicles (out of 132) being reported (i.e 3.7%) with speeds ranging from 26-42 mph. Unfortunately, there is now only one SpeedWatch volunteer in the Widegates village area and, regrettably, that has led to the Police requisitioning the costly camera equipment (and re-deploying it in another area of South East Cornwall). With the opening of the new Morval Parish Play Park in Widegates, the continuation of the Community SpeedWatch group might be considered more vital than ever. Anyone who would like more information about the Community SpeedWatch programme should, in the first instance, contact the Clerk of Morval Parish Council.

25/93 Devon and Cornwall Police Report

PCSO D Billing reported that during June 2025 there were two crimes reported the Devon and Cornwall Police within the Parish, these were:

- 1 x Criminal Damage – which has been investigated and now closed.
- 1 x Dwelling Burglary – Investigations still ongoing.

We have carried out several patrols of the Parish including some on foot, including the play park. I am looking at holding a surgery within the parish soon, this will be for anyone to attend if they have issues or simply want to say hello. When dates are known I shall advertise them on Looe Police Facebook page. If any issues are raised at the meeting that require Police involvement, please send me the details.

25/94 Cornwall Councillor Report

Councillor Gibbons reported that bus contract expires in 2028 and concerns are still being followed up. Ground investigations on Sandplace have shown significant issues. Traffic management systems have been optimised to reduce delays. CC are trying to limit the impact of traffic lights on Station Road Looe during September. Councillor Gibbons has followed up about the encroaching vegetation on the pavement to the school. The No 73 bus route was a 2 year trial which has found not to be cost effective.

Councillor Gibbons offered to follow up the following items raised:-

A suggestion to cut hedges half way down rather than all the way to the top.

The latest situation on the two affordable houses at 12 and 16 Farriers Way.

The state of the green lane that runs to Tregorland Bridge that is deteriorating and not safe.

Councillor Gibbons will be meeting PCSO D Billing about parking on Terras Bridge.

25/95 Minutes of the meeting held on the 4.6.25

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 4.6.25 which were confirmed as a true and correct record.

25/96 Planning

Applications

The following concerns were raised with the pre-application enquiry for Land opposite Harding Meadow, Widegates, PL13 1QB. The proposal states " treats surface water runoff onsite via infiltration (soakways) and discharge the foul water to the public sewer outside Chapel Row 100m NW of the site". Chapel row already has water pressure problems and also has some issues with sewage as it is. Our concerns are that it will negatively affect current homes which already have poor pressure and any new homes will also likely have problems with this too. The sewage capacity is also at its limit causing ongoing problems for which we have received many complaints.

There were no objections to the following application:-

- PA25/03909 Tudor Lodges Morval Construction of three additional disabled holiday lodges, new managers house, reception/office, laundry and storage facilities, extension to driveway, parking, septic tank and outdoor hydrotherapy pool without compliance with condition 5 of decision notice PA14/01441 dated 29.04.2014

25/97 Finance

It was resolved to approve the financial statements and payments that had been circulated including expenditure totalling £1322.19.

25/98 Play Park update

- Farriers Way Management Ltd have proposed a lining scheme. CC have asked for further information and the Clerk has asked the management company to provide photos of the issue and mark on a map the location of proposed lines.
- The quote for additional fencing has not been received and has been chased up.

25/99 Grounds maintenance contract

A proposal for up to 3 hours per month for grounds maintenance on the play area was made. Councillor Kitson to liaise with the contractor.

25/100 Tree on The Green

A dead tree had been removed off the Green and the gardening club had offered to replace.

25/101 Policies

It was resolved to accept the Protocol on recording of meetings with one amendment.

25/102 Correspondence for action

- Grace Community Church Street Signs. Noted no objections were received.

25/103 Clerk's Report

- Nothing to report

25/104 Correspondence for information (Circulated to all)

- Community conversation with Anna Gelderd, South East Cornwall MP & WWF - Climate, Nature and Food
- South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership 23 June
- Agenda for East Sub-Area Planning Committee, Monday, 7th July, 2025, 10.00 am
- Safe AGM Tomorrow 25th June
- Committee Notification - PA23/04709
- 19 Shortacross View, Widegates, Looe, Cornwall, PL13 1QY
- CALC training bulletin
- Current planning consultations - Briefing Note - June 2025

- Citizens Advice Cornwall update
- Town Regeneration & Investment Programme
- NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly ICB Patient Transport Options
- Town and Parish Council Newsletter: 6 June 2025
- CC Street Trading Policy Review
- Liskeard CCF Funding Drop-in Share 2

25/105 Time, Date and Venue of next Parish Council Meeting

7.00pm on Wednesday 3.9.25 in Widegates Village Hall