

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the 17th February 2010 at 7.30pm
in The Parish Hall**

Present

R Kingdon (Chairman)
M Pine (Vice Chairman)
P Bonds
J Friend
R George
M Hayward

Officer: G Dwyer (Clerk)

Also in Attendance North Devon Councillor F J Tucker

Feb11/1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Vogler and County Councillor A Davis.

Feb11/2 Public question Time

There were approximately thirty two members of the public present who intimated that they were present for the planning application for Glebe Farm, which was to be considered later on in the agenda.

A member of the public commented about the pothole adjacent to Pond Cottage in the Village.

Feb11/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th January 2011

RESOLVED

That the minutes as previously circulated be approved subject to it being noted that minute Jan11/18... be amended to show that the hedges that needed trimming were those of the Water Board at Coxleigh.

Feb11/4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising although it was noted that the water seepage adjacent to Cross Sykes had ceased and that the gully at Langford Hill was still blocked.

Feb11/5 Matters Brought Forward from the Previous Meeting

To be considered as listed agenda items.

Feb11/5 Cheques for Payment

A cheque for the Clerk's salary for January 2011 for £100 and the fee of £5.00 for a registry search for the Village Green site were signed at the meeting. **RESOLVED**
That the cheques as listed above be signed

With members permission the Chairman brought forward the report from the Police Representative to this point in the meeting.

Feb11/ 6 Report of the Police Representative

PC Ladley reported that there had been 7 incidents in January including a vehicle running into the bank. Two traffic light failures and a traffic incident involving an equestrian.

February saw a similar number of incidents including a driver using a phone whilst moving, one incident of dangerous driving, one incident of sheep that had been reported missing later being found and one silent 999 call.

Feb11/7 Questions to the Police Representative

In response to a question from a Councillor, PC Ladley said he had no knowledge of an incident at Yelston Close where dog handlers had been involved. It was thought this could be a training exercise.

RESOLVED

That the Police Report be noted and PC Ladley be thanked for his presence.

Feb11/8 Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor had sent her apologies for this meeting and the Clerk undertook to attach her report to the signed copy of the minutes.

Feb11/9 Report of the District Councillor

Councillor J Tucker reported that:

- Nomination packs for local elections would be available on March 14th and the election was on May 5th.
- The enforcement section of the Planning Department at NDC was working satisfactorily although a member of that department had transferred to the main planning office.
- Councillor Tucker outlined the savings that had been made in North Devon's budget including reductions of £35k in the grant to the Festival; a reduction of £55k to North Devon Plus; a reduction of £50k to North Devon Theatre and other budget savings amounted to £15k. It was noted that the cessation of the car lease scheme at North Devon Council was showing projected savings of £200k.
- It was likely that the advertisement of planning applications in the North Devon Journal would end.

Feb11/10 Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions.

Feb11/11 Correspondence

The Clerk tabled general correspondence for consideration by Councillors in particular he drew Councillors attention to:

1. Poll Cards – a request from North Devon Council as to whether the Parish Council required separate poll cards for the election on May 6, the cost would be borne wholly by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED

No poll cards were required.

2. Street Collection permit in aid of the British Legion Nov 2011

Feb11/12 Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that two planning applications had been received in addition to the planning application for the dwelling and garages at Glebe, Shirwell.

1. Application No. 51245 Extension to dwelling including covered patio and hot tub and change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage (amended description and plans) at the Tower View – Shirwell

RESOLVED

To recommend approval

2. Application no. 51735 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 49180 to allow erection of wind turbine of alternative design (10kw, total height=20.345 metres, height to hub=15.545 metres, lade diameter=9.6 metres) at Parkhill Farm Shirwell Barnstaple

RESOLVED

To recommend approval

3. Application 51468 Erection of 6 dwellings and garages at the Glebe, Shirwell

With members approval the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable members of the public to speak about the application prior to Councillor's formal consideration.

Councillor Tucker in his role as District Councillor reminded parishioners that he was there to hear their views on this application but stressed that he must keep an open mind. He also reminded those present that they could write to the planning officer with their views if they so desired.

Members of the public made the following points:

- The area covered by the planning application may not be totally in the applicant's ownership, which raises the question of continuous use by members of the Parish.
- Ownership had already been questioned on a previous application by this applicant.
- Loss of the lay-by would be a major blow to the Village Hall as this was their main parking area and would be regarded as the loss of a community asset.
- It was noted that the lay-by was in use as a 'stone depot' in the 1930's.
- It would change the character of that part of the Village.
- It would lead to a significant increase in traffic.
- Consideration would have to be given to drainage problems and over development.
- It would increase the Village boundary area.
- There are pinch necks already with traffic access to the Village and this would exacerbate those.
- Parking from these houses could well overflow onto other sites.
- Concern was expressed at the site layout and the way there seemed to be discrimination between open market and local needs housing.
- Parishioners felt that the application did not contain sufficient detail and some of the detail could be inaccurate.
- Questions were asked regarding the nature of the local needs housing and concern was expressed that there was no indication whether it would be for sale or retained (rented) by a landlord although there was also the possibility of shared equity.

At this point, the Chairman resumed the meeting under Standing Orders.

Members discussed the application in detail and it was

RESOLVED

To recommend **refusal** of the application pending information on the following points:

- Access to the site
- Concerns over the size and nature of the development
- Ownership of the lay-by
- The way it would relate within the neighbourhood

- Onsite management for the layout and site line issues
- Problems with the necessity to remove trees

The Clerk to request a site meeting with the planning officer prior to the next meeting of the Parish Council on the 10 March at 7pm when the planning application would be reconsidered and a final resolution made.

4. Trayne Farm Development

The Clerk distributed copies of the brochure for the Trayne Farm Development for Councillors to consider.

RESOLVED

To consider this matter in detail at the next meeting.

Feb11/13 Planning Decisions

Planning decisions had been received for

Application 51290 change of use of shop and store to form child care play room and store at Shirwell Stores, Shirwell, Barnstaple – **approved**

Application 51543 Agricultural building works prior notification for erection of agricultural building at field no. 7889 Glebelands, Shirwell, Barnstaple – **prior approvals not required**

Application 49079 Approval of detail in respect of discharge of conditions 6(landscaping proposals) 9 & 10 (access and visibility splays) 11 (parking facilities) attached to planning permission 47810 Cott Down Farm, Shirwell, Barnstaple.

Feb11/14 Parish Council Web Site – Position Statement

Councillor Mark Pine confirmed that the invoice had been received by the Clerk and he was consulting with Net Tecs regarding the content. The Clerk reminded the Council that he needed to submit the invoice to North Devon by the 9th March.

PART 2

The Chairman moved that

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw.

Feb11/15 Village Green Registration

PART 1

Feb11/16 Report of Councillors

There were none

Feb11/17 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing particular to report other than the fact that he needed to upgrade his computer.

RESOLVED

To make a contribution to the costs when these were known.

Feb11/18 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council

County Councillors Report

Spending Cuts of £54.6m

This follows the Government's decision to cut local councils' budgets by 27 per cent over the next four years.

In the 2011-12 financial year, Devon's support from the Government is being cut by 12.1 per cent or £26 million.

But the overall spending cuts are greater as the county council has to cover additional costs arising from spending pressures such as an ageing population and increased prices for landfill.

There will be cash increases for social care for older people and people with disabilities, children in care and children with special needs.

The direct grant to schools will increase and no libraries will be closed.

The budget for Children and Young People's Services will fall by over £14 million from £109.4 million this year to £95.1 million in 2011/12.

The Government's Early Intervention Grant to Devon has been cut by 17 per cent.

This will mean a reduction in early year's services of nearly £3 million. Opening hours at children's centres may be reduced but no children's centres will be shut.

There will also be reductions in school transport, youth work, information, advice and guidance services and the Learning and Development Partnership, which works with schools. Subsidies to Devon Cleaning and Catering Services will also be reduced.

Environment and economy will be reduced by 11 per cent before allowing for Devon taking on the cost of over-60's concessionary travel from the district councils.

The highways service budget will be reduced by £8 million. This will mean reductions in the standards of maintenance for bridges, footpaths and public rights of way.

But there will be an extra £2.5 million to repair potholes and other safety defects on the highways network.

Devon is reducing its contribution to the safety camera partnership and increasing some fees and charges.

Support for bus services is being reduced by £1.3 million from £7.7 million. This will involve cuts to subsidies for less well used leisure services and buses operating to schools, primarily for pupils who are not entitled to free school transport.

Every effort is being made to maintain services to rural areas but frequencies may well be reduced.

Waste disposal is being cut by £2.1 million which will mean the introduction of new charges at recycling centres, the closure of recycling centres at Dawlish and Buckfastleigh and the ending of the rural skip service.

The reduction in Devon's adult and community services' budget is much less than other departments are being required to make because the county's elderly population is growing. The budget will be reduced by 4.75 per cent from £215.7 million to £205.4 million.

However there will be a cut of £3.8 million in the £19.9 million targeted support budget which supports people across all social care and socially excluded groups.

Reductions are planned in all areas of spending on information, learning and arts which includes adult and community learning, the Devon Record Offices and support to arts and culture as well as libraries. A restructuring of the library service and savings in management costs are expected to save £2.2 million.

No council tax increase for Devon County Council

Council Tax will be frozen for Devon County Council taxpayers this year.

The authority is being recommended to set a 0 per cent increase for 2011/12 at its Budget meeting on tomorrow. (17th)

It follows the lowest ever council tax rise of 1.98 per cent in the current financial year.

The Government is tackling the unprecedented national deficit they inherited and Devon County Council's financial support has been reduced by 28 per cent over four years.

It would take a council tax increase in double figures to mitigate the bulk of the savings we are having to make. As it is, the Government will give us £8.1 million to compensate for the revenue we would have gained from a two and a half per cent council tax rise.

The authority's jobs freeze has already reduced the number of staff by 800 with a similar figure planned for the next two years.

*Andrea Davis
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