

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the 10th November 2011 at 7.30pm
in The Parish Hall**

Present

M Pine (Chairman)
J Friend (Vice Chairman)
Mrs N Incedon
Mrs D Lewis
D Tucker

Officer: G Dwyer (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from R Pelling

Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th October 2011

RESOLVED

That the minutes as previously circulated be approved.

Public Question Time

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable members of the public to ask questions of the Council.

There were no questions asked but a comment was made by a parishioner present that a revised planning application for The Glebe had been submitted and would come before the Council for consideration in the near future.

The Chairman resumed the meeting under Standing Orders

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising other than those already on the agenda.

Matters Brought Forward from the Previous Meeting

There were no matters brought forward

Cheques for Payment

A cheque for £50 in payment of the registration fee to Land Registry for the Village Green was signed at the Council meeting. It was noted that this replaced the two cheques in the sum of £10 and £40 which had become time expired.

Members examined the bank account and it was noted that the current account was standing at £3,290.63.

Precept and Parish Grant 2012/13

Deferred to later in the meeting

Report of the County Councillor

Deferred to later in the meeting as the County Councillor had been delayed at another meeting.

Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker confirmed:

- the amended planning application for the Glebe, Shirwell would be before the Council in the near future.
- North Devon's waste day for the collection of electrical equipment was very successful and members were reminded that the District Council still allowed one bulk pick up per annum free of charge although bulk items could be deposited free of charge at Roundswell.
- The District Councillor commented on the amount of work that parishioners who did not return their electoral registration forms caused the District Council and it was agreed to place an article in the Shirwell Parish Magazine encouraging people to return their forms.
- The uPVC panel feed in tariff was being cut by Central Government after the 8th December 2011. Any domestic installations that needed expediting could seek help from Councillor Tucker.
- There were no major planning enforcement issues in the Shirwell area.
- Councillor Tucker congratulated the Police on their fast response to the recent poaching incident in Shirwell.

Questions to the District Councillor;

- A member of the public commented on the amount of poaching that was going on in the parish.
- Concern was expressed at a deer carcass being dismembered adjacent to the Alms Houses on the main road through Shirwell.

Report of Police Representative

PC Andy Laidlaw thanked the community for their help in the recent poaching issue where two men had been arrested and released on bail and their firearms seized.

There had been 6 reported incidents which were 1 complaint regarding the police which was not upheld, 3 poaching incidents, 1 burglary at Snapper scout hut, 1 false 999 call (made by a young child) and 1 incident of anti social behaviour.

Questions to the Police Representative

Council commented on the chaos that had resulted in the way the road blockage at Blakewell had been handled where diversions had been made via the minor Road leading to Shirwell A 39 which had created too high a traffic flow for that small road.

PC Andy Laidlaw to check with the traffic division to see if alternative routes could be found.

The County Councillor arrived at this point in the meeting.

Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor A Davis spoke to her report which is attached to these minutes.

- The gritting routes had been adjusted to take account of the feed back after the previous year's snow falls; only one change was made in this area which was to Lynton.
- In answer to a question it was confirmed that it cost £2,500 per occasion to grit North Devon.
- Devon County Council Childrens Services had received an OffSted report indicating that it was 'well' managed.

- Bus services – there was a £5 million shortfall on concessionary fares and it was feared the bus services might be reduced.
- The A399 was closed until the 19th December.

Questions to the County Councillor

The County Councillor was thanked for arranging for the clearing of drains in Shirwell.

Correspondence

There was none.

Planning Applications

Planning application No. 52844 Agricultural building works for prior notification for erection of agricultural shed for housing of livestock & for storage at Hartpiece Farm, Shirwell Barnstaple

RESOLVED

To defer consideration until further and more specific details were received.

Planning Decisions

There were none

Parish Council Web Site – Position Statement

It was noted that the Parish Council web site was now live and would gradually work it way up the 'google' search engine process. The address to be included in the parish magazine.

Village Green Registration

The Clerk had received a further query from Land Registry which he would answer in the next two days.

Precept and Parish Grant 2012/13 (deferred from earlier in the meeting)

The Parish Clerk tabled the correspondence from North Devon Council regarding the precept and the Parish grants.

He also tabled a letter from the Leader of the District Council, Councillor Greenslade which indicated the they were considering phasing out the Parish Grant over the next three years. Members of the Council discussed the options open to them including resisting the reduction in the Parish Grant and increasing the precept to take up the shortfall. It was noted that the Parish Council's were not capped whereas the District and County Councils were.

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable Councillor Tucker to speak.

Councillor Tucker advised Shirwell Parish Council that other parish Councils were considering increasing the precept to take up the shortfall created by the possible loss of the Parish Grant.

The Chairman resumed Standing Orders

After further discussion of the options available to the Parish Council it was

RESOLVED

The Clerk be instructed to write to Councillor Greenslade expressing the Councils concern at this proposal as these Grants are directly distributed to local, needy organisations.

It was noted that the Parish Council did understand the national problem and would accept a reduction in line with the reduction made in grant levels to the District Council. In particular it was noted that once the grant had gone it would never be reinstated.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Grant Application form should be put at the level of last year (£675) and the precept should stay the same (£2510)

Report from Councillors on their Specific Area of Interest

Snow Warden - grit had now been delivered to the Snow Warden's residence and would be distributed around the village as required. Councillor Pine apologised for not seeking approvals from the Council before replying to P May but it was

RESOLVED

- Councillor Dean Tucker would take responsibility for distributing salt to temporary storage bins with the help of the Chairman. It was also noted that the Parish Emergency plan would require the Parish Council to take control of emergency matters in the village for a limited period unless they were cut off by snow or other weather conditions.
- Councillor Pine will email emergency plans prepared by other Councils.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Progress Report

Councillor Friend informed the meeting that preparations were ongoing and they were attempting to source 'Diamond Jubilee Mugs'.

Report from Councillors

There were none

Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing particular to report.

Urgent Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....