

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 12th August at 7.30
in the Parish Hall**

Present

R Kingdon

M Pine (vice chairman)

P Bonds

J Friend

R George

M Hayward

R Vogler

Officer G Dwyer (Clerk)

Also in attendance District Councillor F Tucker

August10/1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

August10/2 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present and no questions asked

August10/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th July 2010

RESOLVED That the minutes as previously circulated be approved and signed by the Chairman

August10/4 Matters Arising

Concern was expressed at the level of Bus service to Shirwell and the fact that the Flashing Speed indicator was still not working

RESOLVED to raise these issues with County Councillor Davis.

August10/5 Cheques for Payment

RESOLVED the following cheques for payment be approved, Clerks salary Jul 2010 (£100.00) and Internal Auditors fee (£ 30.00). A list of cheques paid to be attached to the signed minutes

August10/6 Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Davis had apologised for her non-attendance as she was away on Holiday. Her report had been emailed to members in advance of the meeting and will be attached to the minutes.

August10/7 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions other than those already raised under 'matter arising'

August10/8 Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker reported as follows

- He praised the excellent Village Show held the previous weekend
- He was pleased to report that the Planning Enforcement Officer had achieved partial success with the signs at the entrance to Coxleigh Barton, the Officer was continuing to work at achieving an acceptable solution
- He expressed concern that the Police liaison meetings were being stopped and queried what would replace them
- He advised Councillors of the problem of 'Sudden Oak Death' that was affecting trees in the west Country

Sudden Oak Death (Extract from advisory note)

*There are two categories of hosts for *Phytophthora ramorum*: [bark canker hosts](#) and [foliar hosts](#). The bark canker hosts are tankoaks and oaks that become infected on the woody portions of a tree. Cankers on the trunk of these trees are the most damaging, and often lead to death. Additionally, diseased oak and tanoak trees are often attacked by other organisms once they are weakened by *P. ramorum*. These secondary invaders can also kill the tree, and include such organisms as *Hypoxylon thourasianum* (a fungus that decays sapwood), and bark beetles. In foliar and twig hosts, symptoms can range from leaf spots to twig dieback, but these hosts rarely die from the infection.*



- It was noted that the requirement for waste collection bins to be on the street by 7.00am might cause problems for elderly residents.
- Discussion about the amount of rubbish thrown from cars in the Blakewell area could not find a realistic solution although it was **RESOLVED** to place an article in the Parish Magazine pointing out the problems it caused with the overall message of 'Don't do it'

August10/9 Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions

August10/10 Police Report

There was no Representative from the Police present and no report

August10/11 Questions to the Police

There were no questions

August10/12 Correspondence

General correspondence had been emailed to members in advance of the meeting

August10/13 Planning

Application No. 50752 Erection of Air rifle & Archery ranges at N Devon Scout District Riversmead Goodleigh Barnstaple

RESOLVED to recommend **approval** subject to the Planning Office being satisfied that all health and safety requirements would be met and adequate warning signage would be in place

Application No. 50750 Retrospective application for erection of Amenity Shelter and Activity Tunnels at North Devon Scout District Collard Bridge Snapper Barnstaple

RESOLVED to recommend **approval** although the Parish Council were concerned at receiving a retrospective application from a National Organisation

August10/14 Planning Decisions

Application No 49070 Erection of 1 wind turbine on 15 metre mast (further amended plans) at Hartpiece Farm, Shirwell, Barnstaple **APPROVAL**

August10/15 Reports from Councillors

Councillor Pine briefly outlined the content of the 'character assessment of North Devon' seminar which he had attended as the Councils representative and undertook to email the landscape assessment map for their information

Councillor Bonds raised the problem with the lay-by at Burr ridge which had still not been improved

Councillor Hayward advised members that a sign would be erected indicating that Quad Bikes and Horses were not allowed on the footpath between East Plaistow and Upcott farm

Councillor Kingdom asked that the Clerk report the overgrown condition of a hedge owned by the water Board in the Coxleigh Wood area

August10/16 Parish Council Website/Minute posting

Members received a short presentation from Messrs Thompson regarding their proposals for a Shirwell Parish Community website, which included estimates of costs to the Council. In broad terms the costs would be an initial cost of approx £60.00 and an annual costs of approx £60.00 to cover minute posting etc.

RESOLVED Councillors would consult with Shirwell residents to see if it was generally felt a good choice of expenditure for public money. The item to be considered again in September 2010

August 10/17 Urgent Business

Councillor Pine advised members that there was a deadline for registering Village Greens.

RESOLVED The Clerk to deal with this matter as soon as possible

The Clerk had received a letter from North Devon Council offering the option dealing with Precept setting electronically.

RESOLVED The Clerk advise them that they wish to take up this option

Signed

Chairman

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report August 2010

Smartrider bus pass extended across Devon

The Smartrider bus pass scheme is being extended across the county from the next academic year by Devon County Council to offer even more benefits to post 16 students.

The Devon Smartrider pass is tailored to students entitled to assistance from the County Council or their local college on their journey to and from college.

As well as receiving support with their college journey, students across the county will also be able to use the pass to receive a number of benefits during off-peak times. This includes evenings (after 6pm) on college days, all day at weekends and college holidays on services.

Three companies have agreed to offer free off-peak travel at these times - First Devon & Cornwall, First Hants and Dorset and Tally Ho!

Another 12 will offer 1/3 discount off the adult fare during these off-peak times - Axe Valley, Beacon Bus, Carmel Coaches, Country Bus, Dartline, Filers Travel, First Somerset & Avon, Hatch Green Coaches, Plymouth Citybus, Stagecoach Southwest, Turners Tours and TW Coaches.

The Devon Smartrider pass offers plenty of benefits for post 16 students in full time education right across Devon which makes it fairly flexible and value for money for travelling at evenings and weekends. This scheme is a great example of partnership working with bus companies and these additional off-peak benefits are being provided at no additional cost to the County Council."

The pass is also valid to and from some towns outside Devon including Bude, Chard, Dulverton, Launceston, Lyme Regis, Saltash, Wellington or Taunton.

Entitled students who apply for a pass will be able to start using it as soon as they receive it during mid to late August.

For further information or to find out about entitlements to assisted transport www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport or 0845 155 1019. For public transport information Traveline -www.traveline.org.uk or telephone 0871 2002233.

New pilot created for unemployed young people

A new pilot initiative to support unemployed young people is being created by Devon County Council in partnership with training providers and organisations across the county.

Dream Catchers is part of Backing Young Devon, a whole range of programmes supported by the Council as part of its ongoing investment in young people's development opportunities.

The scheme aims to target young people who face particular barriers to employment, for example, through living with a learning disability, ineligibility for existing schemes, or having come out of care.

With the government withdrawing funding for existing schemes such as the Future Jobs Fund due to budgetary constraints, the Dream Catchers proposal is timely. Bringing together training providers, Job Centre Plus, employers, education providers and voluntary organisations, the scheme will create work placements, training opportunities and a variety of other measures to help young people develop work skills and ambition.

One of the programmes supported by the Council is Young Enterprise, a business education charity set up in 1963 to encourage business skills development in schools and to prepare young people for the world of work.

Devon primary schools continue to improve their SATs results

Devon's primary schools have enjoyed another year of sustained exam results which has seen them continue to improve on national performance.

Provisional figures released by the Department for Education show that in the 2010 SATs tests in English and maths, the county continued to improve its overall performance and beat national results.

The percentage of pupils achieving the benchmark Level 4 or above in both English and maths in Devon was 82 per cent in 2010 – up two points in maths and one point in English on last year's county results.

That compares with a national figure of 80 per cent for maintained schools in both English and maths this year.

The South West regional figures are 81 per cent in English and 80 per cent in maths.

This is once again a highly creditable performance for Devon schools despite the fact that they are the fourth worst funded in the country.

Devon currently stands at 148 out of 151 local authorities for the amount of money received from the Government to educate the county's children.

Every child in a Devon school is now worth £4,005 compared with a national average of £4,398 – a difference of £393.

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