

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council  
held on the 9th December 2010 at 7.30pm  
in The Parish Hall**

**Present**

R Kingdon (Chairman)  
M Pine (Vice Chairman)  
J D Friend  
M Heywood  
R Vogler (part meeting)

Officer: G Dwyer (Clerk)

Also in Attendance for part meeting, North Devon Councillor F J Tucker, County Councillor Mrs Andrea Davis and 5 members of the public.

**Dec10/1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from P Bonds and R George. And PCSO Woolaway

**Dec10/2 Public question Time**

A member of the public questioned why the salt/grit bin at the entrance to Shirwell Village was empty and it was noted that this had been full but had been used during the recent cold spell. It would be refilled in the near future.

**Dec10/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2010**

**RESOLVED**

That the attendance list be amended to read Councillor J D Friend.  
That the minutes as previously circulated subject to the one amendment, be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Dec10/4 Matters Arising**

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

**Dec10/5 Matters Brought Forward from Previous Meeting**

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

*Councillor R Vogler arrived at this point of the meeting and apologised for being late.*

**Dec10/6 Cheques for Payment**

A cheque for the Clerk's salary for November (£100).

**RESOLVED**

That the cheque as listed above be signed

**Dec10/7 Report of the County Councillor**

The Clerk reported that the County Councillor had forwarded her report to him and intimated that she might be late as she had a County Council meeting in Exeter. The Council agreed to defer consideration of this item until later in the meeting.

### **Dec10/8 Report of the District Councillor**

The Council agreed to defer consideration of this item until later in the meeting.

### **Dec10/9 Report of the Police Representative**

The Clerk reported that the Police representative was on an assignment in Barnstaple and had sent his apologies. He had undertaken to send the incident statistics through to the Clerk who would incorporate them in the minutes of the meeting.

### **Dec10/10 Correspondence**

The Clerk listed the correspondence received which was:

- Little Treasurers Children's Trust, House to House Collection – Mr D Collins 01.12.10 – 30.11.11
- SWLCA Democracy Pack – elections 2011 encouraging people to vote (to be incorporated into the Shirwell parish web site when prepared.
- North Devon council Standards Committee meeting minutes
- Village Green
- Register of Electors

### **Dec10/11 Planning Applications**

**Application 51290** Change of use from shop to store to form child care play room and store, Shirwell Stores, Shirwell, Barnstaple.

*With members approval, the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the applicant to explain the application.*

The applicant informed Council that she and her husband had attempted to run the village stores for one year but it had not been financially viable. She was now applying to turn the rooms that had originally been part of the store into a child care area and play rooms and hoped to be able to alter the rating of the premises to a residential property as against a business property.

*The Chairman then resumed the meeting under Standing Orders*

Members discussed the implications of losing the store as a business unit but accepted that they could only consider the application in front of them.

#### **RESOLVED**

To recommend approval

### **Dec10/12 Planning Decisions**

There were no planning decisions

### **Dec10/13 Parish Council Web Site**

Councillor Mark Pine reported on the progress with the preparation of the web site. Councillors discussed the content of the web site and it was agreed that the Councillors contact page would not contain their email address but address and telephone numbers only.

Councillor Pine to ask the web site designer to invoice the Council as soon as possible to enable the grant application to be made to North Devon Council.

#### **RESOLVED**

- Councillor Pine's comments be noted and he be thanked for his efforts.
- The web site designer be asked to invoice the Council as soon as possible.

*County Councillor Mrs Andrea Davis arrived at this point in the meeting and apologised for being late.*

### **Dec10/14 Precept and Parish Grant**

Councillors noted that they had discussed the precept and parish grant at the previous meeting and confirmed that the parish grant be set at £675. They discussed the precept and took the view that they should attempt to make what savings they could in the current economic climate and

#### **RESOLVED**

To recommend the precept to be £2,305

### **Dec10/15 Report of County Councillor**

The County Councillor apologised for her late arrival and spoke to her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

In addition County Councillor David advised Council that the gritter driver who had had the bad accident on Zig Zag bends, Arlington was recovering well and hoped to be moved to North Devon Hospital but would be still in hospital over Christmas.

#### **RESOLVED**

The County Councillors report be noted and she be asked to send the parish Council's best wishes to the gritter driver for his speedy and complete recovery.

### **Dec10/16 Questions to the County Councillor**

- The County Councillor was thanked for getting Oakwell Road gritted and it was noted that lorries were now able to get through.
- It was noted that some salt bins are empty and need re-filling and she undertook to chase this.

*District Councillor J Tucker arrived at this point in the meeting and apologised for being late.*

### **Dec10/17 Village Green Registration**

*Councillor m Pine declared a personal interest in this as some 35 years ago his parents had put a footpath across what was then the Village Green. His family no longer lived in the property so did not have a further interest.*

It was noted that the entrance to the bungalow was now wider than it had been a month ago.

*With members approval the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow Councillor Tucker to speak to the meeting.*

Members together with Councillor Tucker, talked through the history of this application and it was noted that Councillor George had met with a legal advisor at North Devon Council (Mr M Smart) on this application.

After discussion as to the implications of registering an area greater than that that had been greened up until the last two to three years, it was

*The Chairman resumed the meeting under Standing Orders*

#### **RESOLVED**

1. The Clerk be instructed to write to the people though to be responsible regarding the accumulation of rubbish on the Village Green.
2. The Clerk to proceed with the registration of that area which contained the Village pump including the area that had now been appropriated by the adjacent ex Alms House.

3. Councillor Kingdon to attend a meeting with Mr Smart (NDC Legal representative) at a time to be arranged by North Devon Councillor J Tucker.

### **Dec10/18 Report of District Councillor**

Councillor Tucker again apologised for being late stating he had been at other meetings.

He explained that there were further reductions to cost in North Devon Council including a recommendation that the car loan scheme be stopped which should save approximately £250,000.

He also commented on the sum of money raised by Loxhore for the Air Ambulance and encouraged Shirwell Parish to carry out a similar exercise. In particular it was noted that the Air Ambulance attended the gritter driver after his accident.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Tucker for his report.

### **RESOLVED**

That his report be noted.

### **Dec10/19 Questions to the District Councillor**

There were none

### **Dec10/20 Report of Councillors**

- Councillors commented on the bad build up of ice at Langford Hill due to the accumulation of leaves mixing with water.
- It was noted that there was water on the road at Cross Sykes Due a pond leaking from Mill Wood.

The Clerk undertook to report these on the Devon County Council web site.

### **Dec10/21 Clerks Report**

The Clerk had nothing to report other than the contributions he had made to the meeting.

### **Dec10/22 Urgent Business**

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

**Shirwell Parish Council**  
**County Councillors Report**  
**December 2010**

**Underage alcohol sales fall in North Devon**

Devon County Council's Trading Standards Team and Devon and Cornwall Police have praised the efforts of license holders in North Devon to dramatically reduce the sale of alcohol to underage children.

Recent test purchasing exercises carried out in Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and Fremington have revealed that underage sales have fallen in the area. Of the twenty premises visited during the operation, only one sold alcohol to the 14 year old volunteer.

Previous checks carried out across Devon found 15% of retail shops and 40% of pubs to have sold alcohol to young people.

**Devon's unemployment figures down year on year**

Unemployment in Devon rose for the first time in seven months – but has fallen since this time last year.

The number of people claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) climbed from 8,188 in September to 8,215 in October, representing a 0.3 % increase.

This bucks the trend seen regionally and nationally where JSA continued to fall in October – by 1.6 % for the UK and 1 % for the South West.

However, year on year, the Devon figure has fallen by 14.8 % from 9,645 people claiming JSA last October, compared to 10.5 % nationally.

The slight increase in the monthly figures could be due to seasonal employment coming to an end while Christmas-related jobs may not have started in time to reflect October's claimant count.

There were 5,474 new job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in October, up from 4,332 in August.

East Devon, Mid Devon, South Hams and West Devon have all seen slight decreases in the number of people claiming JSA, with the highest decrease (3.9 %) in Mid Devon. Exeter, North Devon, Teignbridge and Torridge have seen increases in the number of people claiming JSA between September and October. The largest increase was in North Devon (5.2 %).

**Council welcomes rural health and wellbeing plan**

An NHS Devon strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in rural areas of Devon has been welcomed by Devon County Council's Cabinet.

The strategy sets out Devon's vision to improve the overall health, wellbeing and quality of life for all people living in rural areas, with a focus on reducing inequalities in health and reducing inequities in health and social care provision.

The aim of the strategy is to enable all organisations that impact on the health and wellbeing of local people to gain a better understanding of their needs, look at the barriers and opportunities to improve health, and develop or redesign services alongside local communities to meet local need.

The report analyses the social and geographical makeup of the county. With 90% of its land area defined as 'rural', Devon is the seventh most sparsely populated county in England, with 52% of its population living in rural areas.

There is a higher than average proportion of pensioners and a lower percentage of 0-15 year olds in the county, and high levels of migration of young people from rural to urban areas as they look for employment.

The report looks at the effect of living in rural areas on income and deprivation, employment and skills, housing, transport, health and wellbeing and communities.

Key areas outlined to improve services for children and young people in rural areas include developing services that focus on marginalised and geographically isolated young people, improving access to health promotion opportunities; promoting opportunities for play and physical activity; addressing the transport needs of children in targeted rural areas and addressing the needs for rural families and homeless young people.

### **New agreement on terms and conditions will save 60 jobs**

Up to 60 jobs will be safeguarded at Devon County Council following a new agreement between the authority and the trade unions on terms and conditions.

The agreement will come into force next April and will save £1.4 million in the 2011/12 financial year.

It follows a round of positive negotiations between the authority and the unions representing all non-teaching staff.

The changes will mean:

- \* Overtime payments for staff earning over £24,000 will stop
- \* Allowances to cover home-working will stop
- \* Mileage allowances will be harmonised to the standard Revenue and Customs rates
- \* Payments for extra responsibility will cease
- \* Redeployment and other allowances for new cases will be cut from up to four years to a fixed two-year period
- \* Flexible working practices, such as increased part time working and unpaid leave, will be promoted to cut employment costs.

### **Recycling - Don't Let Devon go to Waste**

With a recycling rate of 52.62%, Devon is the 2nd best county in England. There is just 0.02% between Devon and Leicestershire, which claimed the top slot with a rate of 52.64%. In Devon last year, over 200,000 tonnes of material was recycled instead of being sent to landfill.

*Andrea Davis*

*Devon County Councillor Combe Martin Rural. – Cabinet member for*

*Children's Health and Wellbeing*

*01271 883865*

*[andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)*