

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 10 June 2010 at  
7.30 in the Parish Hall**

Present

M Pine (vice chairman)

J Friend

R George

M Hayward

R Vogler

Officer G Dwyer (Clerk)

Also in attendance District Councillor F Tucker and County Councillor A Davis

**Jun 10/1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kingdon and Bonds

**Jun 10/2 Public Question Time**

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

**Jun 10/3 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May  
2010**

**RESOLVED** That the minutes as previously circulated be approved and signed by the Vice chairman

**Jun 10/4 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

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

**Jun 10/5 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**Jun 10/6 Matters Brought Forward from Previous Meeting**

There were no matters brought forward

**Jun 10/7 Cheques For Payment**

There were no cheques for payment. It was noted that the financial information for 2009/2010 was with the Internal Auditor and his report would be available shortly. The Clerk had prepared the accounts and would prepare the return to the Audit Commission on receipt of the Internal Auditors report.

The Clerk commented that he was not receiving statements from the bank but expected this to be solved once the revised Bank Mandate had been processed.

There were no cheques for payment

**RESOLVED** That Councillor Pine as Responsible Financial Officer be authorised to sign the return to the Audit Commission , and also to sign on behalf of the Chairman should he still be away

### **Jun 10/8 Report of the County Councillor**

County Councillor Andrea Davis spoke to her report, which is attached to these minutes. In particular she

- highlighted the details of the service which allows a bereaved person to make a single phone call when reporting a death, the information will then be passed to all relevant agencies. The new system is being trialled in Devon, and starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010.
- confirmed that the Devon Unitary proposals had been cancelled by the new Government.
- Outlined the initiative being piloted by the County Council and the Police service to combat domestic violence
- Confirmed that increased coverage for Broadband was a priority for the County Council who are spending money on improving coverage in poor reception areas which includes part of Shirwell.
- Confirmed that she had emailed regarding the speed awareness indicator which had not worked whilst at Shirwell

### **Jun 10/9 Questions to the County Councillor**

- It was noted that the District Council were also pursuing initiatives to combat domestic violence and it was imperative that services were not duplicated.
- Councillor Davis to report the potholes by Shirwell Almshouses

### **Jun 10/10 Report of the District Councillor**

Councillor Tucker reported that

- Between the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> march 2010 there had been 45 comments/suggestions for improvements to the Planning Service, 37 compliments and 1 major complaint. There were 4 enforcement cases outstanding. Concern was expressed by Councillors at the signage on the A 39 relating to Coxleigh Barton and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write expressing the Councils concerns and establish the up to date position.

- Targets for provision of affordable housing had been scrapped by the new Government which was a concern for rural communities struggling to keep young families housed in the area in which they had grown up

- Don Pratt, Asst Chief Executive Democratic Services for NDC had retired and been replaced by Jim Jefferies
- The next census was scheduled to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011

### **Jun 10/11 Questions to the District Councillor**

There were no questions

### **Jun 10/12 Police Report**

PC Andy Laidy reported that there had been no reportable crimes in Shirwell in the last 4 weeks

He informed Council that there had been no volunteers for training for the Speed Watch Initiative so the work would be undertaken by the Police service. In answer to a question he undertook to find out if Volunteers were covered in the event of a dispute.

The next police liaison meeting was the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at 7.30

### **Jun 10/13 Correspondence**

The clerk tabled correspondence for circulation amongst Councillors

### **Jun 10/14 Planning**

There were no Planning Applications

### **Jun 10/15 Reports from Councillors**

- Councillor Kingdon had ascertained that the Speed Awareness indicator would be resited at Shirwell in a working condition as soon as possible.
- Concern was expressed that the District Council had not commented on the Planning Application for Plaistow Quarry and it was

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to NDC Planning Officer expressing the Councils concern

### **Jun 10/16 Any Other Business**

Councillors expressed their concern at the implications of the increase in responsibilities to North Devon Council planning office from the Core Strategy proposals

The meeting closed at 8.12

**Signed**

**Chairman**

## **Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report June 2010**

### **Tell Us Once Project**

Devon has been selected by the DWP as an early adopter for the 'Tell Us Once' project - this is a government initiative which enables informants to give their consent for the registration service to share information about the deceased to other local authority and government departments.

This service saves the informant an average of 8 phone calls or letters to cancel these services. For the departments receiving the information it means that they are informed the day that the death is registered and are able to stop payments, services etc resulting in quite substantial efficiency savings and resources.

Devon County Council registration service are leading the project and are working in conjunction with internal departments and the district council departments that will benefit from the project.

The implementation is expected to be complete by the end of June 2010 with the expected date of 'go live' being 1st July 2010.

Staff in both the registration service and other departments are extremely excited about this project and are looking forward to working in partnership to offer this beneficial service to the people of Devon.

### **Local Government Review**

You may have heard that the Exeter Unitary is definitely off; this means that for the first time in three years Local Government in Devon can move forward as all uncertainty about the future is now removed.

### **Breaking the pattern of domestic violence**

A groundbreaking course introduced in Devon nearly ten years ago has helped hundreds of female victims of domestic abuse in the county to change their lives. To date, more than 800 women have taken part in the Pattern Changing programme which aims to help them break the cycle of abuse and move on to a better way of life.

Two hundred women a year are now referred to the courses across Devon to understand the problems of abuse and the effect it has on the whole family. The courses help women set realistic goals and build the self confidence and assertiveness they need to develop new patterns of behaviour.

In order to be accepted on to the Pattern Changing course, participants will have been in an abusive relationship and this may also include abuse from childhood. They will be able to understand that they are in a cycle of abuse and will have the determination to want to change.

The course lasts for 14 weeks and covers topics such as:

- Family roles and abuse, and why it is so hard to leave
- Feelings including guilt, fear and anger
- Assertiveness skills
- Goal setting

### Devon County Council pledges commitment to broadband investment

Devon County Council is investing in improving broadband services for the rural community to help boost the local economy and improve services to business.

A recent Devon County Council survey, the first of its kind in the country, showed poor access to ICT was acting as a constraint on many rural businesses, affecting their growth and turnover.

A high-speed and reliable broadband service is now considered as essential as utilities such as phones, electricity and gas but the survey shows hundreds of businesses have no broadband service, let alone Next Generation access.

75 per cent of firms in the business survey said that faster broadband would help them achieve greater profits and growth.

The council is looking at which areas would benefit most from targeted investment using strict economic criteria. It is based on a balance between demand and turnover and aimed at those areas suffering from very slow connectivity.

The work, which is still ongoing, has identified key clusters, which are now the subject of a detailed analysis and investment planning.

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