

## **Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 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 County Councillor A Davis (part meeting) and 3 members of the public

### **Apologies For Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Kingdon, Cllr Bond, County Cllr Tucker and PCSO Woolaway

### **Public Question Time**

A member of the public reported bad potholes on the

- A39 adjacent to Waytown Farm,
- Higher Witchills adjacent to Debbie Lewis Farm
- Shirwell Village adjacent to Ford Farm

*(The Clerk reported these to Devon Highways after the meeting)*

*With Councillors agreement the Chairman brought forward agenda item 9 Police report to this point on the agenda*

### **Police Report**

The meeting was attended by PC Richard Preston who reported as follows

Jan 2010 - no crimes

Feb 2010 - 2 domestic incidents and 1 highway accident

March 2010 – 1 Road traffic incident, 1 airweapon offence and 1 welfare concern incident.

All cases had been solved.

PC Preston acknowledged the letter sent from the Council expressing concern at the non- attendance of Police at their meetings and reported that PC Greenslade had moved to other duties, the Inspector was determined that Police attendance at the meeting would improve and PC Andy Ladley had been appointed to take over the Shirwell area.

He commented briefly on the sped watch initiative where-by members of the public are trained to use radar guns to help identify persistent offenders.

The Clerk had reported a local farmers concern at scrap metal dealers touting for business in an aggressive manner.

### **Matters arising**

There were no matter arising

### **Matters brought forward from the previous Meeting**

There were no matters brought forward

### **Cheques for payment**

Members approved the following cheques for payment, Clerks salary Feb/Mar 2010 (£200.00) and Payment for internal Auditor (£ 13.55). The cheques would be prepared and signed out of Committee as the cheque book was with the Chairman.

The closing balance was £1212.18

### **Report of the County Councillor**

Given later in the meeting

### **Report of the District Councillor**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Tucker and no report was given.

### **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was tabled for members

- Letter from Audit Commission confirming Wayne Rickard as external Auditor
- Annual Audit Commission forms for 2009/2010
- NDC agenda and minutes of Standards Committee 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010
- NDC weekly information sheets
- RD&Express newsletter, nhs foundation trust

The clerk had also received an email from the local administrator for the Rural Alliance requesting information on Shirwells requirement for local needs housing.

The clerk also tabled a letter from North Devon Council concerning Planning matters for comment

### **RESOLVED**

- That Councillor Tucker be asked to provide the information on Local Needs Housing for the Clerk to forward.

- That the letter regarding Planning procedures be circulated to Councillors by Councillor Pine and the Clerk write to The Planning Officer expressing the Councils concern at the lack of contact from Planning Officers on applications, a copy of the letter to be sent to Councillor Tucker.

## **Planning Applications**

### **Planning Application number 49965 Extension to dwelling at the Piggery New Barn Farm Shirwell, Barnstaple**

*Councillor Friend expressed a prejudicial interest in the application as he is related to the applicant, left the meeting and did not speak or vote on this matter*

Councillors expressed their concern at the failure of the Planning Officer to respond to answer phone messages requesting that the Clerk be contacted prior to the Parish Council meeting.

It was noted that the application encroached on land not owned by the applicant and assurances were received that the application was made with the full knowledge of the owner of the land affected by the proposal

**RESOLVED** to recommend approval

## **Reports from Councillors**

Cllr James Friend attended a Highways surgery meeting at Ilfracombe Centre on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Informed Trevor Edwards (Devon County Council) of outstanding highways issues in the Shirwell parish area and updated contacts and procedures for parish lighthousemen. Cllr Friend confirmed the Mr Edwards would forward the Councils comments to the relevant County officers

Cllr Pine summarised the detail of the emergency Planning seminar he had attended and recommended that the Council consider preparing an emergency contact list and undertook to circulate the papers from the meeting to all Councillors.

**RESOLVED** That Cllr Pine coordinate the preparation of an emergency Contact list and it be placed on the Council website when that was constructed.

## **Date for Annual Meeting of the Parish**

**RESOLVED** That the Annual meeting of the Parish be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm, that cheese and wine be provided and the May Council meeting be held on rising from the Annual meeting of the Parish

*County Councillor Davis joined the meeting at this point and apologised for her late arrival, explaining she had been at a meeting in County Hall, Exeter.*

## **County Councillors Report**

Cllr Davis commented briefly on the change in concessionary bus pass provision, and commented on the calling of a general election for May 6<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Davis will email a copy of her report for attaching to these minutes

## **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business

The meeting closed at 8.08

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

**£7 million repair programme for Devon's roads**

A NEW £7 million programme of repairs is underway on Devon's roads.

The extensive scheme is being carried out as part of routine inspections on the entire length of Devon County Council's 8,000-mile highway network.

Due to the amount of damage caused to the county's roads over the winter, specialist repair teams will work in advance of the usual monitoring teams to find, identify and permanently fix potholes, or carry out interim repairs on more minor roads.

This work will be audited within two weeks during the inspections, and any additional defects which are found will be dealt with by further teams dealing with emergency repairs.

The previous winter had left Devon with an estimated repair bill of more than £11 million over and above that of a normal winter, and this year is expected to exceed that figure following the lowest temperatures for 30 years.

The County Council has responded with rapid response teams carrying out temporary repairs to ensure that Devon's roads remain as safe as possible. They have filled more than 47,000 potholes in just over two months, taking the pothole repairs during the financial year for 2009/10 to around 85,000. That compares with 40,000 potholes filled in 2009 which was double the usual amount fixed during a normal year.

**Changes to the national concessionary bus pass**

Government changes to the eligibility criteria for the national concessionary bus pass started on Tuesday 6 April 2010.

Anyone born on or before 5 April 1950 and resident in England is eligible for a national bus pass from their 60th birthday.

However from Tuesday 6 April 2010 anyone born after 5 April 1950, the age of eligibility for a bus pass for women will be the pension age, and for men it will be the pensionable age of a woman born on the same day.

The government is gradually increasing the state pension age for women from 60 to 65. This means that by 6th April 2020 both the pension age and the age of eligibility for a bus pass will be the same for both men and women.

Eligibility on the grounds of disability remains unchanged.

Date of birth Date eligible for a national bus pass

To 5th April 1950 60th birthday  
6 April 1950 to 5 May 1950 6 May 2010  
6 May 1950 to 5 June 1950 6 July 2010  
6 June 1950 to 5 July 1950 6 September 2010  
6 July 1950 to 5 August 1950 6 November 2010  
6 August 1950 to 5 September 1950 6 January 2011  
6 September 1950 to 5 October 1950 6 March 2011  
6 October 1950 to 5 November 1950 6 May 2011  
6 November 1950 to 5 December 1950 6 July 2011  
6 December 1950 to 5 January 1951 6 September 2011  
6 January 1951 to 5 February 1951 6 November 2011  
6 February 1951 to 5 March 1951 6 January 2012  
6 March 1951 to 5 April 1951 6 March 2012

Further details can be found at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk).

### **Road deaths and serious injuries in Devon are lowest ever**

ROAD deaths and serious injuries in Devon last year were the lowest on record.

There were 30 deaths and 164 serious injuries in Devon in 2009 – 28% lower than in 2008 and a third successive year of improvement.

This compares to 37 deaths and 231 serious injuries in 2008, and 50 deaths and 302 serious injuries in 2007.

Of the 30 deaths last year, 25 were on roads owned by Devon County Council, and five on the Trunk Road Network managed by the Highways Agency. Road users aged over 75 accounted for seven of the deaths and eight motorcyclists were killed. 21 children under sixteen years of age were seriously injured, and 2 killed.

Deaths and serious injuries in 2009 represent a 62% reduction compared to 1998. Most importantly that means lives are being saved, but there are also savings for the health sector and our economy. However, we can't be complacent, nor underestimate the sadness that every single one of these collisions are still causing to families, friends and colleagues all over the county.

### **Support for carers**

A public consultation has been launched recently to seek views on how carers can access and receive support services to enable them to carry out their caring roles.

The consultation forms part of a scrutiny review carried out by a special task group of the independent Health & Adults' Services Scrutiny Committee which will examine how support services for carers can be improved.

The group wants to hear carers' views and experiences about accessing respite care and financial help, how health professionals including GPs cooperate with carers, how accessible services are and how carers cope with any assessment processes and

paperwork.

Approximately one in ten people in Devon are carers. Research carried out before the start of the national Carers Week 2009 suggested that three out of four carers are exposed to extreme levels of stress and depression as a direct result of caring and that they had been stretched to their limits.

There is frustration with the bureaucracy of accessing care and benefits and the burden of the role were the most common reasons cited as forcing carers to breaking point and this exercise will identify ways to improve support for carers.

Anyone interested in taking part in the consultation and giving evidence to the task group, or would like an informal chat or more information, can contact Janine Gassmann on 01392 384383.

Letters and emails are also welcome and can be used as evidence to support the review. Email [janine.gassmann@devon.gov.uk](mailto:janine.gassmann@devon.gov.uk) or post to Janine Gassmann, Scrutiny Officer, County Hall, Room G36, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4QD.

All submissions should be received by 1 May 2010. It is anticipated that the task group will report to the Health and Adults' services Scrutiny Committee in September 2010.

### **Unitary Update**

THE EXETER AND DEVON (STRUCTURAL CHANGES) ORDER 2010 AND  
THE NORWICH AND NORFOLK (STRUCTURAL CHANGES) ORDER 2010

The orders came into effect on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup>.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> April DCC and Norfolk county council get their high court hearing which will decide if there is a case for Judicial review.

*Andrea Davis*

*County Councillor Combe Martin Rural.*

*Cabinet member for Children's Health and Wellbeing*

*Deputy Chairman Exmoor national Park*

*01271 883865*

*andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk*