

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the 13th January 2010 at 7.30pm
in The Parish Hall**

Present

R Kingdon (Chairman)
M Pine (Vice Chairman)
P Bonds
R George
M Heywood
R Vogler

Officer: G Dwyer (Clerk)

Also in Attendance North Devon Councillor F J Tucker (part meeting), County Councillor Mrs Andrea Davis,

Jan 11/1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Friend.

Jan 11/2 Public question Time

There were two members of the public present who commented on:

1. The untidy nature of the 'Village Green' site and requested that the Parish Council look to ways of maintaining the site in a better condition.
2. In response to a question asked later in the meeting, the Clerk undertook to advise the Shirwell Parish Magazine of the times that the mobile library service was in attendance at Shirwell.

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman commented on the recent visit to the Parish Council by three Councillors from Lynton and expressed concern that they had not thought to advise either the Clerk or himself as Chairman of their visit. He appreciated that they were within their rights to attend the meeting but felt that common courtesy would have dictated that they advise Shirwell Parish Council in advance of their visit. Councillors supported the Chairman in his statement and expressed their concerns at the illogical behaviour of Councillors from an authority which has no direct or indirect ties with their own other than sharing the services of the Clerk.

Jan 11/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th December 2010

RESOLVED

That the minutes as previously circulated be approved subject to it being noted that the payment for the Clerks salary contained in the cheques for payment details was for November 2010 and not December 2010 as stated.

Jan 11/4 Matters Arising

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council web site, Village Green registration, Cross Sykes, surface water problems and the replenishment of grit bins were all on the agenda.

Councillor Pine commented on the problems that had arisen with the lack of maintenance to the gully on Langford Hill.

RESOLVED

That he contact the Clerk who would email County Councillor Mrs A Davis with details of the drain that needed attention.

Jan 11/5 Cheques for Payment

A cheque for the Clerk's salary for December 2010 for £100 and the purchase of an Ordnance Survey map of the Shirwell area for £8.50 were signed at the meeting.

The Clerk reported that the bank statements for the current account and reserve account were now being received.

RESOLVED

That the cheques as listed above be signed

Jan 11/6 Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Davis spoke to her report which she will be forwarding to the Clerk for inclusion in the minutes. Briefly she commented on:

- The County Council Road Show which had been used to focus on the financial situation on the County Council and to obtain feed back for residents within the County as to the way the budget could best be managed.
- Commented on the effect of the recent bad weather in particular mentioning the cost of the salt used and the fact that potholes would continue to appear until the end of March so motorists needed to take care.

She brought to Councillors attention the proposal received by local Councillors for a major development of a site immediately adjacent to Shirwell Parish area. Concern was expressed by all present at the nature of the proposal and the lack of infra structure that a development of this site would require.

RESOLVED

The Clerk contact the developer and request copies of the proposal for all Councillors.

Jan 11/7 Report of the District Councillor

Deferred to later on in the meeting.

Jan 11/8 Report of the Police Representative

There were no Police representatives present and no apologies had been received.

Jan 11/9 Correspondence

The Clerk listed the correspondence received which was:

- Poppy Day Party Weekends.
- Devon Association of Local Councils News Letter.
- Mobile Library Service – revised arrangements.

Jan 11/10 Planning Applications

There were none

Jan 11/11 Planning Decisions

Approvals had been received for:

Application 51225 Listed Building Application for renovation and refurbishment of farmhouse at North Woolley Farmhouse, Shirwell, Barnstaple.

Application 51319 Erection of double garage workshop and storage at Cross Syke, Shirwell, Barnstaple

Application 51373 Non material amendment to Application 46550 in respect of siting of front entrance door and utility room door and revised positioning and number of roof lights (amended description) at Shirwell Methodist Church Shirwell

Jan 11/12 Parish Council Web Site – Position Statement

Councillor Mark Pine updated members on the current position of the preparation of the web site and it was agreed that a target date for completion would be approximately mid February.

RESOLVED

To thank Councillor Pine for his efforts.

PART 2

The Chairman moved that

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw.

Jan 11/13 Village Green Registration

PART 1

Jan 11/14 Cross Sykes, Surface Water on Road

Councillor Kingdon commented on the present situation whereby the successful solution of 3 to 4 years ago seemed to have failed. County Councillor Davis undertook to arrange a meeting with Councillor Kingdon and an additional Councillor with a member of the highways department.

RESOLVED

That her offer be accepted.

Jan 11/15 Replenishment of Grit Bins

Concern was expressed that it took approximately 33 days from the first notification that the grit bins were empty to them being filled.

RESOLVED

To record the Council's concern at this lack of action.

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

Jan 11/16 Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker reported briefly on:

- ❑ the situation pertaining in the planning office whereby the Enforcement Officer had changed roles leaving a gap in this valuable service.
- ❑ He also commented that he and other Councillors had visited Little Bridge House and was impressed by the service provided by this facility.
- ❑ That North Devon Council's budget expenditure was now available for inspection on their web site.
- ❑ Approximately 10% of the North Devon workforce was subject to vacancies and probably not be filled.

Jan 11/17 Questions to the District Councillor

In response to a question Councillor Tucker confirmed that the enforcement service would be much weaker now that the transfer of a member of that department had taken place.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Tucker for arranging the meeting between himself, the Clerk and Mr Smart of North Devon Legal Department.

Jan 11/18 Report of Councillors

- Councillor Bond reported that the manhole in the road adjacent to the letterbox in Burrige was sinking and causing a potential hazard to motorcyclist.

RESOLVED

Councillor Davis to take action.

- The Clerk reported that he had not been advised that action had been taken regarding the trimming of Coxleigh hedge.
- Councillor George advised members that the potential recipient of a guide dog within the village was now not taking up the offer so there was no need to erect signs.

Jan 11/19 Clerks Report

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the administration costs for the Parish Council had reduced significantly as he used email for most transactions but he was now in the position where he needed to purchase stationery.

Jan 11/20 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report January 2011

Tough Choices Feedback

Nearly 1,000 people attended the 15 public meetings in market towns across the county over a 12-week period this autumn. Ours in Lynton was in November and was very well attended.

Each of them had the opportunity to question John Hart the leader of Devon County Council and take part in an exercise designed to demonstrate where they would take £50 million from the authority's budget in the coming financial year.

In addition, over 33,500 people took part via the Tough Choices website by completing an online survey or sharing their bright ideas for improving the way the council operates or how it could save money.

Top public priorities for continued or additional funding were protecting children from abuse, home care for the elderly,

support for people who care for others and supporting children with special needs.

Those services most identified for savings were street lighting, tourism promotion and public transport subsidies.

A common theme was that savings needed to be made on Devon's home to school transport bill which exceeds £20 million.

Another common theme was that early years and extended schools' initiatives were less essential than the budgets for schools and safeguarding.

Other ideas to emerge strongly in the public meetings included all services taking a share of any reductions and a focus on reducing administrative and management costs first.

However, people also called on the council to protect jobs as much as possible.

Other suggestions included working more closely with other public sector bodies to cut costs and raising income through the introduction of charges for some services or the sale of assets such as buildings and land.

Impact of Winter Weather on Devon's road Network

Operational costs to 7th January

£746k spent on primary salting treatments to 7/01/11

Estimated £1.37m spend in response to extreme weather (secondary, snow, footways and grit bins)

Current estimated overspend including winter response payments on operational budget to date is £600k.

The cost of repairing highway defects (mostly pot holes) so far this financial year is £6m and estimated expenditure by the end of the year is £7.5m.

By the end of December, the Council had undertaken 75 pre saltings, compared to 45 at the same time last year and 15 for a mild winter.

Andrea Davis
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