

Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 14th October 2010 at 7.30pm

Present

R Kingdon (Chairman)
M Pine (Vice Chairman)
P E Bonds
J E Friend
M Haywood
R Vogler

Officer G Dwyer (Clerk)

Also in Attendance County Councillor A Davis and North Devon Councillor J Tucker

Oct 10/1 Apologies for Absence/

Apologies for absence were received from R George

Oct 10/2 Public question Time

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

Oct 10/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2010

RESOLVED

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

Oct 10/4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Oct 10/5 Matters Brought Forward from Previous Meeting

There were no matters brought forward.

Oct 10/6 Cheques for Payment

A cheque for the Clerk's salary for August and September (£200) was signed at the meeting.

The Clerk reported that the bank statements for the current account were not being received.

RESOLVED

1. That the cheque for £200 be signed.
2. Councillor M Pine to contact the bank to ask them to ensure that bank statements were sent on a regular basis to the Clerk.

Oct 10/7 Report of the County Councillor

- County Councillor Davis reminded Councillors that the Leader of Devon County Council was visiting Barnstaple on the 9th November and Lynton on the 15th November. Anyone could use the web link to express opinions on County Council policy.
- The A399 road closure would be in place until the 5 November.
- There was a considerable overspend in the Children's and Young People's Directorate due to changing policies following the Baby P case.

County Councillor Davis undertook to forward her report to the Clerk for attaching to these minutes.

Oct 10/8 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions.

Oct 10/9 Report of the District Councillor

- Councillor Tucker commented that 12,000 people were not registered on the electoral register which would cost the District Council a considerable sum of money to get local help in tracing those people not registered.
- It was noted that Mr M Mansell was likely to be appointed chief Executive of North Devon council in the near future and Councillor Tucker commented on the concerns of councillors that the job had not been advertised.
- It was noted that North Devon council were cutting staff.
- Councillor Tucker had received a letter regarding the refusal of the planning application for a building at Brightlycott, Burrigge which he passed to the Clerk for reading to the Council.
The comments in the letter were noted and the Councillors did not disagree with the decisions of the Planning officer.

Oct 10/10 Questions to the District Councillor

- The Chairman thanked Councillor Tucker for his efforts regarding the web site and for ensuring that the grant was made available.
- In answer to a question, it was noted that the return of the electoral return is mandatory and that reminders are sent. It was not know whether non-returnees were fined.

Oct 10/11 Report of the Police Representative

There was no Police representative present but in their absence the Clerk advised members he had received an email from PCSO Woolaway confirming that the Parish and Police beat boundaries did not coincide, the email gave details of the accident adjacent to Plaistow Quarry as 27 from January to the end of August 2010

Oct 10/12 Correspondence

- A letter had been received from Devon County Council stating that the sign advising people that a guide dog user resided in the village was not allowable. It was noted that the sign was not needed at the moment.
- The Clerk had received details of a Planning School being run by Barnstaple Town Council should anybody wish to attend.
- The Clerk again reminded Councillors of the Tough Choices meeting at Barnstaple on the 9th November and Lynton on the 15th November.
- He reminded Councillors of the visit to Brynsworthy Recycling Centre on the 15th October.

Oct 10/13 Planning Applications

There were none

Oct 10/14 Planning Refusal

The Parish Clerk read the letter from the Planning Officer regarding the planning application at Brightlycott and Councillors chose not to disagree with the decision

Oct 10/15 Adoption of Standing Orders

RESOLVED

That the Standing Orders as emailed to all Councillors be adopted by Shirwell Parish Council

Oct 10/16 Adoption of equal opportunity policy

RESOLVED

That the policy as emailed to Councillors be adopted and signed by the Chairman

Oct 10/17 Adoption of safeguarding policy

RESOLVED

That the policy as emailed to Councillors be adopted and signed by the Chairman

Oct 10/18 Parish Council Web Site

It was

RESOLVED

That Councillor M Pine liaise with Net Tec regarding the construction of the web site.

Oct 10/19 Report of Councillors

- The Clerk was asked whether he had any knowledge of work being carried out on the overgrown hedge at Collard Bridge which he had previously reported. He undertook to contact Devon County Council regarding this.
- Concern was expressed at the condition of Burrige lay-by adjacent to the notice board. The Clerk to contact Devon County Council.

Oct 10/20 Planning Applications

Following the resolution of the Parish Council to refuse a planning application, members had been questioned by the applicant regarding the opinion voiced by individual Councillors. The Clerk explained that unless specifically requested to do so, decisions were not recorded on a 'for and against' basis and so Councillors were correct to say that the decision was 'the decision of the Parish Council as no dissenting votes were recorded'.

Oct 10/21 Clerks Report

- The Clerk outlined the present position regarding the registration of the village green site and asked Councillors to confirm that they wished the whole site to be registered.

RESOLVED

That the whole site be registered.

- He distributed questionnaires to Councillors for them to distribute to the parishioners giving the history of the Village Green.

Oct 10/22 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report October 2010

Leader Roadshows – Tough Choices

John Hart (Leader DCC) is visiting towns around the County to seek residents views on what services are important to them and their Communities.

Our local meetings are;

South Molton- Amory Centre, 6.30pm 14th October

Barnstaple- Civic Centre 6.30 Tuesday 9th November

**Lynton- United Reformed Church Hall, Lee Road. Monday
6.30 15th November**

On the DCC website residents can leave their comments and one already has, in Lynton won't tell you who or what then you will all go and look and see the very serious subject raised there! Keep them coming please.

Road closure on A399 at Brayford

Essential repairs are to be carried out on the A399 near Brayford, which will close the road from Monday 4 October until Friday 5 November.

The closure is necessary due to the replacement of retaining walls which have partially collapsed.

The narrow width of the road and deep excavations required mean the closure will be in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in order to maintain public safety during the works. However, access will be maintained at all times to Mockham Down Farm, which is the only property located within the closed section of highway.

The structural repairs will enable a major re-surfacing scheme on the A399 to go ahead next year as planned.

The official diversion route, which is suitable for HGVs, will be signed via Brayford, A399, Aller Cross, A361 North Devon Link Rd, Barnstaple, Bratton Flemming, Four Cross Way, A399 to Mockham Down Gate (and vice versa).

Once the road has been re-opened, temporary traffic lights will be in place at Brayford for a further three weeks to allow the scheme to be completed.

Devon Children in Care

I have previously reported that the Children & Young Peoples Directorate Face a £3.1m in year budget reduction following the Coalition Government's reduction to grant funding. Although cutbacks have been made the Directorate is projecting an overspend of just over £1m.

Increase pressure on the budget can partly be explained by growth in demand for our services

- There has been a significant rise in 16-17 year olds subject to child protection plans or looked after;
- a higher proportion of referrals and children becoming looked after for reasons of abuse and neglect
- .

The 2009/10 budget for most authorities in England is insufficient to meet increasing needs with a 5.9% overspend forecast from 43 authorities.

Compared with 2008-09 figures, in 2009-10 Devon experienced:

- an 11.7% increase in total contacts received;
- a 31.5% increase in referrals;
- a 12.4% increase in the number of initial assessments completed;
- a 42.1% in the number of core assessments completed.

Devon's escalation in safeguarding activity during 2009-10 has been echoed nationally

Numbers of Devon children in care rose from **539** children at 31 March 2009 to **620** at 31 March 2010.

The most significant impact on numbers has been the 2009 Southwark Judgement: at 31 March 2009 **20.8%** of Devon's children in care population was aged 16-17 years; a year later this percentage had risen to **31.6%** of the care population.

Devon children in care numbers (30 September 2010) shows a total of approximately **635-640**.

The impact of these statistics on our budget becomes more apparent when the average cost of commissioning a child in care considered.

- Average cost of a Child in Care 2009/10 £47,000
- Average cost of a Child in Care 2010/11 £51,000

Andrea Davis

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