

Draft
Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
11th August 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Present

Cllr M Pine Chairman
Cllr J Friend Vice Chairman
Cllr A Conibear
Cllr M Hayward
Cllr Mrs Inledon
Cllr Mrs Lewis

Also in attendance County Councillor A Davis, District Councillor J Tucker and 2 members of the public.

Officer

G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Pelling

Public Question Time

With members permission the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak

- A member of the public suggested that the sec'n 106 money be used to provide public toilets in the church grounds. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the Community Officer and North Devon Council and provided that the provision of toilets was a possibility then he contact the Church to initiate discussions

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th July 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved and signed by the Chairman

Matters Arising

Community Grant Application for a joint scheme with Pilton West Parish Council for gully maintenance. The Clerk gave a quick update on the progress for this scheme, the final application would be submitted in a few days.

Matters Brought Forward from previous meeting

The Chairman thanked Councillor Tucker for the information regarding replacement notice boards. **RESOLVED** that quotes be obtained from local contractors as a comparison.

Cheques for Payment

Cheques for the Clerks salary, printer ink cartridges, postage and the internal auditors recompense (£134.99) and Clevera for website hosting (£35.96) were signed at the meeting

Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor had forwarded her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes and a discussion ensued on the work proposed for the A361.

Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Report of the District Councillor

Cllr Tucker reported briefly on the following issues

- A park and ride scheme proposed for a site adjacent to the hospital
- Possible changes to the recycling frequency and charges are being discussed although no decision has been made
- Devon Success newsletter emailed to the Clerk
- C Heating grants for gas systems are available through N Devon Council
- NDC has been commended for its new website
- A referendum on St Ives second homes policy is being challenged

Questions to the District Councillor

- There were no questions

Correspondence

Correspondence on DCC mineral plan, the healthwatch voice magazine in addition to correspondence on Sec'n 106 money and Notice boards which had been discussed at this meeting was emailed to Councillors

Planning Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions

There were none

Report from Councillors

Councillor Mrs Inledon raised the issue of foul waste seeping into gulleys adjacent to the school and also a broken gulley in the same area. **RESOLVED** Councillor Mrs Davis would report this matter

Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Urgent Business

There was none

Public Question Time for Items Discussed at this Meeting

A member of the public asked for information on the work being carried out at the recycling centre Barnstaple and questioned whether it was related to the introduction of charges. County Councillor Mrs Davis wasn't aware of why the work was being carried out but assured the member of the public that it wasn't related to a new charging schedule. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to contact Devon County Council to enquire why the work was being carried out.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report August 2016

Devon County Council has launched an online consultation on options for improving the North Devon Link Road.

The local authority is currently investigating options for upgrading the route, having been allocated £1.5 million from the Department for Transport to develop a business case over the next couple of financial years. This is in addition to the £1 million budget which the County Council had allocated for developing designs. An initial consultation in 2014 revealed considerable support for improvements to the Link Road, with over 90% in favour.

Around 17,000 new homes and 85 hectares of employment land is planned for the area over the next 15 years and enhancements to the Link Road would help meet the needs of this development.

The consultation puts forward two preferred options, both of which improve traffic flow to reduce journey times between the M5 and Northern Devon, as well as tackling congestion at peak-times between Barnstaple and Bideford, and improving safety by reducing the number of fatal and serious accidents on the Link Road. The first option is to upgrade junctions which are currently pinch points. This is estimated at around £35 million.

The second option, estimated at £150 million would improve links and junctions. This would build on the junction improvements and would also develop stretches of road with three lanes to enable overtaking opportunities in alternate directions.

No improvements are planned to the section of the Link Road from the M5 to Tiverton which is currently dual carriageway. The focus of the improvements will be on the 20 mile section of the route between South Molton and Bideford.

Following evaluation, the County Council has ruled out three options for failing to meet key objectives. These are:

- Doing nothing. If the road was not improved it would not be fit for purpose as traffic levels increase, particularly with proposed development planned for the area;
- Dualling the road presents environmental concerns and would cost an estimated £500 million, which offers poor value for money and exceeds available funding opportunities;
- Public transport improvements would not meet all of the scheme objectives.

To take part in the consultation please visit new.devon.gov.uk/ndlr/consultation
Responses need to be submitted by Friday 12th August (please note this has been extended from the original date)

For those without a computer, publicly available computers with broadband are available in all Devon libraries.

In addition to the options consultation, a business survey is already underway to build a picture of travel patterns by local companies, and this will continue into the summer.

The County Council will submit a strategy for improvements to Government in the Autumn. Further evaluation of the preferred option will be carried out before another public consultation which will provide more details on phasing and impact of the improvements.

The consultation and other surveys will inform a business case and scheme bid for a share of the Government's £475 million Local Majors Fund.

Highways Update

Devon continues to work with Somerset and Plymouth on the procurement of the new Term Maintenance Contract, which will start in April 2017.

Initial Tenders have been evaluated and negotiations have been concluded with all 4 of Devon's tenderers. This has been useful in preparing the final tender documents, which were issued on 18th July to the 4 tenderers. Tenderers will now prepare and submit their final bids by 12th August.

The bids will be assessed in accordance with the agreed tender evaluation process, which includes for cost and quality. The results will be reported to Cabinet on 14th September.

Once the successful tenderer is known, work can start to mobilise the new contract to ensure continuity of service in April 2017.

Devon Highways.

Delivery of the in-year capital and revenue maintenance programmes remains on target.

Routine Grass cutting is being delivered in a range of ways. Officers have calculated what the costs of grass cutting for each Town or Parish area. Where a Town or Parish wishes to take the calculated Highway funding and top-up the service, this is being done through a grass cutting agreement to make sure that the essential highway safety related cutting at junctions and visibility splays is properly catered for. Where there is no wish to top-up the work orders have been placed with the Term Maintenance Contractor to cut the essential visibility areas only.

Work on highways self-help has been recognised by the Department for Transport, who are seeking more information from officers. DfT seem keen to explore how the work could be supported to get the most out of the volunteer input.

This year's large programme of surface dressing work was the subject of a competitive tender, which led to award of the contract to Kiely Brothers. They are progressing well with the programme, for example the work on the A361 North Devon Link Road was restricted to minimum daytime road closures and completed in the minimum possible time to limit disruption to road users.

Parking and Traffic Management.

The in house civil parking enforcement service continues to deliver the savings predicted when the service was transferred from the District Councils to the single Devon Team. Deployment of enforcement officers is planned to focus enforcement on priority areas whilst providing a level of enforcement elsewhere. Individual request to address short term issues for example, when an event is planned in a community, are being accommodated where ever possible.

Speed limit Policy raises some concerns and assurance is being given where necessary, that the DCC policy follows DfT guideline on setting local speed limits. There is a process in place for dealing with local concerns about speeding traffic and this involves a police traffic officer and leads to agreed actions. Without evidence of problems like regular excessive speeding and police collected collision data, DCC is not able to fund local requests for changes to speed limits. However, where a local request that is not supported by evidence enabling DCC action is policy compliant, advice is being given on community speed management options, or on community funding of changes for example to traffic calming measures.

Park and Ride Hospital site.

We are currently looking into a park and ride site in the area of the hospital. Early days yet!

*Andrea Davis
County Councillor Combe Martin Rural
Chairman Exmoor National Park
07786868038
Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk*