

DRAFT
Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
12th March 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Present

Cllr M Pine Chairman
Cllr J Friend Vice Chairman
Cllr A Conibear
Cllr Mrs N Incedon
Cllr Mrs D Lewis
Cllr R Pelling
Cllr D Tucker

Also in attendance District Councillor J Tucker and 4 members of the public

Officer G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

County Councillor A Davis and PCSO A Berry

Public Question Time

The Chairman suspended standing orders to enable members of the Public to ask questions

- .A member of the public asked if it was possible to prune the trees to the rear of the memorial bench on the Village Green. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk check that there was no restrictions on pruning the trees, and if there no restrictions the Council take up Councillor Conibear's offer to carry out the work
- It was noted that the roadwork's from Pottington to Ashford on the A361 were due to be completed by the end of march

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th February 2015

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

Feb15/6 Matters Arising

- **Village scheme funded with sec'n 106 money.** No progress since the letter from Mr F Newton, to be considered at the Annual Meeting of the parish in May

- **Joint Bid with east Down TAP fund** Approval had been received although details of the East Down elements were still awaited.
RESOLVED Cllr Conibear to oversee the work

Matters brought forward from the Previous Meeting

Already discussed

Cheques for Payment

Cheques for the Clerk's salary (£100.00) were signed at the meeting

Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Davis had apologised for her non-attendance but had forwarded a copy of her report which the Clerk summarised. A copy of the report is attached to the signed minutes

Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Report of the District Councillor

The District Councillor reported briefly on the following

- It was noted that no complaints had been recorded by N Devon Council regarding noisome bonfires etc. and it was stressed that complaints must be logged with the Council in order for action to be taken
- Progress on Planning Enforcement matters was improving as the list of outstanding matters was slowly being reduced
- Some plastic tubs, pots etc. were now accepted for recycling
- CAB record of achievement was praised and it was noted what an essential service this was
- Police had responded to complaints regarding a 'semi rave' on National Trust property at S.Woolley Woods (see Police report)
- The revised draft of the Local Plan would be with the parish Council next month
- North Devon Council Tax would not be increased this year
- Fullabrook investigations were continuing and a result was expected by September/October

Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions

Report of the Police Representative

PCSO Berry had apologised for his non-attendance, the following report had been emailed to members prior to the meeting

Crime Report

Shirwell Parish Council

01st February 2015 – 28th February 2015

This Report comprises all incidents recorded and crimes recorded within the time frame stated above, as recorded with Devon and Cornwall Police. It also contains any proactive policing / other policing operations that might have taken place. All statistics are gathered from the Shirwell area only, and are in accordance with Data Protection legislation:

INCIDENTS (3)

- Several reports of a 'rave'. This didn't fall under the criteria of a rave but attendees where all spoken to and agreed to turn the music down.
- 2x Highway disruption

RECORDED CRIMES (0)

- No crimes this month

OTHER OPERATIONS

- We will continue to conduct speed monitoring/enforcement over the next months

OTHER INCIDENTS TO BE AWARE OF

- Please be aware of the on-going series of fuel thefts from petrol tanks in the Bratton Fleming area. Please where possible park your vehicle in a garage or on a lit driveway to deter anyone targeting your vehicle. And please be vigilante and report any suspicious vehicles you see in and around the village during the evening.

Any questions arising from this crime report should be directed towards your local Police officer, PCSO Adam Berry 30626
Email: 30626@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Questions to the Police Representative

There were no questions

Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received

- **DALC bulletin March 2015 (emailed)**
- **Letter regarding damage to vehicle allegedly caused by collision with stones fallen from wall**

Planning Applications

Application 58864 (adjoining parish) Erection of three poultry houses with feed silos at Bampfield farm, Northleigh Hill, Goodleigh Barnstaple. Grid reference 260610;135018 (emailed) **RESOLVED** to make no comment

Application 58895 (adjoining parish) Erection of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic panel array together with biodiversity enhancements at land at Knightacott Cross Bratton Flemming (details can be viewed online) **RESOLVED** to make no comment

Application 58769 Change of use from agricultural land to equestrian, erection of stables & formation of access track at land at OS 259730;137320 Shirwell Barnstaple **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Application 58798 Installation of 2 x 10 kw grid connected wind turbines (height to blade tip 23.5m, blade diameter 6.99 m) at Coxleigh Barton, Shirwell, Barnstaple **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Application 58781 Extension to dwelling at Hillcrest Road from Shirwell Road to Shirwell Cross, Shirwell **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Application 58858 Change of use of two former dwellings to two holiday units at Kingdon Gardens Snapper Barnstaple **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Planning Decisions

Application 58301 - Erection of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Panel 18 Rows 500KW, Hartland View, Shirwell **APPROVED**

Report from Councillors

- The Gulley at Upcott Cross is seemingly blocked causing the road to flood. **RESOLVED** The County Councillor be asked to arrange for this to be dealt with as a matter of urgency

Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that he had received the election papers and passed them out on request

Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council March 2015 County Councillors report

Council tax up by 1.99 per cent to safeguard services

[Devon County Council](#) has agreed an increase of 1.99 per cent in council tax bills.

The increase will support spending of over £500 million including a reprieve for threatened school lollipop patrols, continued support for vulnerable people on welfare and extra winter road gritting.

There will also be an extra £100,000 to cushion bus service cuts and £40,000 for the [Citizens' Advice Bureau](#).

The council tax increase will bring in an extra £6.2 million over the next year to help safeguard services.

But the budget still calls for reductions of £46 million as a result of a 14 per cent cut in Government funding.

In the [Tough Choices](#) consultations, over three quarters of respondents had backed a modest council tax rise to prevent even harsher cuts while 55 per cent said they were satisfied with the way [Devon County Council](#) had managed the tough choices.

He said he had given these figures to the county's MPs as evidence that local councils were the most effective and efficient branch of government.

The council tax increase for 2015/16 will add less than 50p a week to the average bill but will prevent even tougher cuts in hard-pressed services.

An average Band D taxpayer will now pay £1,161.27 for county council services – up £22.68 on last year.

We are not expecting any change after the General Election, no matter who wins.

All the main political parties are committed to keeping the current spending plans for the next two years and for Devon that means at least £34 million will have to be saved next year.

We have to find the money to provide the services we are legally obliged to provide but there is very little left to do what we would like to do. It means that Communities will have to do more for themselves.

The situation is unlikely to change much in the short to medium term.

The challenge is to deliver services to Devon residents with fewer resources. Unfortunately we consistently lose out in comparison with urban areas. Residents in rural areas like Devon receive some £153 less in Government support on average than urban residents and pay £79 more in council tax. Every child in every Devon school receives nearly £300 less than the national average.

If we received average national funding that would be an additional £23 million.

And under the public health heading, Devon is the seventh lowest funded authority at £29 per head against an average of £51.

Average funding for that would bring in another £16.5 million.

This is inequitable and we will continue to lobby our MPs and the Government to campaign for a fairer deal for Devon and our residents.

Public transport review

To help meet the £50 million budget reduction required by Government spending cuts next year, Devon County Council now face making savings of £1.7m from our annual public transport budget. It will be the first time that the Council has proposed making service reductions for four years.

Most bus services in Devon are run commercially by bus companies at no cost to the Council. However, £5.376m a year is spent to support nearly 200 public bus services, carrying around 4.5m passengers every year. These services would not run without this support.

We also manage the National Bus Pass Scheme for 175,000 pass holders in Devon. This costs us more than £9m every year. Efficiencies have already been achieved across the wider Transport Coordination Service to meet previous savings.

We need your help

We would like to find out what you think about the proposals to reduce services. Please let us know what their impact might be on you.

The proposals would start to come into effect during the second half of 2015.

This consultation closes on Monday 20 April 2015.

new.devon.gov.uk/publictransportbudget

Andrea Davis
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