

DRAFT
Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
13th December 2018 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr A Conibear
Cllr Mrs N Incedon
Cllr Mrs D Lewis
Cllr R Pelling
Cllr M Pine

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

Officer

G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

Cllr M Hayward, County Councillor A Davis and District Cllr J Tucker

With Councillors permission the Chairman brought agenda item 6 (County Councillors report) to this point on the agenda to allow her to leave for another meeting

Report of the County Councillor

Cllr Mrs Davis had forwarded her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, she highlighted the following points at the meeting.

- The need to be extra vigilant in ensuring food waste etc. is recycled over the Xmas period, for instance 6 recycled mince pie foil cases can generate enough energy to watch a soap opera, Unilever estimates that we throw away over four million Christmas dinners, totalling 263,000 turkeys, 740,000 slices of Christmas pudding, 11.3million roast potatoes and 17.2million Brussels sprouts.
- The A361 will have some overnight closures in the run up to Xmas.

Questions to the County Councillor

Standing water problems adjacent to the new wall at Blakewell and on Langford Hill were reported and would also be reported on the DCC website.

Public Question Time

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

The continuing problems associated with traffic build ups at the new Hospital roundabout were highlighted..

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th November 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda

Cheques for Payment

Cheques for the Clerks salary (£110.00) and Kameleon (web site hosting for Nov and December) (£50.16) were signed at the meeting

Report of the District Councillor

Cllr Tucker reported briefly on the following

- Animal welfare legislation to block puppy farms.
- ND Executive acknowledged the sec'n 106 contribution from Shirwells allocation.
- Due to staff vacancies NDC planning enforcement active cases had increased from 200 to 500 at the peak although the number was gradually dropping
- A calendar of Xmas waste collection dates was available online and had been sent to households
- The Chief Legal Officer at NDC had briefed Councillors on the procedure for deciding Planning Applications.
- Long term empty properties can now be charged council tax at a higher rate

Questions to the District Councillor

Cllr Tucker undertook to find out whether empty properties in probate cases would be exempt from the news legislation

Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received

- DALC Newsletter,
- Precept letter from NDC
- Withdrawal of application for prior approval for change of use from agricultural cottages to dwellinghouse

Planning Applications

Application 65783 Demolition of barn and erection of one Passivhaus Plus standard dwelling at barn to the west of Norway, Shirwell Barnstaple.

RESOLVED to defer consideration of this application until the January 2019 meeting as the application was received very close to the December meeting date. The Clerk to request a hard copy of the plans to aid Councillors in their consideration.

Planning Decisions

Application 65328: Extensions and alterations to dwelling at Monkton House Shirwell Barnstaple. Application for removal of condition 3 (materials)

APPROVED

Website

The website preparation was complete and the Chairman and Clerk had received training and would be able to bring the website content up to date in the near future.

Report from Councillors

It was noted that gulleys on School Road close to the Alms Houses were not functioning efficiently

Clerks Report

The Clerk advised Councillors that his computer was some 7 years old and required refurbishment at a cost of approximately £350. The computer was also used for his work as Clerk of Pilton West and for his personal use.

RESOLVED that a contribution of 1/3rd of the refurbishment cost be granted

Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There were none

Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.19pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council
December 2018
County Councillors report

Christmas Recycling

Christmas time provides an excellent opportunity to recycle more.

Planning how much food is realistically needed helps reduce food waste, using all the recycling opportunities provided to Devon residents and thinking carefully how to dispose of items will make a difference.

British households typically produce around 30 per cent more waste during the period, so it's particularly important to recycle everything you can and plan your meals.

Using shiny or glittery paper for wrapping is very popular – unfortunately however it's not great for the environment.

so please check your local recycling collection information at recycledevon.org to see if it includes wrapping paper.

Glass bottles and jars can be recycled again and again. If everyone in the UK recycled one more glass bottle it would stop nearly 4,000 cars worth of CO2 getting into our atmosphere.

Recycling six mince pie foil cases will save enough energy to watch an episode of your favourite Christmas Day TV soap.

Check at recycledevon.org for where you can recycle your Christmas cards but even before recycling your cards, why not be ready for next year and make gift tags out of this year's Christmas cards and then recycle the rest?

And if you're having visitors to stay this Christmas, let them know where your recycling bins are and what goes in them.

Christmas lunch, New Year's Eve celebrations and friends and family popping round all mean one thing – fridges and cupboards stocked with food and drink.

Unilever estimates that we throw away over four million Christmas dinners.

That's 263,000 turkeys, 740,000 slices of Christmas pudding, 11.3million roast potatoes and 17.2million Brussels sprouts.

For those of us that choose 'real' Christmas trees, they are 100% recyclable and can be shredded and composted at home or put out for collection via your local council or taken for composting to your nearest Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

When the festivities are over – with a mass of new gifts being given and received, there are bound to be clear outs of old furniture, clothing, and equipment that has been replaced by the new gifts you have received.

Unwanted items can be repaired or passed on to someone else, check out the Reuse it section on recycledevon.org for local reuse and repair information in your area.

Together we can ensure that Devon enjoys a green and pleasant Christmas!

Highways Update

In relation to the additional funding of £6.5 million that was given to Highways this year by Cabinet there were several areas that the elected members wished to see this funding targeted towards. These areas were;

- highway drainage,
- highway patching
- pothole repairs.

As such a plan was developed to ensure that the £6.5 million was specifically targeted at these areas.

In relation to highway drainage, water on the highway causes us numerous problems; it damages the highway structure, it's one of the main causes of potholes in winter, and it causes flooding and icing problems. Its therefore rightly important that we have given this a high priority.

Highway drainage funding is split into two elements; Cyclic drainage and Routine drainage. Cyclic drainage deals with such things as gully emptying, ploughing and ditching, leaf sweeping, and cleaning the main road grips buddleholes and easements. Routine drainage targets specific problem areas on the network usually through the installation of piped drainage schemes of concrete haunching to overcome problems.

Countywide there has been an additional £1.69 million added to the above aspects of cyclic drainage. Of this the vast majority of the budget has been committed countywide with around 40% having actually been spent on the ground.

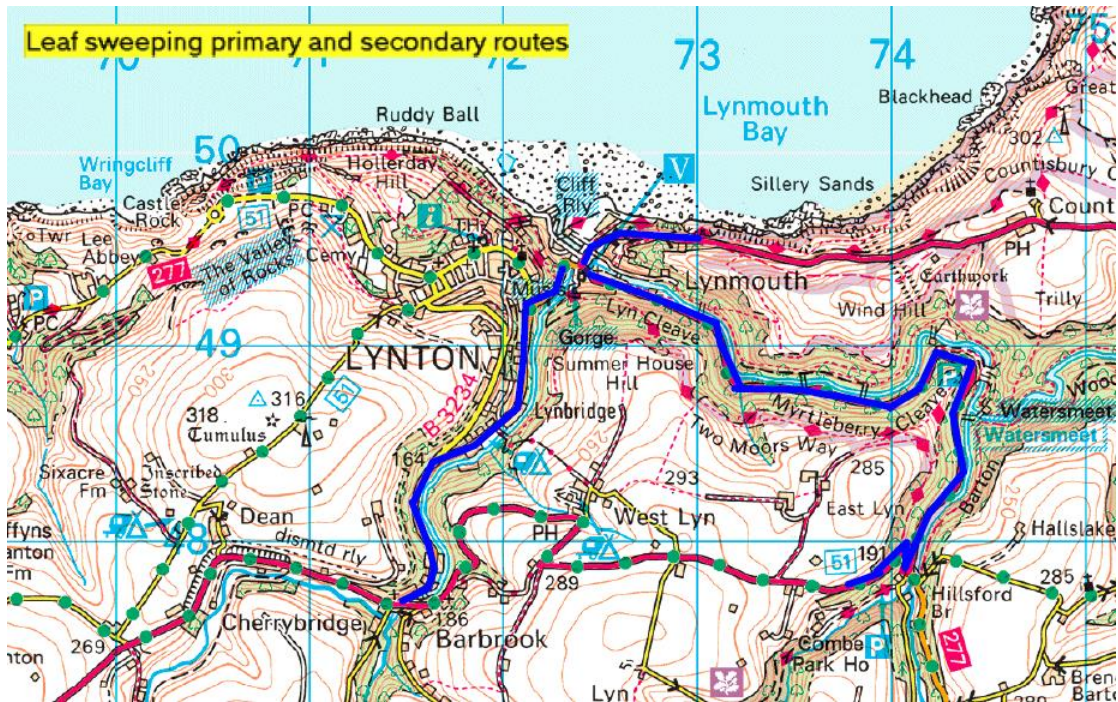
In relation to routine drainage schemes, the Neighbourhood Teams have had an additional £380,000 added to their revenue budgets countywide so that they can carry out individual drainage schemes at known problem areas.

There are a number of these taking place across the county and currently most of the budget has been committed with around 25% actually spent on the ground.

Countywide we have also added £150,000 to the Public Rights of Way Teams budget for resolving drainage issues at known problem sites on their network, but ultimately effecting the highway. It is hoped that these schemes will also prevent run off from the PROW network entering the highway so reducing the likelihood of flooding or other water related issues. Again, these schemes are ongoing, and all will be completed by the end of the financial year.

Additionally DCC have completed an exercise countywide to capture and store data of linear lengths and locations where we experience significant leaf fall on the highway on the primary and secondary salting routes.

The example below is of data captured in the Lynton area. The maps are also backed up with a spreadsheet of the lengths of sweeping in question. We can use this data to produce future annual programmes of work and to enable us to target specific areas; for example, if a cold spell is forecast and we wish to focus our attentions on areas where gullies may be blocked with leaves.



There has also been an extra £500,000 allocated countywide for a programme of jetting and camera surveys. This links in with the gully emptying programme and if the crews identify any problem gullies which they can't unblock or where they believe there is an issue, these are added to a list of jetting sites. The problem could be anything from tree roots, to a blockage with stones, leaves or debris right through to a collapsed pipe. The jetter is deployed initially to see if they can resolve the issue and in a lot of cases the high-pressure jetting hose can clear the blockage. If not, a camera survey can be undertaken if appropriate to help to identify the problem. A scheme is then drawn up and carried out from either our revenue or capital drainage budget as and when funds and other priorities allow.



We have also added and now spent an additional £400,000 countywide on the annual grass cutting budget. Whilst we may not immediately associate grass cutting with highway drainage there is indeed a tie in between the two. In previous years we have only cut visibility splays which has unfortunately meant that in areas we haven't cut we have had difficulty getting to some of the drainage features such as the back ditches and grips due to the overgrown nature of the verges. This year we have cut a 1 metre strip of grass

on the primary and secondary salting routes which has helped us access gullies that need cleaning out and we've carried out a full width verge cut on the category 4 to 8 roads. This has enabled us to get better access to the ditches that we are cleaning out with our extra cyclic drainage money, so the two operations have tied up quite nicely

The repair of safety defects and the relevant trials has been ongoing in East Devon, but it should be noted that the budget for these repairs and the trials was increased by an additional £1.5 million out of this fund. Countywide there has also been a £2 million injection into the routine patching budget from the £6.5 million fund and a number of schemes have successfully been completed countywide with more to follow. Currently all the budget has been committed with around 20% completed on the ground, and the remainder programmed for completion this year.

One final thing we are looking to develop is to improve the public facing information we have on our website, particularly in relation to Gully emptying. We are working with Skanska and a company called Kaarbontech and we hope to provide up to date information to the public of where all the gullies are on the network, when they were last cleaned and when they will receive their next clean. The system can also provide us with information on how full each gully was at the time of the last clean, enabling us to build up a picture of those that may need additional cleans or alternatively those that we may be able to clean less frequently. This is a system that DCC staff have access to but it's something that would also be of benefit to Members the public. In relation to the additional £6.5 million budget overall, we are confident that all the funding has been successfully allocated and will be spent by the end of the financial year.

Overnight closures on eastbound section of North Devon Link Road

Overnight closures will be needed on the eastbound carriageway of the North Devon Link Road near Tiverton from Monday 10 December to Thursday 20 December.

The eastbound lanes of the A361 will be closed from Gornhay to Junction 27 of the M5 each evening from 7pm for ongoing resurfacing work. The outside lane (eastbound) will re-open at 7am each morning.

The inside lane of the eastbound carriageway, which has been closed for the past two weeks, will remain closed 24 hours a day until Friday 21 December. This will see the end of the latest phase of the major resurfacing scheme and the road will be fully open from Friday 21 December and throughout the Christmas holiday period.

Work on the remaining 4km of the road from East of Gornhay Cross to West of Holbrook Bridge (Sampford Peverell and Tiverton Parkway junction) will resume on Monday 7 January. This will involve the outside lanes on both the east and westbound carriageways initially being closed, and then a contraflow arrangement will be established.

Merry Christmas

*Andrea Davis
County Councillor Combe Martin Rural
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