

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
12th October 2017 in the Village Hall**

Present

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

Also in attendance Cllr J Tucker 2 members of the public.

Oct17/1 Officer

G Dwyer Clerk

Oct17/2 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor A Davis was at another meeting and hoped to arrive later.

Oct17/3 Public Question Time

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

- A member of the public expressed her gratitude that the green bin collection was being carried on throughout the winter, albeit on a monthly basis.
- The Village Hall bench had been restored by a Shirwell resident and would be collected from him in the next few days

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Oct17/4 Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th September 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved subject to the following amendment, Minute Sep 17/1 be amended to include Cllr M Hayward as having apologised for his absence.

Oct17/5 Matters Arising

There were none

Oct17/6 Matters Brought Forward from previous meeting

- Sec'n 106 money – relocation of red telephone box to Village Hall. No suggestions had been received following the article in the Village Magazine. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that subject to agreement that relocating the red telephone box would qualify for sec'n 106 money and receiving planning permission, the box be relocated at the front of the Village Hall.

Oct17/7 Cheques for Payment

Cheque for the Clerk's salary (£110.00), and website hosting (£86.32) were approved at the meeting.

Oct17/8 Report of the County Councillor

County Councillor Mrs A Davis was detained at another meeting but a copy of her written report is attached to these minutes

Oct17/9 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Oct17/10 Report of the District Councillor

Cllr Tucker commented briefly on the following items

- A grant of £3.6k had been approved for the Village Hall for an amenity area
- NDC had agreed the reduction in ward boundaries from 43 to 41 and it was with the boundary commission for approval.
- The electoral roll is being updated
- Payments in NDC car parks can now be made by debit or credit cards
- Empty commercial properties on the strand will be converted to flats

Oct17/11 Questions to the District Councillor

Cllr Tucker undertook to raise the question of poor lighting in Green lanes CP with the operator

Oct17/12 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received

- Parish Forum meeting Brynsworthy, Monday 13th November 2017 at 7pm, in the Barum room
- DALC newsletter
- 2016/2017 Auditors report
- Revised level of parish grant

Oct17/13 Planning Applications

There were none

Oct17/14 Planning Decisions

There were none

Oct17/15 Drain and Gulley Clearance scheme

The Clerk had submitted an application and it was **RESOLVED** that work commence as soon as approval was received.

Oct17/16 Report from Councillors

The following items arose from Councillor’s reports.

- Sign warning of works on the B3230 were too close to the junction with the A39 and needed placing further back on the A39. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to place a comment on the County Council website and inform the County Councillor
- Traffic using the road via Upcott Cross as a diversion due to works on the B3230 were damaging the lane edge. . **RESOLVED** the Clerk to place a comment on the County Council website and inform the County Councillor

Oct17/17 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Oct17/18 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

Suggestions for the use of the telephone box were a Library, Parish magazine and to house the defibrillator

Oct17/19 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report October 2017

North Devon Link Road

A report to the County Council's Cabinet is recommending that the South Molton to Barnstaple stretch of the Link Road should be widened to provide more overtaking opportunities. In addition, a series of junction capacity and safety improvements from South Molton to Bideford. This will form an Outline Business Case to be submitted to the Department for Transport for Local Majors Bid funding.

County Councillors are being asked to agree a long term strategy for improvements to the North Devon Link Road - prioritising an £88 million upgrade with road widening and junction improvements as part of a first phase bid for Government funding.

The results of the public consultation earlier this year revealed that 83% agree the need to improve the NDLR. The section from Barnstaple to South Molton raised the least concern from local residents.

Currently, only 10% of the South Molton to Barnstaple section of the road has overtaking lanes, but proposed improvements would increase this to around 70%. The road would continue to have a 60mph speed limit with the use of average speed cameras recommended to improve safety.

The long term strategy includes upgrades to eight junctions along the A361 and A39, additional overtaking lanes on sections of the Link Road and an urban four lane road, with two lanes in each direction, between Portmore roundabout and Roundswell roundabout.

To improve road safety, all uncontrolled right turns would be removed for over 35km between Bish Mill junction, east of South Molton, and Buckleigh Road Junction near Bideford.

With only around £300 million available through the DfT's Local Majors Fund, any bid would have to compete with schemes from across the country and phasing the improvements is recommended to increase the likelihood of a successful submission. While bidding for £78 million towards the first phase of the scheme, Devon County Council could contribute £10 million.

A number of suggestions raised during the consultation have been accepted in principle for inclusion in the strategy. This includes additional provision for pedestrians at Borner's Bridge Junction, Bishop's Tawton and Heywood Road roundabouts, realignment of the proposed bridge at West Buckland Junction, and the need for further widening to the south between Portmore and Bishop's Tawton roundabouts and to the north between Bishop's Tawton and Lake roundabouts.

If agreed by councillors, an Outline Business case will be submitted to the DfT by the end of the year. If the Outline Business Case is approved, a planning application would be submitted in late 2018. A Full Business Case would then be submitted in 2020, which would potentially allow construction to start in late 2020.

Extra cash for Devon's schools

Schools across Devon stand to gain £7.5 million more from the Government's proposed new funding formula.

Education Secretary Justine Greening announced the revised formula recently and accountants at County Hall in Exeter have been looking at the figures. Their initial calculations show that schools across the county should share in an extra £7.5 million if the formula remains as announced.

The initial formula announced by the Government would have left two thirds of the pupils in Devon's schools worse off.

We campaigned strongly against the previous formula with our schools and MPs, the Government appears to have listened to our strong and united opposition to the previous formula and also to the national campaigning work we did with the f40 group, which represents the lowest funded education areas.

We don't yet know what the new national average for funding for each child will be but I suspect Devon will still be below that figure and that means we will continue to campaign. However, taken with the extra £16 million a year we secured for our schools in 2015, this is another big step towards ensuring that education in Devon is fairly funded.

We still have to sit down with our headteachers and governors to discuss how this extra money should be distributed. There is no doubt that schools in Devon are facing tough times financially. They still have to find extra money for pay rises, increased National Insurance contributions and the Apprenticeship Levy amongst other pressures.

Hopefully this announcement will go some way to alleviating those pressures and allow our schools to continue providing the above average education and exam results they currently provide. The Government is also increasing our high needs budget for our most vulnerable children by £300,000. This is welcome but it will in no way compensate for all the extra pressures that we face in caring for our children with special education needs.

Andrea Davis

County Councillor Combe Martin Rural

andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk