

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
12th December 2019 in the Village Hall**

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs L Campbell (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Pine
Cllr S Shortridge
Cllr N Turner
Cllr J Watts

Also in attendance 4 members of the public.

Officer

G Dwyer (Clerk)

Dec19/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Pelling, County Councillor A Davis and District Councillor J Tucker

Dec19/2 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 concern at the planning application for Post Box Cottage (application 70802) arguing it would have a detrimental effect on available road parking and the speed of cars would create a hazard for cars accessing the site.

The meeting resumed under standing orders

With Councillors approval the Chairman brought agenda item 10 Planning Applications forward to this point on the agenda.

Dec 19/3 Planning Applications

Application 70738 Land adjacent to Norway, Shirwell. Erection of one dwelling (part retrospective). Members considered the details and the history of this application and the removal of the devon bank and expressed concern at the damage done by trees from an adjacent site. Discussion regarding the planning history expressed reservations at the implications of part 'Q' applications. It was **RESOLVED** that as the proposed floor development was of equal floor size to the approval previously obtained through the part 'Q' application and subject to the full re-instatement of the hedge and a survey being undertaken regarding the safety of the adjacent trees, then the Council would not oppose the development should North Devon Council feel able to approve the application. However, members were mindful of the fact that the consent provided under Part Q provisions is very different to a formal

application and that the conditions of the original consent had been breached.”

Application 70809 Blatchford Farm Cottages – removal of 4 metres of hedge to improve access **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Application 70802 Erection of one dwelling together with associated works including creation of new vehicular access at Garden of Post Box Cottage Shirwell Barnstaple Devon. Members noted that the development was supported by the Local Plan as an open market dwelling and **RESOLVED** to recommend approval but expressed concern at the effect on available roadside parking in the village and the effect of the proposed new access on the visibility for cars parking on the site.

Application 70751 New settlement pond at Bulldog Fish Farm Snapper Barnstaple Devon EX32 7JX . (consulted as an adjacent authority) Members considered the details of this application and in particular noted the assurances contained in the flood risk assessment . It was **RESOLVED** to not comment on the application.

Dec19/4 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th November 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved.

Dec 19/5 Matters Arising

There was nothing that was not on the agenda

Dec 19/6 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and the casing cleaned.

Dec 19/7 Cheques for Payment

Cheques for the Clerks Salary (£110.00), part pack of printer paper (£3.00) and RMI (bus shelter repair) £1440.00

Dec 19/8 Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs Davis had apologised for her non-attendance and a copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Dec 19/9 Questions to the County Councillor

There were none

Dec 19/10 Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker had apologised for his non-attendance.

Dec 19 /11 Questions to the District Councillor

There were none

Dec 19/12 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated to Councillors

- Consultation on the future of Barnstaple Town Centre
- Pothole reporting procedure
- Rural Bulletin x 3
- Traffic restrictions , the Old Rectory, Shirwell Village
- CAB news letter
- Area road closure correspondence
- Shirwell Parish Funding
- County Councillors report

Dec 19/13 Planning Decisions

There were none

Dec 19/14 2020/2021 Precept

Members considered the financial projection tabled by the Clerk and also noted that the Parish Grant (currently £337.50) would no longer be made by North Devon Council, (so grants paid to local organisations would need to come from other parish Council income), and that the Council Tax Support Grant (top up)(£22.24) would also not be available in the next financial year. Annual Grants totalling £625 were made to Local Organisations. It was noted that the grants for 2019/2020 were not affected as they had been allowed for in the current years budget.

Cllrs Mrs L Campbell and Mrs S Pine expressed a personal interest in this matter as they were on the committee of one of the grant aided organisations .

RESOLVED That the Parish Council consider future years grants and a programme of drain clearing at the January meeting of the Council and that the precept for 2020/2021 be set at £2710

Dec 19/15 Report from Councillors

- Village warden Schemes were suggested as a small programme of Village Amenity work and Drain Clearing to alleviate flooding problems.
- The Burr ridge Notice board was becoming dilapidated and was rarely consulted, it was **RESOLVED** that a notice be put on the board seeking the views of Burr ridge residents

Dec 19/16 Clerks Report

The Clerk advised Councillors that the bus shelter was scheduled for repair in early January 2020

Dec 19 /17 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There were none

Dec19/18 Urgent Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 8.20+

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors report December 2019

Free Trees- two schemes from DCC

The County Council has teamed up with the Woodland Trust and the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum to encourage communities and landowners to plant more trees.

Ten trees were planted in the grounds of County Hall last week by pupils from St Leonard's Primary School and members of the Devon Youth Parliament as the Council marked National Tree Week and joined the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback.

It was also an opportunity to launch the new schemes. Devon County Council, in association with the UK's leading woodland conservation charity the Woodland Trust, is offering a limited number of packs of 45 sapling trees to give away to landowners who may be interested in establishing a small copse or planting-up a field corner. The packs contain a mix of native oak, rowan and birch – 15 of each. Spiral guards and canes are provided to protect against damage and planting instructions are also included.

Stocks are limited this winter, so those interested should apply early. However, future extension of the scheme should ensure opportunity for all to participate.

Applications need to be made online via the Devon Ash Dieback website by Monday 6 January 2020 and applicants will be notified if they have been successful before the end of January. Planting must be carried out by Easter 2020.

A limited offer is also being made to **Town and Parish Councils** that may be interested in a commemorative planting of 'landmark trees' in prominent and accessible locations. This is to encourage community awareness of the vital role of tree planting in tackling environmental threats, particularly climate change, but also the huge loss of native ash trees through ash dieback.

Devon County Council, in association with Perrie Hale Nursery near Honiton, is offering a maximum of two trees per parish or town council. Communities can register their interest by emailing nature@devon.gov.uk stating name, parish/town council, contact details and- if you already know- a description of where you'd like to plant the tree.

Connecting Devon and Somerset update

A public consultation has been launched by Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) ahead of undertaking a fresh procurement to find contractors to provide superfast broadband. CDS, which is responsible for rolling out publicly-funded broadband across the two counties, is establishing the remaining area where there are no current or credible future plans to deliver Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband infrastructure capable of download speeds of at least 30Mbps.

Nearly one million homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset now have access to superfast broadband thanks to the Government supported CDS programme and stimulation of the commercial market which is an important element of CDS's role. Of these, over 300,000 homes and businesses have access to superfast broadband as a direct result of investment by CDS.

A link to the CDS news release is attached which provides more information and links to the consultation webpage.

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/superfast-broadband-public-consultation-launched/>

Preparations for Brexit in Devon

For information please visit: www.devon.gov.uk/brexit

Local Enterprise Partnership update

- 1) Heart of the South West LEP (HotSW) economy is as big as Birmingham or Liverpool
- 2) HotSW weekly pay is £500.00/week which is 95% of UK average excluding London
- 3) New Chairman of LEP is Karl Tucker of Yeo Valley Farms.
- 4) Growth driven by employment & productivity has been flat since 2018
- 5) LIS (local industrial strategy) policy of CLEAN GROWTH means doing things differently and distinctly tomorrow.
- 6) Hinkley Point has the biggest crane in the world, employs 4500 people with nearly 1000 apprentices and on track for first reactor in 2025
- 7) A303 planning inspectors report due on Stonehenge Tunnel by January 2nd 2020
- 8) A358 scheme design is being progressed and will connect directly to M5 @ Junction 25

Winter month preparation for Parishes

Devon County Council and other organisations continue to invest in new and improved flood defences to help protect those locations most at risk of flooding. But heavy and sustained rainfall or other severe weather events can result in unexpected problems almost anywhere in Devon. This means self-help is a vital approach to protecting homes, property and communities.

Practical advice and financial support is available to help local communities be better equipped to deal with an emergency, such as flooding. The Devon Community Resilience Forum offers two complementary grant schemes, funded by Devon County Council and the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee. Town and parish councils and community groups can bid up to £250 for this funding to help form their own Community Emergency Planning Group and produce Community Emergency Plans.

They can also bid for up to £1,500 to improve their own resilience with equipment or one-off small-scale work, which can range from the provision of sandbag stores, flood protection equipment, road signs, tools, and protective equipment. For information and to download a simple application form go to <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/grant-funding-emergency-flood-resilience> Devon County Council also offers a Property Flood Resilience Funding Scheme for those households at risk of repeated flooding, but who are unlikely to be protected by a community-wide flood scheme.

Flooding to roads or blocked drains should be reported via Devon County Council's Roads and Transport "report a problem" page.

In the event of a flood, in particular the flooding of properties, people are being urged to record it online via the SWIM (Severe Weather Information Management) system. This enables members of the public, flood wardens and flood risk management authorities to enter details about property flooding.

While this won't generate an immediate response for assistance during or after an event, it helps inform the flood investigations of local authorities to help prioritise action plans for future investment in flood improvements.

For information on who to contact in a flood event visit Devon County Council's Flood risk management webpages.

Devon County Council seeking views on 5G as part of spotlight review

The County Council's Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee is investigating 5G as part of a spotlight review. Devon County Council has no current plans to make use of 5G in its ICT and is not involved with planning applications for mobile infrastructure, it is running an investigation in response to local concern and wants to hear from people to help inform its findings.

An online questionnaire is now available, inviting members of the public to express their views and asking what evidence or information people feel the County Council should consider in reviewing the technology.

It also asks how informed people feel about the technology and if they feel enough awareness has been raised about the use of 5G.

We want to hear from as many people as possible across Devon regarding 5G technology. The information shared will be used in our Councillor-led spotlight review. While Scrutiny can only make recommendations, this work is planned to help to inform Council policy on 5G technology. This is your opportunity to let our review know your thoughts and what you feel Devon County Council might do to address any concerns you have.

Anyone who fills in the questionnaire will have the opportunity to be invited to take part in a discussion with the scrutiny group at a later date. Feedback must be submitted by New Years day, Wednesday 1st January.

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If residents are able to access the internet you can write to: Scrutiny Team, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

Muddiford Road Closure

DCC are carrying out some initial works this week in advance of the main works, to reduce the overall duration we contractors are on site in the new year and also protect the bank to reduce the risk of further slips over Christmas.

The works this week will also include additional investigation works to help inform the design proposals and further aid the development of working methods on site, including traffic management. We do appreciate that the official diversion route is of reasonable length but we must divert road users onto roads of a similar classification of above and in this case B or A class roads.

This diversion route will be the route forwarded to all emergency services prior to commencing works on site, so these services will be aware of the closure and signed diversion route.

Prior to the recent slips, there has been monitoring of the existing bank at Plaistow Mills and undertook a full survey of the stretch earlier this year. The embankment here is relatively steep and with little structural support, so during periods of prolonged rainfall there is risk of further destabilisation of the bank. As a result, we are looking to undertake works to protect the worst areas of the bank in one visit, which are anticipated to be +70m in length.

This would repair the recently slipped areas but also provide further resilience to other sections of bank at most risk of failure, reducing the need for further works in the immediate future.

You may have seen that our start date for the closure is **20th January 2020**. This is to allow time to consider the outcome of this week's investigation works and confirm the design solutions. The works are anticipated to be finished by 3rd April.

Andrea Davis
County Councillor
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