

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 9th March 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Present

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

Also in attendance County Councillor A Davis, District Councillor J Tucker and 3 members of the public.

Officer

G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

Public Question Time

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

Complaints were made about the length of time a contractors signs had been left by the side of the road after work had finished. Cllr Davis undertook to chase the contractor concerned

The meeting resumed under standing orders

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

Matters Arising

None that were not on the agenda.

Matters Brought Forward from previous meeting

- **New Notice Boards.** Cllr Hayward and Conibear to arrange installation
- **Sec'n 106 money** (footpath in churchyard) – no progress
- **Telephone Box adoption** –awaiting response from BT adopt a kiosk dept

Cheques for Payment

Cheques for the Clerks salary (£110.00) and DALC annual membership (£88.39) were signed at the meeting.

Report of the County Councillor

A copy of the report from County Councillor Mrs Davis is attached to these minutes. She briefly brought Councillors up to date on the proposed Council Tax rise for 2017/2018 of 3% and distributed contact details for the County Health initiative (one small step)

Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Report of the District Councillor

District Councillor Tucker commented briefly that ..

- The theatres would hopefully re-open within a month
- The Council Tax bills would contain an information leaflet explaining the need for changes in the green waste collection service
- No news on the enforcement action for Collard Bridge
- CAB still overwhelmed with people needing advice.

Questions to the District Councillor

It was commented that the proposed revision to the green waste had moved from a 'system trial' to a test of an approved system without any consultation

Correspondence

A copy of the DALC annual report had been emailed to Councillors

Planning Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions

There were none

Drain and Gulley clearing scheme

Cllr Hayward reported on the progress that had been made despite the pressure jet machine not being available and praised the work done by the local contractor. **RESOLVED** that the account for £150.00 be passed for payment and a letter be sent to the contractor thanking him for the work he had done

Report from Councillors

It was noted that the defibrillator was not suitable for use on children.

Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Public Question Time for Items Discussed at this Meeting

There were none

Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.14pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report March 2017

Council tax rise to help fund care for elderly and vulnerable

Devon County Council has agreed a 4.99 per cent increase in council tax to help fund a big boost for under-pressure social care.

The rise equates to an extra £60.30 a year for the average Band D council taxpayer or just over £1 a week.

This means Devon will be charging £1,267.92 for a Band D property.

Councillors agreed a rise of 1.99 per cent for general services such as education, caring for children, roads and economic development. They also accepted the Government's offer of a three per cent increase to spend directly on adult health and social care. This will help fund a big boost of £18.7 million or nearly 10 per cent more for services for the elderly and vulnerable.

We have considered this increase very seriously indeed because we are well aware of the strain that household budgets are under but everyone knows that health and social care is under intense pressure and we must step up to the plate and do our utmost to look after our frail elderly and the most vulnerable in our communities.

There are serious concerns that the final local government settlement announced recently provides no new funding for councils in 2017/18 and has totally failed to address the crisis in social care.

The South West faces particular problems as the region with the largest proportion of elderly people in the country (20% of the population). Cuts to New Homes Bonus funding will leave two thirds of councils having to find millions more in savings than expected to plug funding gaps next year. An urgent review of local government finance is desperately needed, as the increase demand now being put on local government is not adequately funded by central government. The demand for our services is rising at a time when the government are reducing our expenditure.

New Healthy Lifestyle Service

A new healthy-lifestyle service commissioned by Devon County Council aims to help the increasing number of adults at risk of developing long-term health conditions take small steps toward a healthier lifestyle.

OneSmallStep, provided by leading health services organisation Optum – in partnership with Solutions4Health, which will provide specialist stop-smoking services – will help Devon's residents adopt healthy lifestyle choices and reduce their risk of more serious health issues.

The free service, which went live on 1 February 2017, provides inspiration and tools for people to take control of their own health and wellbeing, by motivating them to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, increase physical activity, address smoking and reduce the risk of harm from alcohol. Support will be delivered by trained staff and evidence-based tools available online, by telephone and via social media; and will include signposting to local groups and activities, or into other specialised services where face-to-face support is required for people in greatest need.

Optum will work alongside GPs and other health professionals, community pharmacies, voluntary networks and community organisations and will connect with other services to increase reach to capitalise on a wide range of local assets.

The contract to deliver the service represents an investment of potentially £3m over a five-year period.

We want to help support and motivate Devon's residents to live the healthiest life they can and reduce the risk of health issues later on in life. By taking action early, people can prevent many of the common illnesses later in life that are often associated with unhealthy lifestyles. OneSmallStep will provide a comprehensive gateway to information and support for people to make better choices and take control of their health.

For more information, visit www.onesmallstep.org.uk.

Extra £2.5 million funding for highway drainage and rural roads

Devon County Council's Cabinet have announced plans to invest an additional £2 million in rural roads, and an extra £500,000 for highway drainage in 2017/18.

Devon has continued to maintain 97% of A and B roads in good condition, and the additional investment will be used to improve road surfaces on lower category roads across the county.

The additional funding will be used for patching and longer term repairs to add life and resilience to roads.

This is good news for people living in rural communities and will go some way towards addressing some of the problems on our rural network. The funding for drainage improvements will target areas where water is on the highway, which damages the surface. This will help protect our infrastructure by preventing water getting into the roads.

Devon's road network needs around £55 million of capital investment every year to maintain its current condition. However, the authority faces an annual shortfall.

Around only £23 million of the £38 million allocation it received from the Department for Transport this financial year is available to spend on roads as the funding also has to pay for maintenance of streetlighting, traffic signals, bridge repairs, drainage, safety barriers and public rights of way among other work.

*Andrea Davis
County councillor Combe Martin Rural
Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing
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