

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 13th March 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Present

Cllr M Pine Chairman
Cllr J Friend Vice Chairman
Cllr A Conibeare
Cllr Mrs N Inledon
Cllr Mrs D Lewis
Cllr R Pelling
Cllr D Tucker

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

Officer G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

PCSO A Berry

Public Question Time

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to enable members of the public to ask questions of the Council

A member of the public raised again the issue of the untaxed Butcher's van that was continually parked adjacent to the Alms cottages and which obscured access to the notice board. It was noted that the vehicle had been reported to the DVLA for them to deal with and there was nothing more the Council could do.

A member of the public queried when the defibrillator would be installed. She was advised that the Village Hall team would do this as soon as possible

Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th February 2013

The Clerk advised Councillors that the minutes had been amended to include the apologies received from Cllr Pelling

RESOLVED That the minutes as amended be approved and signed by the Chairman

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Matters brought forward from the previous meeting

There were no matters brought forward

Grass Cutting

Members requested the Clerk to arrange for Mr C Seage to cut the Parish Councils grass in Shirwell as per last year. It was noted that Mr Seage charged on an a 'per cut' basis

Cheques for Payment

Cheques for the Village Hall Annual Grant (£400.00) Shirwell Parish Church (£150.00) Methodist Church Circuit Shirwell (£75.00) and the Clerks Salary (£100.00) were signed at the meeting.

The balance of the Current Account was £3904.35 and would reduce to £3179.35 once these cheques were cleared

Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor distributed copies of her report which covered the following, the Youth Service, Meals service, Day Care service review, the Hospital Jnc proposal and imminent repair of potholes at Zig-zag.

The County precept had been increased for the first time in 4 years

Questions to the County Councillor

Councillors to email the County Councillor with details of the potholes on the Muddiford Road adjacent to West Plaistow farm

Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker reported on the following points

- The necessity for good security as there had been a spate of thefts in the Goodleigh area
- The public contact personnel at the Civic Centre will relocate to Lynton House
- He reported on the disappointing outcome of the recent delegation to London to discuss Planning Issues with the Government. Cllr Greenslade as leader of the District Council had written expressing the Council's concern at the reply
- A Rural Seminar will be held at Bishops Nympton on the 11th April 2014
- NDC have not increased their Council tax for 2014

Questions to the District Councillor

In answer to a question Councillor Tucker confirmed that the delegates to London had paid their own fares.

Report of the Police Representative

PCSO Berry had apologised for his non-attendance and had forwarded the following report for the Councils attention.

Shirwell Parish Council
01st February 2013 – 28th February 2013

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 (2)

Suspected vehicle being driven under the influence of Alcohol on A39
Suspected poachers in the Shirwell/Snapper area. Area search by units on the night the suspected vehicles turned out to be not related to any poaching activity.

RECORDED CRIMES (0)

We have had 0 crimes in the Shirwell area during February

OTHER OPERATIONS

There are currently no other operations

OTHER INCIDENTS TO BE AWARE OF

Please can I stress that people ensure that their garages and sheds are left secure during the evening. We have had a spate of shed and garage breaks in the Bratton Fleming and Goodleigh areas where high value power tools are being taken. The offenders are using bolt cutters to remove padlocks and then taking only power tools.

I advice people make a list/ 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

photograph of any power tools they have including the serial numbers and if possible put some sort of personal mark on the equipment as a way of indentifying it.

Questions to the Police Representative

There were no questions

Draft Local Plan

Councillors expressed concern that the facilities and employment opportunities outlined in the second paragraph are misleading as the Parish area has at least 30 businesses. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to contact North Devon District Council and ask for this to be amended

Review of Code of Conduct

Councillors had not experienced any problems with implementing the code of conduct and therefore **RESOLVED** to make no comment

Correspondence

The following correspondence not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda had been received and emailed to Councillors

- DALC newsletter March 2014

Planning Applications

Hospital Junction improvement

Cllrs Pine and Conibeare expressed a prejudicial interest in this matter, left the room and did not take part in the discussion or vote thereon. Cllr Friend took the chair for this item only

RESOLVED The Council expressed concerns at the configuration of the pedestrian routes and requested further details of pedestrian access and exit arrangements. Apart from those reservations the Council would not oppose the construction of a roundabout but maintain the stance taken on the Trayne Farm housing application that the final decision should not be taken until the development proposals for all the proposed development sites in the immediate vicinity are finalised

Application 56957 Erection of garage with ancillary living accommodation over and erection of decking at 2 Warren Cottages Shirwell Barnstaple. (Considered at Feb Committee) Further information had been received from the Planning Officer and the Council **RESOLVED** that should approval be granted to accept the wording suggested by the Planning Officer as follows *The annexe hereby permitted shall only be used ancillary to the existing dwelling known as 2 Warren Cottage and shall not be used as a separate unit of accommodation.*

Application 56969 Listed building consent for replacement of windows at Plaistow Barton, Shirwell **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Planning Decisions

There were none

Report from Councillors

Cllr Pine advised Councillors that Robin Parkhouse had installed the drainage pipe which seems to have solved the road flooding problem in that area. **RESOLVED** a letter of appreciation be sent

Cllr Conibeare queried why the temporary warning sign barring HGV's from using Blackpool Bridge had been removed. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to contact Devon County Council with this query

A decision has not yet been taken on the form of commemoration for Trevor Squire

Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors report March 2014

Consultation on future of youth service

Devon County Council has launched a public consultation on a fundamental change in its youth service.

The county is considering moving from a universal service to a more targeted approach aimed at early help and prevention.

Skilled youth workers would work with social workers and other partners to identify and provide early help and support to vulnerable young people and those most at risk.

This targeted approach means the County Council would no longer manage or run more traditional centre-based activities aimed at universal support for all youngsters.

Community and voluntary groups or others with an interest will be invited to suggest alternative models or express an interest in taking over any of the council's 34 youth centres as part of the 12 week consultation.

A number of innovative proposals have already been received from community based organisations as part of public engagement on the future of the service begun in October.

The proposed changes are a response to the recent critical Ofsted report of the County's children's services together with the budget pressures being faced by all Councils.

The youth service currently costs £3.7 million a year and employs 114 full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff.

The county council has to save £110 million from its spending by 2017 and has consistently warned that all services would come under the spotlight. It must provide a number of services by law and whilst the youth service is not a statutory service the council is keen to find alternative delivery partners to secure a sustainable future.

Many county councils around the country have already moved from universal provision to targeted services and these proposals will bring Devon into line with many neighbouring and comparable authorities.

Public consultation will start on Monday 3 February and there will be community events around the county along with face to face meetings with young people who currently use the service.

Our Local meeting is on **Wednesday 26 March (7-9pm) at The Cedars Inn.**

To take part in the consultation go to: www.devon.gov.uk/youthreview

Consultation ends on 27th April 2014

Comments or questions can be directed to peopleservices-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Council considers new ways to give people greater choice of meals

Devon County Council is considering new ways to give people more choice about the hot or frozen meals they pay for, as its contract with meals service provider, apetito, is set to end in July 2014.

Ending of the contract could save the Council almost £540,000 over the next three years, and could represent a significant shift from being a provider of a meals service to being a signposter to meals provided locally in the community, or delivered frozen to people's homes.

There will be no change to eligibility criteria, and that everyone eligible for the meals service will still continue to receive support.

The Council is consulting with people in receipt of their meals service on new proposals, this month.

The number of people receiving the service in Devon has fallen 60% since 2009, with fewer than 500 people now having a hot or frozen meal delivered to them at home.

At the same time the number of local places where people can obtain good quality frozen or ready-made meals, including delivery, has increased, providing people with greater choice.

The Council currently subsidises the cost of hot meals by more than half so that people pay just £4 per hot meal rather than £8.48.

As the number of people having meals falls, the cost to the Council to run the service increases significantly.

It means that the current service is unsustainable, which is why the Council wants:

- to allow the current contract with *apetito* to end as scheduled in July
- to provide people with advice and information about local meals options
- to invest in voluntary sector support to help people if necessary to reheat frozen meals in their home or find a hot meals provider, such as local lunch clubs or community cafes
- to stop its subsidies for hot meals, meaning that people wanting hot meals would meet the full cost themselves

Councils do not have a duty to provide meals, which is why the majority, faced with having to make unprecedented savings to protect statutory services, have already removed subsidies to meals services, and many have ceased provision altogether.

Council launches consultation following day service review

A significant fall in the numbers of older people attending Devon County Council day centres has led the Council to rethink how it delivers the service in future.

The Council says that there will be no reduction in support to people and that everyone eligible for a service will receive it.

The Council has seen a 66% drop in the numbers of people attending its day centres since 2005.

More people are choosing to pursue other hobbies and interests during the day, or attend activities such as memory cafes or luncheon clubs in preference to attending council day centres.

And increasingly more and more people are using their direct payments and personal budgets from the Council to pay for the services they want.

Many Council run day centres are running well under capacity, and the people who use them say that the council needs to modernise.

They and their carers want a more flexible range of day opportunities to choose from that are based in local communities.

People have also told the council that they want more help and information to be available about a wider range of services for people to access.

People with complex needs and their carers say that for the minority who need building-based day centres, they should be modernised, offer more choice, have better integration within local communities, and be available as drop in centres.

Fewer attendees to council day centres means that the cost per person to provide the service is rising significantly.

The council wants as well to provide a range of different levels of support, that include:

- Providing basic advice and signposting to local services
- Offering time-limited support geared towards helping people access and find local services they can use
- Encouraging people to use personal budgets or direct payments from the council to pay for services they want from voluntary and community groups and care providers
- Investing in a limited number of building-based day services, provided by the Council or independent and voluntary sector, for people with intensive care needs.

The Council is proposing to reduce its 35 day centres to 9; merging 6 day services into 3 centres; and using private sector provision in place of 26 centres.

The consultation can be found at; <http://new.devon.gov.uk/dayservices>

Consultation ends on 19th march 2014

Council proposal to transfer care to private sector

In a further review of services, Devon County Council has been talking to voluntary groups, charities, and private sector providers about how it will meet the growing demand for residential care in future.

While most people are supported in their own homes these days, appropriate care for some means traditional residential or nursing care.

The Council wants to see more extra care housing in Devon in future and needs to work closely with housing providers, developers and national housing and regeneration agency, the Homes and Communities Agency.

Otherwise, the Council relies a lot on the private sector for residential care home placements. Private sector care homes currently account for about 85 per cent of people (approximately 1,986 placements) whose residential care is publicly funded by the County Council.

County Council-run homes account for just 15 per cent (approximately 337 placements), but with many of its 20 homes under-occupied and in need of considerable redesign to support changing needs in future, the Council's costs to provide care is far higher than the equivalent in the private sector.

Where the council pays private care homes on average £433 a week for a care bed, its own homes cost on average £970 per bed per week.

Despite considerable efforts to drive down costs, the Council is now proposing to join the majority of Councils in ceasing their provision of residential care and instead purchasing care in the private sector; becoming the commissioner of care, rather than the provider.

The move would echo Care Minister Norman Lamb's recent comments in the Commons, who spoke in favour of separating social care provision from the commissioning of care services. Mr Lamb supported the MP for Newton Abbot, Anne Marie Morris's view that it seems 'bizarre that (local authorities) should do both, because that must surely give rise to a conflict of interest.'

However no change would be made to people's entitlement, everyone eligible for residential care will continue to receive it. No changes are planned in the eligibility criteria or the funding available to meet people's assessed need.

Excluded from the proposal are the Council's specialist Centres of Excellence for people with dementia, opening this year in Newton Abbot and Torrington.

The Council sees these helping to plug a shortage in specialist provision for people with dementia, and will be working alongside the private sector to meet the growing demand.

The Council launched the consultation on the 10th February with residents, their families, staff, and stakeholders, to ask what they think.

There is a 45 day period of consultation (10th February-26th March 2014) on proposals for the future of services at all our residential care homes and we are seeking views on the following proposal:

- **Devon County Council proposes to formally cease providing residential care services at its residential care homes and to arrange and purchase alternative services for residents in the independent sector.**

Should this proposal be accepted we are committed to achieving these changes over a period of time therefore minimising disruption for residents, using all of our experience gained over many years of moving people from our homes as their needs change, allowing a smooth transition of residents to new homes.

Consultation documents, background information, proposals and details of how to formally respond can be found on our website <http://new.devon.gov.uk/residentialreview/>

Consultation begins for Barnstaple Hospital Junction Improvement scheme

Devon County Council's cabinet on the 12th February approved consultation plans regarding the junction at Westaway Plain, the A39 North Road and the Roborough Road/North Devon District Hospital access junction, known as the 'Hospital Junction' are underway.

The County Council is asking for people's views and opinions on the scheme. Hard copies of the design will be available to view in the Hospital and Civic Centre reception.

The consultation runs for 4 weeks from 14 Friday February to **Friday 14 March**

The proposed design is a 40m diameter roundabout on land that is mostly public highway with a small amount of land being required from the field to the north east of the current Hospital Junction.

Local member for Combe Martin rural , Councillor Andrea Davis says; "I am very glad to hear that cabinet has listened to my strongly held views on this proposal and that we can now go forward to consultation. I would encourage residents to have a look at the scheme and join in with the consultation"

The cost of designing and constructing the roundabout and associated works has initially been estimated at £1 Million. It is expected that if it goes ahead, this cost will be funded in full through planning contributions.

People can email their views to hospitaljunction@devon.gov.uk or in writing to Highway Development Management, Civic Centre, North Walk, Barnstaple, EX31 1EA

Devon triples teams tackling pothole repairs

Devon County Council has almost tripled its number of pothole repair teams in response to the storm damage to roads across the county.

Over the winter storm period, since 23 December, the County Council has recorded more than 1,300 reports of fallen trees and branches on Devon's roads, more than 150 embankment slips, and more than 4,000 flooding incidents across the county.

Around 11,500 potholes have also been reported by the public or found by highway inspectors so far in 2014. In response, the number of teams dealing with pothole safety defect repairs has increased from 13 to 34, with an extra 52 staff tackling the problem. The approximate additional cost of the work is around £65,000 a week.

The clear-up of the storm damage is estimated to cost around £3 million to the end of the financial year, but the County Council is yet to finalise a figure for the damage caused by the storms as the road network and structures are still being assessed.

The Highways Operation Control Centre (HOCC) has been the County Council's focus for the co-ordination of the storm response, operating 24 hours a day and working with the Police and other emergency services, Environment Agency, District Councils, and Network Rail among others. Devon County Council is still left with the legacy of the remaining repairs from the £18 million of damage caused by the storms of 2012/13, which will have to be funded from future capital allocations.

The maintenance backlog to bring Devon's roads up to scratch currently stands at £770 million. Devon's 8,000 mile highway network, the biggest of any authority in the country, needs around £64 million of investment a year to maintain the current condition of Devon's road network. The County Council will receive £35 million (this includes bridges as well as roads) for its capital highways budget from Government for the next financial year.

Council Tax

Unfortunately we have had to raise council tax rise for the first time in four years to safeguard hard-pressed services.

The Council is already reviewing a range of services in order to save £110 million by 2017. Which is what the consultations earlier in this report refer to. The 1.99 per cent increase will minimise the need for even deeper spending cuts.

The increase will add less than 50p a week to the average council taxpayer's bill but will bring in £24 million over the next four years.

John Hart said 'The economic recovery is gathering pace week by week, but I am very well aware that household budgets are still under strain.'

"We have to balance what working families who haven't had a pay rise and elderly folk on fixed incomes can afford against the need to keep providing the services on which they rely.

"That's why we've frozen the council tax for the past three budgets and put our own house in order, streamlining our administration and reducing staff costs from over a third of the budget to under a quarter.

"If I accept a council tax freeze grant from the Government this year it will bring in around £3 million and that will only be guaranteed for two years.

“This increase will bring in £6 million a year and it will be guaranteed in our base budget in perpetuity.

“Over the next four budgets that amounts to £24 million and we can do an awful lot with that money to maintain essential services for the people of Devon and improve their lives.”

Last autumn John Hart launched a new Tough Choices campaign inviting the people of Devon to get involved in the debate about the forthcoming budget. Over 15,000 people have so far taken part in the consultation, giving their views on which services should be made a priority and which could be reduced.

And over two thirds of those who took part – 67 per cent – said they were willing to pay a little more to protect services.

The top service priority for those who responded to the consultation was protecting services for vulnerable children.

Despite the need to find significant savings, the budget for 2014/15 identifies an extra £2.2 million for child and adult protection.

Andrea Davis

*County Councillor Combe Martin Rural
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