

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 10th November 2016 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall

Present

Cllr M Pine Chairman
Cllr J Friend Vice Chairman
Cllr A Conibear
Cllr M Hayward
Cllr Mrs Inledon
Cllr R Pelling

Also in attendance District Councillor J Tucker and 2 members of the public.

Officer

G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs D Lewis and County Councillor A Davis

Public Question Time

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

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council had written regarding the possible changes to service provision at North Devon Hospital. It was confirmed that a letter had been sent.

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th October 2016

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

- **Renewal of Notice Boards.** The order had been placed and the boards were being constructed
- **Sec'n 106 money** No progress was reported

Cheques for Payment

Cheques for the Clerks salary (£110.00), postage (£4.30) and Clevera website hosting (£35.96) were signed at the meeting.

Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor had apologised for her non-attendance and forwarded her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Report of the District Councillor

The District Councillor reported briefly on the following

- A move by St Ives Council to restrict new build to exclude second home owners had successfully overcome a recent court challenge
- Collard Bridge – enforcement is ongoing
- No update on the situation regarding the skittle alley
- He updated the Council on the changes of support to local pharmacies **RESOLVED** that a letter supporting the continuance of the existing service be sent
- North Devon Council are working on tracing all prospective voters to ensure they are not disenfranchised
- Highways conference at Bishops Nympton to be attended by M Hayward if possible

Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions.

Correspondence

The following correspondence had been emailed to Councillors

- DALC monthly newsletter
- Parish Forum Agenda 15TH November 2016
- Superfast broadband-connecting Devon and Somerset update
- Road Closure A39 Shirwell Road Marwood 29th November 2016
- Village Green Autumn 2016
- CAB Nov newsletter
- Rural Svces Network newsletter

Planning Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions

There were none

Drain and Gulley clearing scheme

RESOLVED That the contractor for the TAP scheme be asked to clear the gullies in school lane

Shirwell Phone Box

It was possible the red phone box would be taken out of service due to lack of use. **RESOLVED** The Clerk ascertain the present position and inquire whether the Box could be purchased.

Report from Councillors

- Councillors had raised an item of concern regarding poorly described road closure in Shame Faced Lane. It was noted that details would be available on the DCC web site
- Concern was expressed at the use of the Parish Notice Boards for advertising commercial activities, leaving no room for advertising community events. **RESOLVED** that the notice board use be restricted to community events and not for advertising commercial activities

Clerks Report

Parish Grant and Precept 2017/2018 The Clerk asked Members to consider setting a provisional Precept and Parish Grant for 2017/2018. It was noted that after known expenditure the Parish Council would have a healthy balance at the end of this financial year. **RESOLVED** that the Precept and Parish Grant be kept to the same level as last year (£2510 and £675 respectively)

Public Question Time for Items Discussed at this Meeting

Comments were made at the prospective withdrawal of support from Pharmacies and the advice given to seek a Pharmacists opinion on minor ailments rather than consulting a GP

Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.17pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report November 2016

Council discusses a ‘steady as we go strategy’ in response to projected overspend

Based on the first 6 months of this financial year, the Council predicts an overspend by £7.5 million by the end of March 2017 if steps are not taken between now and then to address the matter.

Steps, such as a jobs freeze on all but frontline posts, like social workers and care staff, and embargos on spending, could be introduced if necessary to reduce any overspend.

Projections of an overspend earlier in the year have already been reduced through cost-saving measures.

The range of possible measures was discussed by Devon’s Cabinet after considering a report by county treasurer Mary Davis on spending in the first six months of the 2016/17 financial year.

It was explained that the projected overspend is mainly due to an overrun of £5.2 million on adult social care.

The administration has balanced its budget for the past seven years despite facing multi-million pound austerity cuts every year. There absolutely no intention of not balancing the books.

There has also been a relentless, upward pressure on demand for adult services with Devon being home to a higher proportion of people aged over 65 – and especially over 85 – than is typical.

We are also facing additional costs from added responsibilities such as the introduction of the Care Act and paying workers delivering care in the community and in care homes the National Living Wage.

Almost all our neighbours in the South West are facing similar pressures and similar demands on their budgets.

Austerity cuts have prompted the Council to reduce overall spending by £244 million since 2009, during which time it’s spent £1 billion on improving infrastructure.

Devon website is supporting Armed Forces

Nearly 3,000 visits have been made to a new website for Devon’s military service leavers, veterans, reservists and their families in the first four months since its launch.

The most visited web pages have been for information about housing, support for military families, about employment, and health matters.

The [Devon Forces Family website](#) was launched in July by Devon County Council as an online directory of services, a one-stop-shop, and supports all people connected with the armed forces.

It’s been developed in consultation with veterans and professionals working with people in the armed forces.

And it’s been produced partly in response to a review in 2014, a Health Needs Assessment, that found that while most of the 107,000 veterans living in Devon made smooth transitions into civilian life, about 15 per cent have a complex mix of physical and mental health needs.

This can affect family life and has sometimes led to offending behaviour and imprisonment.

It's long been recognised that people in the armed forces, and their families, experience a unique set of factors as a consequence of their time in the services, which carry through to civilian life.

Risks to life or of injury, as well as armed services' lifestyle of frequent moves and disruption, all have an impact on individuals and their families.

A lack of familiarity about civilian services, and in some cases stigma, also prevents many veterans and their families from accessing health care, finding suitable housing, gaining employment or joining social groups.

Devon features twice in an international list of good practice

Devon is highlighted in a national report that cites international good practice in public health promotion.

The Public Health England report includes examples of policies and programmes put in place by local authorities in the UK and from around the world.

Devon features twice in the global list of 19 examples.

Those examples are for Devon County Council's Public Health teams' work in supporting emotional health and wellbeing for school-aged children; and for its health promotion through championing Devon's natural environment.

The Council co-designed a programme of support with schools and young people, to promote emotional wellbeing and prevention of mental illness among school-age children.

It focuses on early identification of problems and difficulties and targeted intervention to prevent those issues from escalating.

It uses a range of approaches, including face-to-face counselling, online support and self help advice and guidance. The programme also offers comprehensive help to schools, offering training, advice and clinical supervision, and raising awareness of emotional health and wellbeing among the school workforce.

Capitalising on Devon's natural environment, the Devon Local Nature Partnership's Naturally Healthy priority is also listed among the Public Health England examples. The Partnership is recognised for its work in promoting the health benefits for people in their enjoyment of the natural environment. It specifically targets initiatives for children, young people and families living in areas of deprivation, or who have long-term health conditions.

Partners, including Devon County Council's Public Health teams, the public, and representatives from the voluntary and environmental sectors, formed a working group to oversee delivery of the Naturally Healthy priority. Among its many successes is its promotion of the health and wellbeing benefits, to the public and to health professionals, of visiting Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks.

Other examples making the public health list come from South Australia, California, Seattle, Finland, and a number of local authorities in the UK.

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