

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 13th October 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 Mrs Lewis
Cllr R Pelling

Also in attendance County Councillor A Davis, District Councillor J Tucker and 2 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

Concern was expressed at the work being carried out at Honey Hill (Collard Bridge) where it seemed a route was under construction to open a new access onto the main road. Concern was also expressed at the seeming ineffectiveness of the enforcement notice that had already been served by North Devon Council as it was being blatantly ignored. Mention was made of past assurances by Planning Officers that they would take immediate action if the enforcement notice was ignored. It was noted that the site was in Stoke Rivers Parish council's area and that they, together with Bratton Flemming and Goodleigh Parish Councils were pressing for swift action as a Planning Application had now been made. **RESOLVED** that a letter be written in support of immediate action being taken to stop further work and to reinstate the site to its previous condition. The letter to ask for confirmation that we will be consulted as a neighbouring parish

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th September 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. **RESOLVED** that as the notice boards were being constructed by a small local contractor delegated powers be given to pay the invoice outside of committee
- **Sec'n 106 money** The acquisition of land adjacent to the Village Hall was still being pursued by the Village Hall committee

Cheques for Payment

A Cheque for the Clerks salary (£110.00) was signed at the meeting

Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor tabled her report and spoke briefly on the contents, highlighting the appointment of Skanska UK as the maintenance contractor for Devon Highways and the details of the case for improving the ND link road. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Questions to the County Councillor

The County Councillor was informed about the pothole adjacent to Burr ridge layby and the poor state of the jnc on the A39 at the Muddiford turn off.

Report of the District Councillor

The District Councillor reported briefly on the following

- N Devon and Torridge local plan is with the planning inspectorate
- Staffing problems in the enforcement section of the Planning Dept
- The trial for the revised recycling and refuse collection service

Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions.

Correspondence

Correspondence relating to the N Devon and Torridge local plan, staffing problems in the planning enforcement section, DALC monthly newsletter and consultation on the council tax referendum principles had been emailed to members.

Planning Applications

Cllr Hayward reminded Councillors that he had owned this building at one time but had no current personal or prejudicial interest.

Application 61686 Extension to agricultural building at Staple Barn Shirwell Barnstaple. Councillors had been contacted by members of the public questioning whether this building still qualified as an agricultural building as there had been no recent agricultural activity. Concerns were expressed that this application might be the first step in obtaining change of use from agricultural to residential. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend refusal to its proposed use as an apiary. It was also requested that a full investigation of the application be carried out, to include a site investigation as the access is poor.

Planning Decisions

- **Application 61555** Erection of building to create a covered yard at West Plaistow Muddiford Barnstaple **APPROVED**
- **Application 61521** Extension and alterations to dwelling together with enlargement of first floor windows to South and West elevations, new chimney flue and installation of solar panels at Monkton House Shirwell **APPROVED**

North Devon and Torridge Local Plan: Proposed Main and Minor Modifications. Public Consultation ~ 15th September - 27th October 2016
After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to request that the document be further amended to make clear that all energy generation applications should be considered on an equal basis as the wording currently proposed discriminates against wind energy. Shirwell Parish Council objected to the positive discrimination towards applications for wind turbines in the original draft but feel the policy as now worded goes too far the other way.

Report from Councillors

Councillors had raised items of concern regarding pot holes etc and updated the meeting on the current activity of the Village hall committee earlier in the meeting,

Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Public Question Time for Items Discussed at this Meeting

There were none

Urgent Business

A brief discussion was held on the publicity surrounding possible changes to the services provided at North Devon Hospital. Although no details were available as discussions had not yet been held it was **RESOLVED** that a general letter be sent reminding the responsible body that any reduction of the range or level of services at the hospital would be strongly resisted

The meeting closed at 8.21pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report October 2016

Cabinet agrees new highways maintenance contract

The Cabinet has agreed recommendations to award its highways term maintenance contract to Skanska Construction UK Limited.

The contract, which is yet to be formally awarded, will run from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2024, with extension options for a further three years. The Cabinet decision is subject to usual council procedures all of the bidders will be notified of the outcome and the County Council will enter into "standstill" period before Skanska Construction can be formally appointed.

The County Council's current highways term maintenance contract with South West Highways Ltd, which covers routine, reactive, emergency and planned highway maintenance work, expires at the end of March 2017.

It is anticipated that a large number of current South West Highways employees will be eligible to transfer to Skanska Construction UK Ltd, under legislation to protect workers when work passes to a new contractor.

Skanska Construction's proposals, as part of its winning bid, include a range of initiatives to tackle potholes, job creation for Devon residents, introduction of an efficiency and performance manager, an affordability review every three years to target investment, and improved communications.

Proposals for £200 million North Devon Link Road Strategic Outline Business Case

Following examination of feedback from the recent public consultation, the County Council is preparing a £200 million business case, which it is now looking to present to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The 30km scheme in the Strategic Outline Business Case will include:

- Improvements to seven junctions – Borners Bridge, West Buckland, Landkey, Portmore, Rumsam, Westleigh, and Heywood Road roundabout;
- A new junction at Brynsworthy to the west of the current A39 Roundswell roundabout;
- Additional overtaking lanes from Filleigh Estate to Portmore roundabout and from the new junction at Brynsworthy to Westleigh; and
- Proposals for a four-lane section between Landkey and Brynsworthy, to increase capacity where traffic flows are much higher. This would be two lanes in each direction without a central reservation, but the speed limit would have to be reduced to maximum of 50mph.

More than 1,300 responses were received during the consultation, with 95 % backing the idea of improvements to the Link Road. Further exploration of proposals for junction and link improvements was supported by 88%, while 32% wanted a dual carriageway to be investigated.

The section from South Molton to Barnstaple received the strongest backing with 89%, followed by the route around Barnstaple (79%) and then the section from Barnstaple to Bideford (67%).

Businesses prioritised an upgrade to road network over public transport improvements, with 60% of all respondents rating road links to the rest of the country as the highest priority for their business. 82% of businesses said that the North Devon Link Road was 'very important' or 'essential' to their business.

The North Devon Link Road is seen as a factor which is preventing Northern Devon's economy from performing to its potential. It suffers from congestion during peak hours, particularly between Barnstaple and Bideford, and along the entire stretch between Bideford and Tiverton during the tourist season. Average speeds are around 47mph on the 60mph section between Tiverton and Bideford and overtaking opportunities are limited throughout the route.

Although the number of collisions is relatively low compared to other Devon A-roads, the rate of fatal and serious incidents is higher than other comparable roads.

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