

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 14th December 2017 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr M Pine Chairman
Cllr J Friend Vice Chairman
Cllr A Conibear
Cllr Mrs N Incedon
Cllr R Pelling

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

Officer

G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

Cllr D Lewis, M Hayward and County Councillor A Davis.

Public Question Time

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

- Members of the Public raised concern at the number of blocked drains in the Village adjacent to the Church. **RESOLVED** that the details be passed to Cllr Hayward to enable him to inform the council contractor.

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th November 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Matters Arising

There were none that were not on the agenda

Matters Brought Forward from previous meeting

There were none that were not on the agenda

Cheques for Payment

Cheque for the Clerk's salary (£110.00), and Web site domain name renewal (£15.60) were signed at the meeting.

Report of the County Councillor

Cllr Davis had apologised for her non-attendance and had 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

Cllr Tucker reported briefly on the following

- 2 new district councillors have been appointed to fill the recent vacancies
- The Local Plan has been further delayed and there will be a 2 day public consultation period in Barnstaple
- The new audio facilities at the new Crematorium have improved the user experience for mourners
- The Chief Exec of North Devon Hospital is retiring
- There have been 2 successful prosecutions against car traders and one for a fly tipping offense
- The new leisure centre should open in 2020
- District Council ward boundaries will change
- £30m in housing benefit is paid annually in N Devon

Questions to the District Councillor

Following a question there was a brief discussion on what constituted a 'planning prior approval', there was no clear outcome from the discussion

Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received in addition to the items discussed at this meeting

- Proposed electoral ward revisions for N Devon

Planning Applications

- **Application 64154:** Prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling house (class Q(a)(b) at Glebelands Garmans Down Shirwell Barnstaple **RESOLVED** to recommend approval
- **Application 64035:** Widening of existing access onto public highway at Keepers Cottage, Shirwell, Barnstaple **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Planning Decisions

- **Application 63922:** Extensions and alterations to dwelling together with raised patio area at Millens Shirwell Barnstaple. **Approved**

Drain and Gulley Clearance scheme

See item under Public Question Time.

Relocation of Red Telephone Box – progress report

Application for Sec'n 106 funding made and due for consideration by ND executive in February 2017

Website Updating Requirements

Cllr Friend reported that he could not update the website content for minutes etc. **RESOLVED** The Clerk to investigate and report back to the January meeting

Report from Councillors

- Cllr Pelling reported that he had cleaned the bus shelter and the notice board and cleaned back the vegetation surrounding it.

Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There were none

Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and invited them to join him and his wife in a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report December 2017

An Outline Business Case for improvements to the North Devon Link Road will be submitted to government on Monday 18 December.

Devon County Council will hand its £88 million bid for Department for Transport (DfT) funding, as it aims to receive a share of £300 million available nationally through the Local Majors Fund.

Councillor Andrea Davis, Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, will lead a delegation along with Councillor Pat Barker, Deputy Leader of North Devon District Council, Councillor Jane Whittaker, Leader of Torrington District Council, and North Devon MP Peter Heaton Jones.

The scheme included in the Outline Business Case would widen the A361 from South Molton to Barnstaple, providing overtaking lanes on around 70% of this stretch of the route, which would be an improvement on the current level of 10%.

Junction improvements and safety upgrades would also be carried out between South Molton and Bideford. The road would continue to have a 60mph speed limit with the use of average speed cameras recommended to improve safety.

Submitting the Outline Business Case is a key milestone for the North Devon Link Road project. A lot of hard work has gone into getting the scheme to this stage and if our bid for Local Majors Funding is successful it will be a tremendous boost for the economy in northern Devon and also for improving safety on this vital route.

Stabilisation work on B3230 completed early

The road opened ahead of schedule on Tuesday 5 December following the construction of a new retaining wall. Work was carried out by MacPlant Construction Ltd.

The essential scheme was needed in order to support and stabilise the edge of the road, after the original structure failed in December 2016.

When roads are closed for major repair schemes, every effort is always made to re-open them as soon as possible. That has been achieved ahead of schedule on this occasion with everything going smoothly, and we would like to thank local people for bearing with us while we made this important route safe.

I'm sure local businesses and everyone in the local community will be as pleased as we are that this work has been completed ahead of time. Everything went to plan which has enabled the road to re-open more than two weeks early.

I will be going out to look at the local roads next week. I know some will require some work following the recent works, certainly Upcott Cross to Indicott will require a road closure, this won't be able to happen until next summer, as there is no budget available I will have to fund this from my County Councillors budget, I'm not sure how far that will go but we'll do our best.

Target Budget

The target budget calls for an extra £13 million for adult care and health. A big boost on spending for adult social care, health and children's services is being planned by Devon County Council despite continuing Government cuts. Next year's target budget calls for an extra £13 million to be spent on adult care and health in 2018/19. That's a rise of over 6 per cent and would take the total care budget to £227.8 million.

The target budget also calls for increases in spending for children's services of 5.5 per cent or £6.5 million taking the total budget for children to £125.5 million.

In a report to councillors, the County treasurer says the Government still hasn't confirmed what level of grant the authority will receive next year but the provisional announcement is expected before Christmas.

As the provisional settlement has not been received, there is inherent uncertainty. If it differs markedly from the four-year funding plan set out in 2016/17 then a further report might be needed in the New Year.

Under the new proposals, the revenue budget for highways, infrastructure and waste would reduce by 2.7 per cent to take account of a number of new contracts which have generated multi-million pound efficiencies.

In all, the target revenue budget for the county for 2018/19 would be £477.391 million.

Our vital health and social care services for adults continue to be under immense pressure both in Devon and nationally. In Devon we have some of the highest proportions of people over 65 and people over 85 in the country and they need and deserve our help and support. We also believe it is imperative to do the best we can for our children and young people to give them the best possible start in life.

Our priority is to protect the most vulnerable in our society and I believe this target budget will help to do that. We know that many people are concerned about highways and the maintenance of their local roads.

This year we have re-negotiated a number of contracts and made considerable efficiency savings. We're also working smarter and greener, for example installing LED lightbulbs in our street lighting.

This rigorous approach to doing business means we will be able to meet the Government's continuing austerity targets while still providing the same – or an improved – service.

The county council budget meeting is in February.

Merry Christmas

Andrea Davis

County Councillor Combe Martin Rural

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