

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 11th January 2018 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr M Pine Chairman
Cllr A Conibear
Cllr M Hayward
Cllr Mrs N Incedon

Also in attendance County Councillor A Davis and 2 members of the public.

Officer

G Dwyer Clerk

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Friend, Mrs D Lewis, R Pelling and District Councillor J Tucker.

Public Question Time

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

A member of the public queried why only one of 3 adjacent potholes had been filled by the DCC contractor. County Councillor A Davis explained that only potholes approved by the County Engineer for repair could be worked on for budget control reasons but undertook to investigate the matter further.

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

With members approval the Chairman moved agenda item 8 (report of the County Councillor) to this point on the agenda to allow her to go to another meeting

Report of the County Councillor

Cllr Davis briefly mentioned the points covered in her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The points covered were

- The link road improvement proposal was with the Secretary of State and a decision was expected in June although she stressed that the scheme was in competition for limited funds with other bids.
- Road works on the A39 were expected to be completed by the end of March assuming reasonable weather

- She requested that the February agenda consider the trial of the 3 weekly rubbish collection. Councillor Cann would attend.

Questions to the County Councillor

Discussions were held regarding the problems caused by the lack of gulley maintenance by the County Council. It was noted that Shirwell members would support the re-introduction of a locally authorised budget under the control of the their County Councillor

Matters Arising

There were none that were not on the agenda **RESOLVED** that this be omitted from future agendas as the heading 'matters brought forward' will be adequate for both categories

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), C Wallace Gulley Maintenance (£345.00) were signed at the meeting

Report of the District Councillor

Cllr Tucker had apologised for his non-attendance as he had to attend another meeting

Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions

Correspondence

The following correspondence had been emailed to Councillors

- DALC newsletters
- NDC letter requestiong confirmation of the precept

Planning Applications

There were none

Planning Decisions

There were none

Drain and Gulley Clearance scheme

See minute of Questions to the County Councillor. It was noted that future clearance should be restricted as the existing budget is almost exhausted There were still problems at Langafor Hill where the drain ran uphill. The Council asked for thanks to be recorded to Andrew Lewis for help to the contractor and Ian Worth for the loan of equipment when dealing with the problem on the back road to Berry Down. **RESOLVED** Cllr M Hayward to update DCC website with ongoing drainage issues.

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

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk pursue the possibility of a grant from the transparency fund.

Report from Councillors

The salt bin in the lay bye at the Old Post Office was letting in water **RESOLVED** the County Council be informed

Clerks Report

The Clerk confirmed that he had returned the precept confirmation to NDC

Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There were none

Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.17 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report January 2017

An Outline Business Case for improvements to the North Devon Link Road

On behalf of Devon County Council I handed the £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 on the 18th December.

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.

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.

A39 Zig Zag

The A39 is closed at Shirwell in for 13 weeks for essential stabilisation work. The section of the road, north of Barnstaple, will need to be closed from Tuesday 2 January until Thursday 29 March while a new 60-metre retaining wall is built.

The road is cracking and the edge of the road needs stabilising to prevent the embankment from completely collapsing.

As well as the concrete retaining wall, the £200,000 scheme also involves drainage improvements and resurfacing.

While the road is closed I have arranged for some other maintenance work to be done for example gully clearing and other patching and resurfacing. Please drive carefully as there may well be people working on the road.

I've been asked by several parishes for some contact numbers:

Please however use the DCC website to report highway concerns that aren't emergencies.

Emergency numbers (out of hours)

Social Services 0345 600 0388 or 0845 600 0388

Highways 01392 383329

Animal Welfare, Petrol and Explosives 01392 499499

Happy New Year

Andrea Davis

County Councillor Combe Martin Rural

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