

Draft
Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
13th June 2019 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs L Campbell
Cllr Mrs S Pine
Cllr S Shortridge

Also in attendance District Councillor J Tucker and 3 members of the public.

Officer

G Dwyer (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Pelling and County Councillor Mrs A Davis.

Prior to the start of the meeting it was asked whether anyone needed the PA system to aid them with hearing difficulties and all declined the offer.

Public Question Time

With members permission the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak. He stressed that members of the public were not allowed to join in discussions during the meeting but there was an item later on the agenda for them to comment on matters that had arisen during the meeting

- A member of the public who was registered blind again raised the problems that pot holes within the village caused her and challenged in a friendly way Councillor Andrea Davis to walk blindfold through the village. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to draw the attention of County Councillor Davis to this friendly challenge.
- Councillor Friend would highlight the potholes in the village on the County Council website and Cllr Mrs Pine would do the same for problem areas outside the village.
- A comment was made by a member of the public at the difficulty in equating the additional income raised through Council Tax on new builds to the lack of increase of the amount spent on road maintenance.

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish and the Annual General meeting held on the 9th May 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated and amended in draft form be approved.

Matters Arising

Co-optation of Councillors deferred to the end of the meeting. Discussions on the applicants to be carried out as a confidential item as matters relating to an individual's circumstances would need to be discussed

Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned.

Cheques for Payment

Clerks salary (£110.00), Printer ink (£7.11) Kameleon (2 months web site hosting etc) (£50.16) were signed at the meeting. It was noted that future payments for website hosting to Kameleon would be paid quarterly

2018/2019 Accounts

The Clerk tabled copies of the accounts and copies of the draft returns to the External Auditor for members approval. It was **RESOLVED** that the accounts and annual governance statement as audited by Mr Sherwin be approved and the necessary documentation be submitted to the external auditor. The Council recorded their thanks to Mr Sherwin for auditing the accounts

Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs Davis had apologised for her non-attendance and had forwarded her report which was attached to these minutes

Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker briefly commented as follows

- The first meeting of the District Council post the recent elections had been held and he had been appointed as Chair of the Licencing committee
- The contribution made by Parish Councils had been recognized
- The recent seminar on declaration of members interests had been a success and plans were in hand to repeat that for other new Councillors
- A seminar for Planning Issues was planned for the near future
- Discussions were held about the usefulness to the Parish Council of the weekly information sheet distributed by the District Council

Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions

Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received

- DALC Newsletter
- Code of conduct training notes
- Letter regarding the emergency services mast at Cott Down
- Letter from the Living Options organization regarding a complaint from a member of the Public. Dealt with separately on the agenda.

Letter from the Living Options organization regarding a complaint from a member of the Public.

Among the issues was the alleged refusal of the Parish Council and Village Hall committees to make reasonable provision for a member of the public with hearing difficulties. The following points were made ..

- A contego comfort r800 had been purchased by the Village Hall and had not been used by the complainant who has now alleged that as she has to use a pacemaker it is not recommended that she use the system provided.
- The letter writer (Living options) had not been made aware by the complainant that there was also a PA system available in the Village Hall, also the complainant had declined to use the PA system at this meeting as she stated that providing people spoke clearly she could hear adequately.

The complainant had requested that the minutes of meetings be placed on the notice boards within the village As the minutes were placed in the Parish Magazine and on the Council website it was not felt that the additional time and cost of placing the minutes on all the Village noticeboards was justified, and the complainant had been previously advised of that.

The Parish Council did not feel that the time involved in going through a mediation process could be justified.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Living Options advising them of the Council's decision.

Planning Applications

Application 66586 Woolcott Farm Shirwell EX31 4JZ **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application as the Parish Council had no knowledge of the points covered in the application

Planning Decisions

Application 66430 - Site to the north east of Beechlea, Shirwell Road, Barnstaple **WITHDRAWN**

Application 66481 - Norway Farm Barn, Shirwell Prior notification **APPROVED**

Village Warden Scheme

Deferred until new councillors were in post and able to comment

Report from Councillors

Councillors again commented on the deterioration of roads and the need to continue to post problems on the DCC web site

Clerks Report

The Clerk was awaiting surgery on his ankle which would prevent him driving. Members undertook to provide lifts to the meetings as required

Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

The possibility of providing dog poo bins was discussed. It was noted that the cost of emptying the bins would need to be borne by the Parish Council. It was **RESOLVED** that 'clean up after your dog' notices be posted in the Village.

Urgent Business

There was none

There was none

The Chairman moved that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw

Co-option of Councillors

Discussed as a confidential item but it was **RESOLVED** that John Watts and Norman Turner be co-opted onto the Council

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors report
June 2019

Devon Economy Update

Local Industrial Strategy

Three opportunities have been identified by the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership covering Somerset, Devon, Torbay and Plymouth) for the region. Clean energy, Digital and Hi Tech Engineering which includes defence and marine.

The LEP is also working to take forward the productivity strategy and it's action plan.

The ambition is to double the size of Devon's economy over next 20 years and thereby raise prosperity for all. Ironically this is not helped by Devon's full employment.

Defence and Environment industries are the most productive in Devon.

Great SW proposal

Gary Streeter MP chaired the first all party group for the SW on 30th April-- a 90 minute debate at Westminster. I will be attending in June to update the SW MP's about infrastructure, particularly rail on this occasion.

Appledore

- Faroe Islands boats – contracts in multiples of millions looking positive, with consortium to take-on the work
- Various meetings currently happening looking to get something moving, hopefully by July
- Talks ongoing with Babcock regarding release of relevant staff

M5 Junction 25 improvements

Whilst this is in Somerset, it will bring benefit to North Devon, this work has started, as will other road improvements such as the A303.

Total cost £19,218,000.00

LEP allocation £12,186,000.00

Highways England allocation £7,032,000.00.

A361 North Devon Link Road – Pedestrian Cycle Crossings at Bishops Tawton and Landkey and Advanced Planting Works

Progress on the North Devon Link Road improvement is going well - planning permission has been granted, there were no objections to the Compulsory Purchase of land, and the tender process has started.

Planning conditions set out the need for advance planting along sections of the route one year prior to the start of works in 2020 so that the planting can mature *before* the existing planting is removed as part of the main works. I now have approval from Cabinet to award the contract (up to a value of £500k) so these essential works can begin.

There have been concerns regarding the proposed improvement of the Bishop's Tawton roundabout and pedestrian/cycle facilities. As result a more detailed consultation was undertaken. A review of the results of the consultation was undertaken and recognising that any structure will have an impact on residents the recommended option is an underpass. Several suggestions from the consultation have been taken forward for incorporation into the preferred option, such as high-quality lighting and landscaping. I have approval to progress with the submission of a planning application, begin land acquisition and ultimately tender for the roundabout improvements and underpass.

Landkey Parish Council suggested at the planning stage for the main scheme that there should be a segregated pedestrian crossing at Landkey Junction when it is upgraded to a roundabout. Having reviewed this suggestion it is felt that the provision of a pedestrian/cycle facility at Landkey Junction is in line with the ambition to remove, where possible, all uncontrolled pedestrian crossings. As such we are proceeding with an options appraisal for a segregated walking/cycling footbridge at Landkey Junction, I have Cabinet approval to submit a planning application, begin land acquisition and tender when a preferred option emerges.

New Devon County Council Grant Schemes (replacing the TAP fund)

1. The new **DCC Doing What Matters Community Grants Fund** is now live on the DCC website at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy/business-support/doing-what-matters-communities-grants-fund/>

This scheme will feature an intervention rate of 75% (25% match required) – offering one-off grants of between £5k to £20k to successful community project applicants.

This grant is open to legally constituted and registered as not-for-profit organisations. This includes voluntary, community and social enterprises (vcse), town and parish councils, charities and businesses. Applications can also be made by a combination of these groups working together.

2) Crowdfund Devon (extra funding for Devon) – details are on the Crowdfunder website:

<https://welcome.crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-devon/>

Set up to support community groups, start-up businesses, charities and individuals across the County to raise money from the crowd and unlock extra funding from our partners.

“If you have a project that makes an impact to your community, supports well-being, works towards a better environment, rewards innovation or supercharges business ideas, then we want to hear from you”

3) Making the Connection grant fund at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/making-the-connection-grant>

Deploying one-off grants of up to £300 with no match funding. The funds purpose is to provide small amounts of grant funding to community-led schemes, benefitting one or more community groups which bring people together to identify and/or achieve relatively quickly the small but important things that matter to them. Encouraging and enabling communities to be stronger; in terms of their independence, ability to respond to issues, resourcefulness and resilience.

Andrea Davis

County Councillor Combe Martin Rural

Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

***A reminder from Devon County Council of
how to report a highway problem.....***

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Phone 0345 155 1004 or 0845 155 1004

***Please make a note of the reference number so I can
follow up any issues arising.***