

Draft
Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
12th March 2020 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr Ms L Campbell (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Pine
Cllr S Shortridge
Cllr N Turner
Cllr J Watts

Also in attendance County Councillor Mrs a Davis, District Councillor J Tucker and one member of the public.

Officer

G Dwyer (Clerk)

Mar20/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Pelling

Mar20/2 Public Question Time

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

A member of the public highlighted the problems with potholes in school lane (reported to DCC online at the meeting), and the issue of dog fouling which had become a problem in one area close to the Village Hall. Notices warning against dog fouling were handed out and the Parish Council reiterated the need to 'name and shame' those responsible.

The meeting resumed under standing orders

Mar20/3 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th February 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved.

Mar20/4 Matters Arising

All matters arising were on the agenda

Mar20/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and the casing cleaned.

Mar20/6 Cheques for Payment

Clerk's salary (£110.00) Postage (£7.32) Printer ink (£5.99) and Annual Hire for the Village Hall (£105.00) were signed at the meeting.

Mar20/7 Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor had forwarded her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She drew the meetings attention to the section dealing with pothole repair and how to report a highway problem, NB. Please keep a note of the reference number as it eases any follow up later.

Mar20/8 Questions to the County Councillor

A Councillor remarked that the co-ordination of highway repairs was not as well organised as it could be when sections of roadwork resulted in traffic restrictions on several areas at the same time. The point was noted but in defence at times emergency safety repairs had to take precedence over traffic convenience.

Mar20/9 Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker reported briefly on

- The staffing situation in the District Council, with particular reference to the Planning Enforcement section which was now fully staffed.
- Planning was now approved for the Shapland and Petter site
- NDC portion of the Council Tax bill was up by 2.7 percent.
- Barnstaple Police Station building was closed due to structural building issues.

Mar20/10 Questions to the District Councillor

In response to a question it was noted that elderly and disabled residents could get assistance with putting out rubbish.

Mar20/11 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated to Councillors

- Advice on the current situation regarding the Corona virus
- Rural bulletin
- Neighbourhood watch
- Campaign against environmental crime
- Dalc newsletter
- School lane regarding the state of the road

Mar20/12 Planning Applications

Application 62054 Erection of Dwelling (Amended Plans) at garden of Heather Cottage Shirwell ex31 4ju. Members commented on the quality of the plans accompanying the application and the difficulty in identifying what the issues were. It was **RESOLVED** not to support the application due to concerns at the proposed parking suggestion, especially as any overspill would result in roadside parking in an area where parking is causing grave concern.

Mar 20/13 Planning Decisions

There were none

Mar20/14 2020/2021 Budget

The Clerk declared an interest in the annual salary review and withdrew from the discussion during that item, Councillors Mrs Campbell and Mrs Pine declared an interest in the discussion of annual grants as they were on the Village Hall committee.

The Clerk tabled a list of the Councils income and commitments for 2020/2021. It was noted that the Parish Grant which was used to give Annual Grants to local organisations had been discontinued from the current financial year following a reduction in the previous year. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** the grant to the Parish Church be reduced from £150.00 £75.00 in 2021/2022 and nothing in the following year, the grant to the Village Hall be reduced from £400.00 to £200 in 2021/2022 and nothing in the following year, the grant to the Methodist Church circuit to cease after this year. The Council reviewed the Clerks salary and it was **RESOLVED** to increase it to £125.00 per month to include the provision of normal office facilities such as the phone etc.

Mar20/15 Report from Councillors

Nothing was raised

Mar20/16 Clerks Report

- The Clerk was booked to have an ankle fusion in April and would be in plaster for 12 weeks

Mar20/17 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There were none.

Mar20/18 Urgent Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 8.10

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

**Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors Report
March 2020**

Reminder of how to report a highway problem.

With the excessively wet weather we are experiencing a emergence of potholes, please help by reporting them either on the website or via the telephone.

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

or telephone: 0345 155 1004

(Road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs, and public rights of way.)

Please keep a note of the reference number.

Potholes

The increase in potholes has been significant. Highways had been not just filling safety defects but adjacent potholes but this had to be suspended whilst we concentrated on filling the actual safety defects. This has prompted an increase of annoyed customers, however it is the correct decision to prioritise the work in this way, and the teams are clear that they want to return to the Doing What Matters work, once the safety defect levels have dropped.

The Report IT website has been updated so that some defects have a due date put against them (they appear with a roadworks symbol). Its not perfect, there are some glitches in the system and there is some data cleansing required.

Works Programme Information

This has now gone live on the webpages at

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/live-roadworks-information/>

Again the team are aware that it is not perfect, and that there is still some development to do, which is planned for the next month, but it does start to produce future information which is currently lacking.

Dragon patchers

Having considered the work that Dragon patchers have carried out in the County, and particularly the impact of the work on the minor road network, the service has decided to increase the number of machines to 4. These now have to be built for Skanska, so they won't appear on the network immediately, however Skanska are looking at trying to hire in older machines until these new ones arrive in several months time.

Coronavirus advice

We understand that our residents and visitors may have concerns about coronavirus. We would like to reassure you that the government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

The council is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with [Public Health England](#). We are taking all possible steps to keep you safe.

Visit the [NHS website](#) for the latest information and advice and the current situation in the UK or you can follow Public Health England's [Facebook page](#) or [Twitter feed](#) for the latest updates, information and advice.

Useful links

[Latest Government advice](#)

Regularly updated information for the public on the outbreak, including the current situation in the UK and advice about the virus and its symptoms, as well as statements from the Chief Medical Officer on confirmed cases in the UK.

[PHE blog: novel coronavirus – what you need to know](#)

PHE is addressing common questions on its Public Health Matters blog.

[PHE blog: what is contact tracing?](#)

One of the ways in which PHE seek to protect the public from infectious diseases like novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is contact tracing. In this blog Nick Phin, Deputy Director at PHE's National Infections Service, answers some questions about how this works.

[Advice sheet on home self-isolation](#)

What to do if you are told to self-isolate.

[PHE Campaign Resource Centre: novel coronavirus](#)

PHE has launched a UK-wide public information campaign to advise the public on how to slow the spread of coronavirus and reduce the impact on NHS services. Its Campaign Resource Centre holds materials which can be used by councils for distribution to their communities.

[Coronavirus – what you need to know](#)

PHE has created a page of FAQs, that will be updated regularly.

[If you do have any concerns or questions please visit the NHS website for further information.](#)

Devon County Council Budget 2020/21

Devon County Council recently approved its budget with more money for vulnerable children, adult social care and roads and drainage.

More than £43 million extra will be pumped into vital services with an additional £23.7 million for adult care and health, £11.5 million more for children's services and £2 million more to help deal with drainage issues on the road network.

In total the council's spending will rise by £43.1 million from £498 million in 2019/20 to just over £541 million.

The average Band D council tax bill for Devon's services will rise by 3.9 per cent to help pay for it – that's 1.9 per cent for general services and 2 per cent dedicated solely to adult care.

It means the Band D bill will rise by £55.17 to £1,439.46 – the equivalent of £1.06 a week extra.

The budget provides significant additional resources to adult social care, children's services and highways which are the things that matter most to our Devon residents. Although there has been a small increase in support from the Government, we need the certainty of future income to protect services. Caring for the elderly and disabled, together with children, are our highest priorities. Against the backdrop of increased demand and cost pressures on adult social care and health and children's services, we feel it is necessary, reluctantly, to increase council tax by 3.99 per cent, which provides just over £21 million of additional funding.

In 2020/21 the authority's core funding will increase by 1.63 per cent, which is a welcome change from the 11 per cent average annual reduction since austerity began in 2010.

There are significant ongoing pressures in both adult and children's services with the greatest area of concern being the funding shortfall on the High Needs Block (children with special needs) and the lack of information from Government on what they intend to do about it."

We have had significantly wetter weather this winter which means we are having more drainage problems leading to the break up of our roads and so we have put an extra £2 million into improving drainage.

We will still support rurality, rural buses, and highways but we will also look to invest in our green agenda. We will be investing in LED lighting on our streetlights, more charging points for electric cars, solar panels on the roofs of our buildings and looking for land to plant trees to offset our carbon footprint. We are very conscious that many people living in Devon are on fixed and low incomes but every year we have to balance imposing more costs on them with the need to ensure our most vulnerable residents get the help and support they need and deserve and all our residents get the best services we can provide.

In cash increase terms, this is the best budget we have had for a decade. The independent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy had judged the finances of top tier councils across the country against a number of measures of resilience. Devon's finances had been judged to be good and robust.

As a reminder of what Devon County Council is responsible for I have drawn up a quick guide with some numbers in it. This is by no means comprehensive; the budget book is over 150 pages.

Devon County Council – roles and responsibilities

Devon County Council is one of 26 County Councils in England. The authority, which has 60 elected County Councillors, represents 795,000 residents and administers an area spanning 2,534 square miles, the third largest in England. The Council is led by a Cabinet of nine senior councillors, chaired by the Leader of the Council, John Hart.

The County Council works in partnership with eight District Councils, over 300 Town and Parish Councils, the Great South West region's LEPs and neighbouring County and Unitary councils.

Our services

The County Council has a total budget of £1.1 billion and provides a wide range of public services – some directly and some commissioned from other organisations. The County Council's main service groups are:

Adult care and health including services for older people and adults with physical or learning disabilities.

- care at home for 10,000 people a year
- 13,000 people with dementia

Children's services including education and learning; services for vulnerable children and families; safeguarding; looked after children and care leavers.

- supporting 16,500 children with special needs or disabilities
- over 200 children adopted or fostered a year
- 97,000 pupils
- 398 schools

Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity including planning, transportation and environment; economy, enterprise and skills; trading standards; libraries; community safety and emergency planning.

- 50 libraries and four mobile libraries
- free school transport for 14,500 pupils a day
- funding for 185 bus services, 60 voluntary car schemes and 16 community ring and ride schemes
- nine new primary schools built or due to be completed in 2020

Highways, Infrastructure Development and Waste including road and bridge maintenance; waste disposal and recycling; and the County Council's capital programme.

- 8,000 miles of road (England's largest local network)
- 62,000 potholes filled a year
- managing 357,000 tonnes of domestic waste a year
- 19 recycling centres
- £114 million invested every year on major infrastructure projects.

Legal, Human Resources and Communications including democratic support and scrutiny; Crown services; registration of births, marriages and deaths, and the Coroner services.

County Treasurer including Revenue and Capital budgets; Investment and Treasury management; Devon Audit Partnership and the Devon Pension Fund.

Digital Transformation and Business Support including ICT; procurement; property management; customer service and information governance.

Improvements on A3123 Berry Down Cross

A road improvement scheme is due to start on the A3123 at Berry Down Cross later this month.

The road at Berry Down Cross will be closed for five days from Monday 16 March and is due to re-open by Saturday 21 March.

The closure will stretch from Smythen Cross to Berry Down Cross, and will also take in the section of the A3123 from the junction with Long Lane to the junction with Dudmoor Lane junction. A diversion will be signed via the B3230 to Chambercombe, A399 Watermouth and Combe Martin and then the A3123, and vice versa, although local traffic may find alternative routes.

A 40mph speed limit is being introduced as part of the scheme and new signs will be installed to highlight the change.

A number of other measures are also being installed to give motorists advance warning of the sharp bend at Berry Down. These include solar-powered road studs, which illuminate constantly throughout the hours of darkness, and high friction surfacing.

New signs, which are activated by vehicles approaching at excessive speed, will also warn drivers of the upcoming bend and the advisable maximum speed of 20mph.

Access will be maintained for homes and businesses within the closure area, although they may have to wait briefly for staff on site to let them through. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times.

B3230 Muddiford

The main soil nailing works will commence on Monday 16th March, with a smaller excavator working under 2 way lights.

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