

**Notes from on-line meeting and emailed discussion held by members of
Shirwell Parish Council
on the 11th February 2021**

Present

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

Also on-line County Cllr A Davis

NB. The meeting scheduled for today had been cancelled due to restrictions on public gatherings brought about by Corona virus 19

Officer

G Dwyer (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting by explaining that as we had a limited time slot items requiring complex discussion would be done on-line and the rest of the items would be decided via email.

Feb21/ 1 Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Tucker emailed apologies for his non-attendance

Feb21/ 2 Public Question Time

Not relevant as there was no public meeting

**Feb21/3 Minutes of the online and email discussion held on the 14th
January 2021**

RESOLVED that the notes as previously circulated be approved.

Feb21/4 Matters Arising

All matters arising were on the agenda

Feb21/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected by a member of the Public on the Councils behalf.

Feb21/6 Cheques for Payment

Payment for the Clerk's salary (£125.00), Cheque to be signed by Cllr Friend and Pelling.

Feb21/7 Report of the County Councillor

Cllr Mrs Pine expressed an interest in this item as the owner of an access plot. She took no part in the discussion.

Cllr Davis's report is attached to these minutes. Discussions were held on the proposed closure of the B3230 for tree works by euroforest and it was **RESOLVED** to support the County Council in their attempts to limit the period of the road closure and to write to euroforest expressing our concern at their moves to force through a road closure.

Feb21/8 Questions to the County Councillor

Members discussed the proposed Road Closure at B3230 and expressed concern at the affect this would have on Residents. They accepted that a closure now was preferable to a closure after lockdown was lifted but disputed the need for a 4 week closure; it was felt that the County had been bullied into accepting health and safety protocols as a reason for the closure when other strategies would/could achieve a shorter closure period. **RESOLVED** The Clerk to write to Euroforest and the County Council expressing concern at the unnecessarily long closure and at the lack of local consultation.

Feb21/9 Report of the District Councillor

The regular email updates have been distributed.

Feb21/10 Questions to the District Councillor

The Council expressed concern at the lack of progress on the new field entrance on the A39 adjacent to the Muddiford turning as yet a Planning Application had not been received. **RESOLVED** to write urging that Planning enforcement be expedited

Feb21/11 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been circulated to Councillors

Dalc Newsletter
Devon ccg coronavirus vaccination briefing
The rural bulletin
Weekly info sheet

In addition general councillor information had been forwarded

Feb21/12 Planning Applications

Application 72676 Extension of agricultural barn and conversion to work/live unit at Staple Barn Shirwell Barnstaple Devon EX31 4LE After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to recommend refusal as there seemed insufficient justification for a unit of this size. Concerns were expressed on the small amount of Agricultural activity.

Feb21/13 Planning Decisions

There were none

Feb21/14 Dec20/15 Open Reach Community Fibre partnership – request for the Parish Council to be involved (discussed via Zoom)

Members discussed the latest email from Mr Arbretti which confirmed that the Council had been correct in their assessment of the low potential for a public funded initiative. **RESOLVED** that this be noted and the Council's thanks be passed to Mr Arbretti for the work he has done

Feb21/ 15 Reports from Councillors

- The Council expressed their thanks to Dean Tucker for the work he had done as Snow Warden
- Questions were asked regarding the extent of the Planning Permission on Woods View
- No information was available on the work being carried out on the site of the water tower.

Feb21/16Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report but requested that a sum of money be made available for work on the website. **RESOLVED** that this be approved. The Clerk to liaise with the Chairman

Feb21/ 17Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

Not relevant

Feb21/ 18 Urgent Business

There was none.

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

**Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors Report
February 2021**

Coronavirus updates from Devon County Council

The link below may be of interest to residents with the situation changing and many interested in what is happening locally this link is a useful starting point for questions and the current situation in Devon.

The link takes you to the Covid-19 pages on the Devon County Council Website, it has daily updated information as to positive cases within the area, information about testing and track and trace.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/coronavirus-data/>

Mass vaccination programme

- Work is continuing across the county at pace to deliver the local mass vaccination programme. The CCG is producing regular vaccination briefing notes and I shall endeavour to circulate these as they are published. People aged 70 and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable have begun to receive invitations for vaccinations as of the 18 January, alongside frontline Health and Care staff and the over 80s who were the initial priority groups.
- With so much going on and at such pace it can be hard to keep track with developments. To date there are three main ways the vaccine is being delivered in Devon:
 - All four of the county's main hospitals – in Plymouth, Exeter, Torquay and Barnstaple – are giving the vaccination to priority groups in line with national guidance
 - GP practices are working together in groups to set up local vaccination centres. Across the county, 20 centres are now in operation, serving all 123 of Devon's GP practices
 - GP-led facilities are delivering the vaccine to residents and staff in care homes

Community Testing

- Following the government announcement on 10th January, Devon County Council is working at speed with partners to introduce community testing. This will support existing testing arrangements and complement the national roll-out of lateral flow tests in some settings such as universities and schools and with some large employers. Community testing will help to find individuals who have COVID-19 but

do not have symptoms and need to isolate and who may inadvertently be spreading the virus.

- Testing will be prioritised to help key workers and workers in high-risk occupations who still have to attend work, and people who are in contact with vulnerable individuals, such as carers. The first site has opened at County Hall in Exeter, with other sites planned to become available across the County in February and March. Updates on community testing will be provided on the community testing pages of the DCC website

Children's Services.

With the third lockdown services are very busy. Last month 825 children were in care, and the pressure on Early Help is very high. Some additional funding from COVID 19 funds is supporting this pressure. The Edge of Care Service, which is mostly support for teenagers and families, is starting to make a difference. Social work staff on the front line are starting to be vaccinated and this will continue to be rolled out over the coming weeks.

Schools are having a difficult time. There are more children in school in this lockdown. It has settled a bit now and we are seeing an average of about 30% of children in school. There has been concern about some children not having suitable devices, to learn virtually at home.

The DfE has made available additional devices (laptops or tablets) available for

- disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted
- disadvantaged children
- children in any year group who have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable
- disadvantaged children in any year group attending a hospital school
- Disadvantaged children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Disadvantaged children in this context are those with:

- with no digital devices in their household
- whose only available device is a smartphone
- with a single device in their household that's being shared with more than one other family member

This offer applies to maintained schools, pupil referral units, academy trusts and hospital schools, as well as sixth-form colleges who have enrolled 14 to 16-year-olds.

Secondary Schools can request the devices now and it is anticipated primary schools will have access over the coming weeks. Local Authorities can also make requests for specific children.

The number of devices schools can request is determined by the DfE and is based on the number of children in years 3 to 11, the number of children in on free school meals (FSM) and the number of devices the school has already received. (These laptops are in addition to the approximately 4000 DfE funded

laptops for vulnerable children without access and other disadvantaged children that were distributed by the LA and schools during the summer term. A further allocation was made directly to schools in the autumn term.) Orders should arrive within 5 days of the request.

The DfE is also providing support for pupils who have no internet access or who cannot afford increased data charges. Information on this scheme is available here. ([Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children](#) -

It should be noted that Parents, carers and pupils cannot apply for digital devices or internet access through this scheme themselves. They should contact their school to discuss requirements for accessing remote education. There are also several charities donating devices. The advice is that parents must talk to their school about the need for help.

The pandemic has been going on for ten months and staff in child social care and schools have been brilliant, but everyone is getting tired.

Drive to combat holiday hunger in Devon continues for February half-term

Half term arrangements for children who receive free School meals

More than 15,000 children across Devon will be receiving food vouchers over half-term as Devon County Council combats holiday hunger. Families of children currently receiving free school meals will automatically be sent supermarket vouchers to help them buy food over the week-long holiday to replace the meals a child would have received during term-time.

The vouchers – worth £15 a week for each child – can be redeemed in major supermarkets across Devon. Arrangements are in place for families who cannot get to a supermarket.

It's part of a £2 million programme organised by Devon County Council to combat holiday hunger over the Christmas, half-term and Easter breaks.

Many families in Devon have seen their financial circumstances change due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. If you didn't previously qualify for free school meals but your income has recently reduced or stopped, [please apply online through the Devon County Council website](#) to check if you are eligible for this support as soon as possible. If you know of anyone please pass on this report to them so they can access the help available.

The quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed is [through the Devon County Council website](#) and you will get an instant decision.

Alternatively, contact Devon County Council's education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

[More information about the free school meals holiday voucher scheme is available on Devon County Council's website.](#)

Devon Recycling Centres are still open, with restrictions.

Our recycling centres are still open, although the resale areas within them are closed.

The national lockdown advice right now is for us to stay at home as much as possible and only to make journeys out of the house for essential reasons only.

Therefore, we are encouraging you to think about how you can reduce the amount of waste you create.

- Try to postpone projects at home that produce waste that would normally require you to make journeys to recycling centres
- If you do produce waste that you would normally dispose of at a recycling centre, can you temporarily store it at home safely instead, until we're out of the current lockdown restrictions
- Remember that garden waste and other recyclable material can be removed as part of your usual curb side collections

If you make a visit to the recycling centre, please expect them to be operating differently during this lockdown period.

Restrictions are in place, including social distancing, which may lead to queues. If queues do start forming, we may need to restrict vehicles from joining the queues towards the end of the day and if queues become a safety hazard on the public highway, we may need to temporarily close the site.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/waste-disposal-and-recycling/>

Highways Update.

The Highways and traffic management service is maintaining a business as usual approach to this current lockdown, works have been able to carry on as the supply chains are still active.

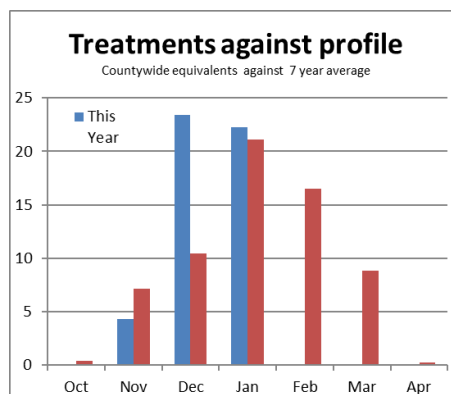
Unlike the first lockdown in the Spring the traffic flows have not seen the reductions that happened then. At the moment weekday traffic flows (on A roads) are down 33% and weekends about 50%.

A few headlines on winter maintenance to date

- Over 10,000 tonnes of salt used so far (more than total for last winter)
- 23 tonnes of salt provided to Snow Wardens

The graph adjacent shows the number of treatments that have been carried out so far this winter (blue) compared to the 7 year average (red). This graph clearly explains why we have used more salt so far this winter !

Devon County Council has used over 13,000 tonnes of salt so far this winter and recently received a shipment of another 3,500 tonnes to ensure stock levels are maintained for the rest of the winter season.



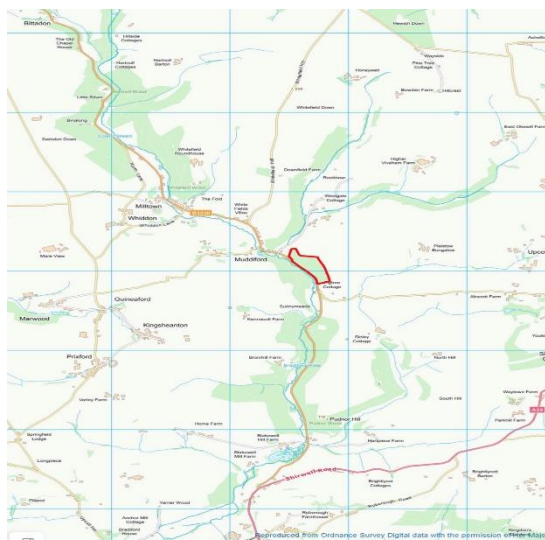
Assistance to NHS with COVID vaccination centres

The Network Operations Team have been supporting the NHS with their deployment of Vaccination Centres by:

- Supplying salt and grit bins where requested
- Increasing salting routes to take in most centres where not already on the network

- Enabling the NHS to achieve an acceptable Traffic Management Plan for Westpoint and working with TCS to allow local buses to divert through the site.
- Supporting with VMS where appropriate.

Muddiford Road Closure



Dates are 22nd February- 22nd March. It will be a complete closure that is including weekends and evenings.

This closure is not for Devon County Council to carry out road maintenance but for Euroforest who want to fell trees in Plaistow Wood. As we all know any closure of this road causes a lot of disruption to all the community both in the immediate area and wider. I have been contacting Euroforest about this, they are very aware of how concerned and unhappy I and residents are. Below in italics is the most recent correspondence (today) from their compliance officer.

I'm sorry to read that there are still some reservations locally about the justification for a full road closure to allow the safe felling of the woodland at Plaistow Mills.

I'm the Euroforest Compliance Officer for England and Wales and also sit as the co-chair for the FISA (Forest Industry Safety Accord) Worksite Management Working Group. As such, I have been supporting Sam in the risk assessment and site planning process to ensure that the road users are adequately protected.

I can assure you that we would not be seeking to close the road unless it was absolutely necessary for the safe conduct of our work, and for the protection of the public. In addition to our absolute commitment to managing the standard tree felling risk zones (2x tree lengths), the risk of material (particularly rocks and boulders) falling down the bank onto the road is extremely high. Unfortunately, anything other than a full road closure for the entire duration of our work on site is clearly inadequate.

I hope this email has clarified the matter for you, but if not, I'd more than happy to come to site to discuss the matter. However, I must make it clear that it is simply unsafe to proceed in any other way. Undertaking this work with a single lane closure or intermittent full closure would be reckless and would put road users at an unacceptably high risk of injury.

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There has been a lot of correspondence between us in the last week so ask questions!

The contact details for euroforest are: Mark Tansley
mark.tansley@euroforest.co.uk (compliance officer) tel; 07384 891698

Sam Hawkey Sam.Hawkey@euroforest.co.uk
(Regional manager SW) tel; 07721127351

Reminder about reporting a highway problem:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>
telephone: [0345 155 1004](tel:03451551004)

Andrea Davis
Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk