

Draft

**Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
14th July 2022 in the Village Hall**

Present

Cllr J Friend (chairman)
Cllr R Pelling
Cllr Mrs S Pine
Cllr S Shortridge
Cllr J Watt

County Councillor A Davis, District Councillor J Tucker and one member of the public

Officer

G Dwyer

Jul22/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs L Campbell and Cllr Mrs C Parkhouse

Jul22/2 Public Question Time

There were no questions

Jul22/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Jul22/4 Matters arising from the minutes

- Nothing had been received from the Ramblers Associations but the Area Officer from the Forestry Comm. grants people has undertaken to supply us with the conditions attached to the original grant. Once they have been received the Council will decide what can be done.
- The Council expressed their thanks to Chris Wallis and Robin Balment for their work on the stile repair.

Jul22/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned.

Jul22/6 Cheques for Payment

Cheque for the Clerks salary (£125.00) and Kameleon for Website updating (£72.00) were signed at the meeting

Jul22/7 Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs Davis had forwarded her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In addition she reported on

- the retirement of the Chief Executive for Devon County and the interim measures in place for replacing him
- Although outside the Parish Area she also mentioned the long term closure of the bridge at Heddons Mouth
- The Parish Councils bid for a 20 mph speed limit had not been approved. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to see whether funding could be obtained from Fullabrook CIC. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to seek information.

Jul22/8 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Jul22/9 Report of the District Councillor

Councillor Tucker reported briefly as follows

- The Council were short of Planning Officers which was causing delays in dealing with applications
- He also briefly mentioned the work done by the CAB and the litter problem in the area.

Jul22/10 Questions to the District Councillor

A Councillor raised the problem with the complex requirements for energy assessment for rental properties which was hampering the Councils attempts to bring empty properties back into occupation.

Jul22/11 Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received

- DALC Newsletter
- North Devon's Rural Bulletin

Jul22/12 Planning Applications

Application 75361 West Plaistow Muddiford Barnstaple Devon EX31 4EY. Erection of agricultural building to cover existing concreted yard for the use of feed storage **RESOLVED** to recommend approval

Jul22/13 Planning Decisions

Application 75025 Retrospective application for change of use of redundant agricultural buildings to B8 storage unit (resubmission of application 73277) at Hartland View Farm Barnstaple Devon **REFUSED**

Jul22/14 Report from Councillors

A member of the public had advised the Council that allegedly the electricity poles within the village were being replaced.

Jul22/15 Cheque Signatory Mandate

The Clerk had taken the completed Bank Mandate to Nat West but Councillors had not yet heard back. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to chase

Jul22/16 Clerks Report

- Councillors discussed the relative quotes for maintain their website and **RESOLVED** to move to Wilcox Media.
- The Clerk had distributed a questionnaire on settlement evidence based surveys for Councillors to fill in.

Jul22/17 Clerks Annual Leave

The August meeting could be held on the programmed date as the Clerk was here on that date.

Jul22/18 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There was none

Jul22/19 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors report July 2022

Retirement of Chief Executive

Devon County Council's long-serving chief executive, Phil Norrey, has announced his retirement.

Dr Norrey has held the post since 2006 and is the longest-serving chief executive in the council's history.

He joined the authority in 1998 as deputy director of education before being promoted to director of education.

Dr Norrey, who will be 60 next year, said it was the right time for him to leave and hand over to his successor as a new senior management team takes shape at County Hall.

DCC Finance

Devon County Council is facing an unprecedented black hole in our finances caused by the cost of living crisis and spiralling demand for help for vulnerable children and adults.

The Director of Finance, Angie Sinclair predicts that we could overspend by more than £40 million in the current financial year. And she says urgent action must be taken by every council department to rein in spending.

A panel of senior officers is already looking at options for councillors to consider including spending cuts, remodelling services to save money and cancelling or delaying building projects. Unlike central government, local councils are required by law to balance their books every year.

There is a report to Cabinet.

The council has never before faced a combination of demand growth and price shock pressures of this scale. The pandemic and geopolitical situation has created huge financial pressures nationally and the county council is not immune from that.

The current forecast is unprecedented and immediate action must be taken to safeguard the financial stability of the authority.

A financial stability programme has been created comprising senior officers from each service who are examining every option to save money.

The report details the financial pressures facing us with children's services forecasting an overspend of £17.9 million with a big increase in demand and the rising cost of placing children in care.

It includes a £7.7 million overspend in education with the bulk of that taken up by transporting children to school because of spiralling fuel and wages.

Adult care services are forecasting an overspend of £6 million.

There is also a risk that inflationary pressures could result in costs, in addition to this overspend, of more than £10 million this year.

National pay negotiations are at a very early stage but indications are that increases to the National Living Wage coupled with the cost of living crisis will result in a higher than expected pay claim this year. The estimated cost of this has been included within the forecast overspend.

Although it is very early in the financial year and much will, of course, change as the year progresses. However immediate action must be taken to safeguard the financial stability of the authority."

Devon is not alone in dealing with these pressures. Most councils are facing the same problems, according to the Local Government Association. In addition the County Council Network is highlighting the particular cost pressures on county authorities because of the nature of delivering services in large, sparsely-populated rural areas.

Martinhoe Bridge

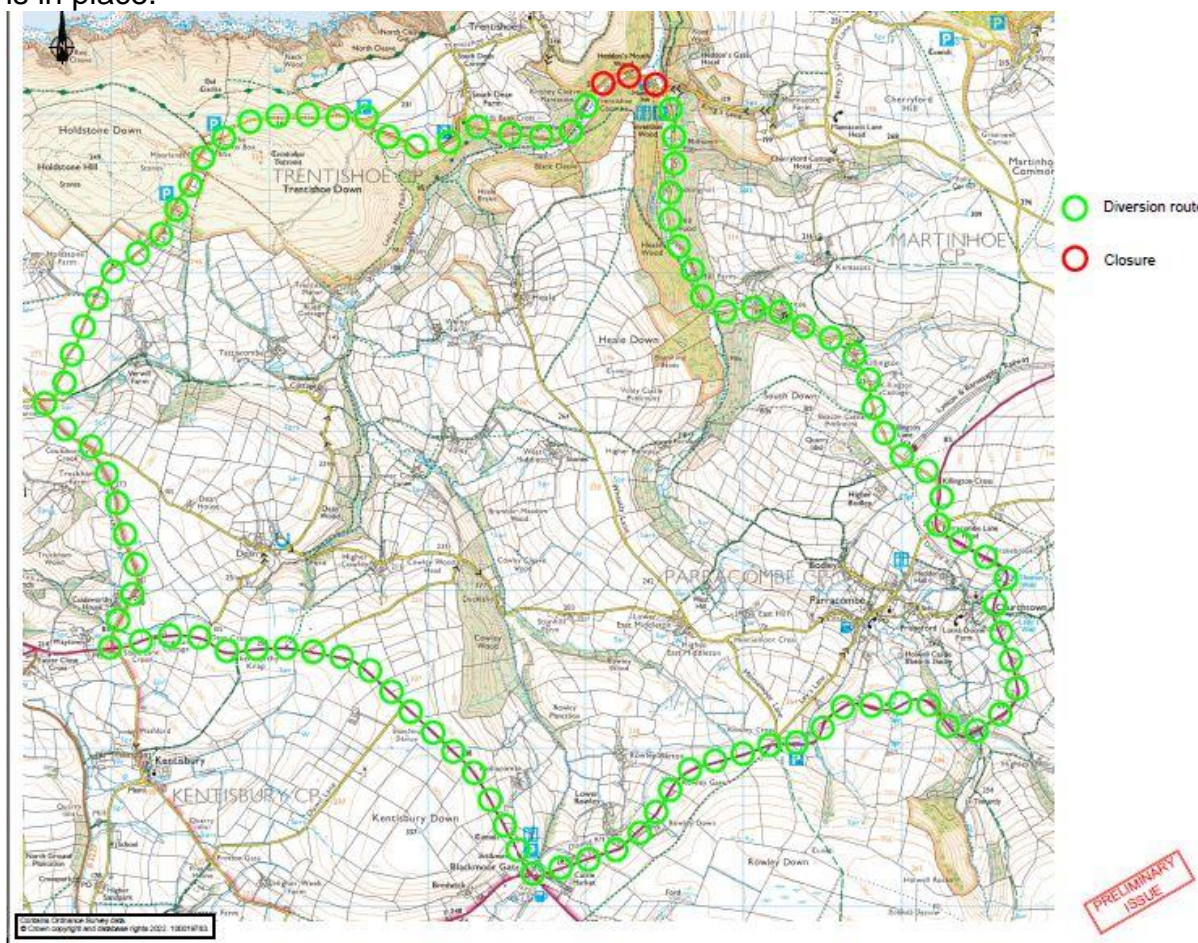
The bridge, located near the Hunters Inn on Exmoor, was built in 1953. Our routine inspections this week have found serious defects with the structure and it has had to be completely closed this afternoon for safety reasons. The reason for letting you know is I am aware that it is a popular walking destination for many of us.

Concerns have been raised over the internal steel tensioning system of the bridge, which is integral to the structure.

We are urgently exploring the possibility of locating a temporary bridge which would allow the road to be re-opened. At this stage it is unknown how long the road will need to be closed.

It is essential that this bridge is closed in order to keep people safe. The findings of the recent survey were very unexpected but our teams have acted swiftly in the light of those safety concerns with the structure. Hopefully a temporary bridge can be found and installed as soon as possible.

Concrete barriers are placed at either end of the bridge and a signed diversion is in place.



20mph request

I am so sorry to have the news that our 20mph request was not successful. The only scheme in North Devon was at Atherington, there are three others in the County.

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;
[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)
0345 155 1004

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

Andrea Davis
County Councillor
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