

Draft

Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 13th April 2023 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr R Pelling
Cllr Mrs S Pine
Cllr J Watts

Also present County Councillor A Davis and two members of the public

Officer

G Dwyer

Apr23/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs C Parkhouse, Cllr S Shortridge and District Councillor J Tucker

Apr 23/2 Public Question Time

- It was noted that the Village Hall notice board was broken.

Apr23/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th March 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Apr23/4 Matters arising from the minutes

- Members considered and approved the draft wild flower planting scheme. It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council contribute £100 to the scheme and the Clerk help with the submission of grant application forms if required.

Apr23/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned.

Apr23/6 Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs Davis had forwarded her report which is attached to these minutes and highlighted the bus fare initiative urging everyone to take advantage of it if possible.

The report also outlined broad proposals for a devolved system of local Government together with a timetable for the proposals to be developed.

Apr23/7 Questions to the County Councillor

There were none

Apr23/8 Report of the District Councillor

District Councillor J Tucker apologised for his non attendance. He had advised the Council that he was retiring as a Councillor and thanked them for their support over the last 20 years. The Council joined in wishing him an enjoyable step back from public life.

Apr23/9 Questions to the District Councillor

There were none

Apr23/10 Correspondence

General correspondence had been circulated.
The Clerk to re-circulate the North Devon Council decision on tree works at Youlston Park

Apr23/11 Planning Applications

Planning Application 76801 Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) following changes to the proposed elevation's materials an opening position/sizes, plus minor changes to the site plan attached to planning permission 71727 (Extension and refurbishment of existing commercial building to increase office space) at Jonathan Rhind Architects Track To The Old Rectory Shirwell Barnstaple Devon EX31 4JU **RESOLVED** to recommend **APPROVAL**

Apr23/12 Planning Decisions

None reported to the meeting

Apr23/13 Cheques for Payment

Cheques for £150.00 to G Dwyer (Clerks salary) and £229.50 to C Wallis (drain clearance) were signed at the meeting

Apr/15 Reports from Councillors

A Councillor raised the problem caused by water draining onto the B3203 at Langaford Hill following the tree felling. To be placed on the agenda for the May meeting.

Councillors were asked to take down signs advertising last years Circus

Apr23/16 Matters brought forward by Members of the Public

- Concern was expressed at the emptying of Hot Water Tubs into the road gulleys. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to advise North Devon Council
- Concern regarding the use of a vehicle access at Heather Cottage, Shirwell to be referred to the planning enforcement Officer of North Devon Council

Apr23/17 Clerks Report

The Clerk reminded Councillors that a vacancy would exist for a Parish Councillor following the May election as not enough candidates had stood. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to start the necessary process with North Devon Council

Apr23/18 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There was none

Apr23/19 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

**Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors Report
April 2023**

£2 Bus fare until June 2023

Please try and use the bus, even for a few journeys a month, encourage others to try it out. At only £2 a trip this is substantially cheaper than taking a car into Barnstaple and no car parking charges.

Bus passengers in Devon can take advantage of a cap on single bus fares as part of the Department for Transport's new fares initiative, through the Government's Help for Households campaign.

Bus users will pay no more than £2 for a single journey when boarding the bus anytime in February, March, April, May and June.

For more information on the £2 single fares scheme, terms and conditions and exclusions, visit the [Travel Devon website](#).

Devolution

A devolution deal for Devon, Torbay and Plymouth has recently moved a step closer following an announcement by Dehanna Davidson the governments levelling up minister. For residents in Devon this would bring greater local control over key local priorities such as housing, public transport and connectivity and skills our economy needs.

The deal would not require a change to the established democratic structures across the area or need an elected mayor.

The new powers would be devolved to a partnership of existing local councils who would deliver on a joint programme working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders.

Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a final business case to present to Government for final approval later this year.

Any final deal would require local consent with the full agreement of all the constituent councils as well as parliamentary approval.

Additional Funds for roads

Devon will receive an extra £9.4m announced in the recent budget to fund highway maintenance. The majority of this will be used on the minor road network. I will know more about allocations in the next weeks.

The County's share of the £200m announced is the largest amongst County and unitary authorities.

This winters weather has had a significant impact on Devons 8000 miles of road network, this additional funding will contribute to the extensive maintenance and repair programme across Devon.

This is welcome news however put this into some context; to get the highway network in Devon from 'Red' to 'Amber' it would cost £180m. Virtually the entire allocation for the country just in Devon alone, I do not know what the answer is to this as clearly we do not have this sort of sum available from the national coffers.

Community emergency plan funding opportunities

Independent charity [Devon Communities Together](#) is working with Devon County Council (DCC) and the [Environment Agency](#) to provide the funding opportunities.

This latest programme is financed by DCC and the South West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee local levy funding, and is administered by Devon Communities Together as part of its role in the [Devon Community Resilience Forum](#) (DCRF), whose core mission to help communities prepare for, and respond to, emergencies.

Scheme 1 – up to £250 for communities that wish to develop their own Community Emergency Plan

The Devon Community Resilience Board (DCRB) wants to encourage more communities to produce a Community Emergency Plan (CEP).

A CEP is a document which helps guide a community to organise a response to a local emergency; from flooding or snow to the completely unexpected.

They ideally need to be updated every three years, however some communities in Devon either don't have a plan in place or are not sure how to put together a support document for their community. The aim is that by providing this funding, many more communities across the county will be able to put plans in place to ensure their resilience in case anything happens within their community.

Once approved and completed, the DCRB will upload a completed CEP to a secure government gateway. This enables emergency responders to combine local knowledge with their expertise, allowing an effective place-based, joined-up response.

Devon's communities can bid for this fund to help form their own Community Emergency Planning group.

Further guidance and support on creating the group can also be provided from the DCRF with in-person attendance from a Devon Communities Together Resilience Project Officer. <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/grant-funding-emergency-flood-resilience>

Scheme 2 – up to £1,500 for small scale works and resilience equipment (once a CEP is in place)

Experience has shown that a wide range of small resilience measures can make a real difference to communities. This funding is available to communities to improve their own resilience with equipment and small scale works, and may range from the provision of sandbag stores and other flood protection equipment, road signs, tools and personal protective equipment, to one off small scale works to reduce risk.

DCRF recommends that a Community Emergency Response Team defines its own shopping list to meet local requirements. Examples of resilience measures can be provided by the DCRF, other communities, or Devon County Council to help a Community Emergency Planning Group consider what might be best for a particular area.

**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
Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk