

Draft

Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 9th March 2023 in the Village Hall

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs C Parkhouse
Cllr R Pelling
Cllr Mrs S Pine
Cllr S Shortridge

Also present District Councillor J Tucker and two members of the public

Officer

G Dwyer

Mar23/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Watts and County Councillor A Davis

Mar23/2 Public Question Time

A member of the Public discussed with the Council the potential of obtaining grants to plant native wildflowers on Council Owned Land. Members discussed the possibility with the member of the public and it was decided that the best options were the land at Beeches Nursery and Toll Bar Cross, both County Council Owned. The matter was deferred to the formal meeting to allow a **RESOLUTION** to be made and acted on by the Council.

Mar23/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th February 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Mar23/4 Matters arising from the minutes

- It was noted that incidents of dog fouling had lessened.
- The Clerk had not received a response from the District Council to his email regarding P App 76473 querying why a decision had been given in advance of the date for a response from the Parish Council. The Clerk to chase a response and refer it to the District Councillor if no answer was received

Mar23/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned.

Mar23/6 Report of the County Councillor

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

Mar23/7 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Mar23/8 Report of the District Councillor

District Councillor J Tucker briefly mentioned the following

- NDCC have formally expressed their concern at the condition of the roads in N Devon and are in the process of writing to the MP, Leader of Devon County Council and the Devon Highways manager'
- North Devon Council Tax will be approximately £100 for a band 'D' property.
- Cllr Tucker informed the Council that he was not standing for re-election in May and thanked the Parish Council for their support over the 20 years he had been a Councillor. The Chairman and all Councillors joined in thanking Cllr Tucker for his service to the community.

Mar23/9 Questions to the District Councillor

There were none

Mar23/10 Correspondence

The following correspondence has been circulated

- DALC newsletter
- ND weekly Bulletin
- Royal Devon Hospital news
- Availability of home improvement grants for the disabled

Other general correspondence was noted

Mar23/11 Planning Applications

Application 76722 Erection of single garage at The Old Rectory Shirwell Barnstaple Devon EX31 4JU **RESOLVED** to recommend **APPROVAL**

Mar23/12 Planning Decisions

None reported to the meeting

Mar23/13 Cheques for Payment

A Cheque for £125.00 to G Dwyer (Clerks salary) was signed at the meeting

Mar23/15 Reports from Councillors

There were none

Mar23/16 Matters brought forward by Members of the Public

Members referred to the discussion under agenda item **Mar23/2** and **RESOLVED** to support the proposal for identifying Council Owned sites for grant aid for planting of wildflowers and instructed the Clerk to contact the County Councillor regarding the two possible sites identified.

Mar23/17 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report

Mar23/18 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There was none

Mar23/19 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report March 2023

New Chief Executive at Devon County Council

Donna Manson joins the County Council from her role as Chief Executive of The Highland Council, Scotland's largest rural authority.

There since 2018, Donna led the Highland Council in developing an ambitious, sustainable, and connected vision for the Highlands during a time of immense change and challenge. Prior to this, Donna was a Director of Children's Services and a Head Teacher.

Her top priority for Devon is to deliver significant improvement to Devon's Children's Services. But more broadly, Donna wants to re-energise Devon as a caring and inclusive place for young people and families, the elderly and vulnerable, and as a forward looking place to work and do business with opportunities for all to thrive and do well.

£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.

A recent report by Stagecoach found that motorists replacing some journeys by bus and active travel could save consumers up to £6,000 a year. In addition, the report found that having the right measures in place to encourage people to make the switch, including cheaper fares, could help remove one billion miles of car journeys each week and cut CO2 by nearly 400,000 tonnes per week.

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

DCC Council tax 2023-2024

DCC council members have agreed a 4.99 per cent increase in council tax for the coming financial year.

It comprises 2.99 per cent for general services with an extra two per cent for adult care.

It means an extra £1.49 a week for the average Band D householder.

There will be increases of 18.4 per cent in spending on children's services and 8.8 per cent on adult services to keep up with a rocketing rise in demand.

Councillors also agreed an extra £2 million for roads and drainage since the target budget was set last month to tackle the increase in potholes caused by this winter's icy spells and torrential rainfall.

The revenue spending on services will increase from £629 million to £696 million in 2023/24. That's an overall rise of 10.5 per cent in spending. In addition, councillors approved a capital budget of £172.5 million for investment in infrastructure such as schools and roads.

The council tax for an average Band D home will rise by £77.67 to £1,634.13 – an extra £1.49 a week.

The budget includes savings, alternative funding and additional income of £47.5 million.

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