

Draft

Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 13th July 2023 in the Village Hall

Present

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

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

Officer

G Dwyer

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Watts, Cllr S Shortridge and County Councillor Andrea Davis

2 Public Question Time

A member of the public expressed annoyance at a letter she had received questioning her needs during Covid and asking what she could contribute. Parish Councillors had no knowledge of the letter which had not been sent by the Parish Council.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

4 Matters arising from the minutes

- There were none

5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned.

6 Report of the County Councillor

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

7 Questions to the County Councillor

There were none

8 Report of the District Councillor

District Councillor Julie briefly outlined her activities over the past month and in addition outlined the poorly funded homelessness problem in this area of Devon. A letter had been sent to Central Government addressing the funding issue.

9 Questions to the District Councillor

Questions were asked regarding the new speed limit at Blakewell junction with the A39 and the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit through Muddiford. It was noted that these were County Council functions.

10 Correspondence

General correspondence had been circulated.
In addition the following had been circulated to members

- Dalc bulletin

11 Planning Applications

With members approval the Chairman suspended standing orders to allow the applicant to address the Council

Planning Application 77283 Sepscott Farm Shirwell Barnstaple Devon EX314JL. Demolition of two barns and erection of a dwelling with ancillary accommodation (Following Class Q ref 74581 at Sepscott Farm Shirwell Barnstaple Devon EX31 4JL) **RESOLVED** to recommend **APPROVAL**

12 Planning Decisions

None reported to the meeting

13 Cheques for Payment

Cheques for £150.00 to G Dwyer (Clerks salary)

14 Reports from Councillors

- Members discussed the ramped access to Wood View which was not capable of being used should the designated parking places at Heather Cottage be in use and questioned how this could be acceptable to the Planners. RESOLVED the Clerk to make this point to North Devon Planners
- Fly tipping on Langaford Hill had been reported to the District Council,

15 Matters brought forward by Members of the Public

There were none

16 Clerks Report

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the need to initiate the co-option process for the Councillor vacancy

Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

A member of the public complained at being unable to hear Councillors voices.

18 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Chairman:.....

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report July 2023

North Devon Link Road

At Borners Bridge a roundabout is operational. A new road layout now in place. Whilst this is not the final design, the roundabout is accessible for the residents of North Molton, whilst Station Road remains as left turn only.

There are new speed restrictions in place for the safety of the workforce and speed cameras are in place it is now 30mph

There are some work under lights all along the Link Road over the next few weeks, this is night time only.

Recycled Bikes available at Recycling Centres.

Fully serviced, reconditioned bikes are on sale at many of Devon's recycling centres from this week.

This week is international Bike Week (5-11 June) and this initiative will reduce waste and offer more people access to cycling.

With some brands of bike as much as 20 per cent more expensive than a year ago, it offers those who want to saddle up a chance to do so at an affordable price.

A specially trained team at SUEZ, who run the recycling centres on Devon County Council's (DCC) behalf, will repair the bikes from their new 'Re-Cycle Hub' at the Brunel Road facility in Newton Abbot.

They will repair old bikes, no longer wanted by Devon residents, and give them a new lease of life.

They will then sell them through the network of reuse shops in Devon's recycling centres. Each bike will be serviced and include a warranty.

Each year an estimated 10,000 bikes come through the recycling centres in Devon as residents outgrow them, break them or get frustrated that they're taking up valuable space in the garage.

£2 Bus fare until October 2023

Bus users will pay no more than £2 for a single journey when boarding the bus anytime until end October 2023. The fare will then be £2.50 from November 2023 to November 2024.

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. I have had the route changed and now our 309 is a 'rail link' bus which is timed to be at the railway station to coincide with train movements.

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

Road defects (Potholes)

As you'll be aware, an extremely high level of pothole defects across the network, following the cycle of prolonged cold and wet weather we experienced over the winter. To put this in context, around 26,500 potholes have been identified and passed to our contractor, Milestone, since January – this is around 8,000 or 30% more than for the same period last year. January alone saw almost 7,400 potholes identified, the most of any month in over 3 years. Similarly, the inspection team have assessed almost 35,000 reports of potholes from members of the public since January, compared to just over 14,000 last year.

To tackle this backlog, teams across the Devon Highways partnership have worked very closely to enable re-prioritisation of resource so that safety critical defects on our highway network could be identified and repaired as effectively as possible. In order to achieve this some of our works programmes required adjusting, with schemes postponed or re-planned to free up available resource. We also had to make the difficult decision to temporarily cease identification and repair of serviceability (i.e. those that don't meet the intervention requirements of our Highway Safety Policy) highway defects, so that the focus could remain on those defects that represented the biggest risk to users of our network. At times, we have had over 40 pothole repair gangs working across the County, along with repairs and inspections taking place during evenings and at weekends.

I am pleased to report that, the number of potholes currently with Milestone for repair has now stabilised, sitting at around 800 (down from 3000 at its peak in February) and is much more in-line with the sort of volume we'd typically expect for this time of year. On this basis a number of the additionally resourced gangs have now returned to programmed works and we have very recently re-introduced the identification of non-safety defects, as we fully recognise the benefit of acting proactively and repairing these before they worsen and require attention at a later date. In other words fixing non safety defects in the vicinity of reported safety defects.

Aside from traditional pothole repairs, the longer days help a great deal to ensure the dragon patchers are double shifting. There is also an additional 5th vehicle operating in the County this summer.

Please keep reporting any defects you come across.

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;
[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.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

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