

**Draft**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council  
held on the  
14th December 2023 in the Village Hall, Shirwell**

**Present**

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

Also present one member of the public

**Officer**

G Dwyer

**Dec23/1 Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Mrs C Parkhouse, S Shortridge and County Councillor A Davis

**Dec23/2 Public Question Time**

There were no questions but the member of the public who was a regular attendee commented on the continued non-attendance of the District Councillor

**Dec23/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th November 2023**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

**Dec23/4 Matters arising from the minutes**

Nothing that was not on the agenda

**Dec23/5 Inspection of Defibrillator**

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned

**Dec23/6 Report of the County Councillor**

County Cllr Mrs Davis had forwarded her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The Councillors asked for their wishes for a Happy Birthday be conveyed to her together with their thanks for all she does for the Parish.

**Dec23/7 Questions to the County Councillor**

Reports had been received of street lamps not working and the details have been logged on the DCC website

### **Dec23/8 Report of the District Councillor**

There was no report

### **Dec23/9 Questions to the District Councillor**

There were no questions

### **Dec23/10 Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

- Dalc newsletter
- Dalc notification of increase in annual membership charges
- Draft Transport strategy consultation document
- Free tree offer
- Parish Council representative to the Police
- County Councillor's report
- Rural Bulletin
- Precept Form
- Peninsular Transport questionnaire

### **Dec23/11 Planning Applications**

There were none

### **Dec23/13 Cheques for Payment**

A Cheque for £150.00 to G Dwyer (Clerks salary) was signed at the meeting

### **Dec23/14 Reports from Councillors**

- Councillors considered the Police and Crime Commissioner councillor advocate scheme and it was **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Abretti's offer to act as the Councils representative. The Clerk to contact the PCC.
- Councillors discussed the possible types of replacement bench for the Village Green and it was resolved to investigate styles and prices and ask Cllr Watts if he could match the price as it would result in a better quality and longer lasting bench. To be considered again in January 2024.
- A Councillor raised the water running down Langaford Hill and highlighted the potential danger to traffic if it froze. The water was running from the quarry. It was noted that there seemed to be some stone extraction work taking place. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to write to the Environment Agency,

### **Dec23/15 Matters brought forward by Members of the Public**

There were none

### **Dec23/16 Clerks Report**

The Clerk drew members attention to the increase of approx 40% to the annual membership fees for DALC. After discussion it was RESOLVED that the matter be discussed again in January 2024, meanwhile the Clerk to write to DALC expressing the Councils surprise at the level of the proposed increase and ask for more details of the justification.

### **Dec23/17 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda**

There was none

### **Dec23/18 Urgent Business**

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman:                      Dated:.....

## **Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors Report December 2023**

### **Peninsula Transport Draft Transport Strategy consultation**

Many of my Parish councils kindly got involved with the Peninsula Transport vision consultation, we are now consulting on the draft Transport Strategy. The consultation on the draft transport strategy is now live, running from Monday 11 December until Monday 5 February (inclusive).

Although the work goes wider than Devon by working together all authorities are speaking with a collective voice on our strategic transport links – filling the gap between local and national ambitions. It is a strategy for the user and there it is important that we understand if it meets the needs of those relying on our transport links, so please do send us your views.

Peninsula Transport are hosting the consultation online, you can access the consultation space here: <https://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk/peninsula-transport-strategy-consultation/>

Please find a briefing here: [http://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/PT\\_TS-consultation-stakeholder-briefing\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.peninsulatrtransport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/PT_TS-consultation-stakeholder-briefing_FINAL.pdf)

In the new year there will be webinars, free and open to all should you wish to come along and find out more about the work, it is also an opportunity to ask the project team any specific questions you may have. Please register your interest

here: [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=RkWh04KI0q32HCbMr9jNeWYdbrjdStFrZlzNBj4\\_TxUMzIZNFFGQIVaRUpCSzZRSINIMVhIU FVUMi4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=RkWh04KI0q32HCbMr9jNeWYdbrjdStFrZlzNBj4_TxUMzIZNFFGQIVaRUpCSzZRSINIMVhIU FVUMi4u)

## **Growing Communities Fund**

The Growing Communities Fund is intended to support proactive, effective, measurable, and sustainable actions to enable individuals and communities to tackle the current cost of living issues through reducing food and fuel inequalities, building self-reliance, community resilience and improving mental health and wellbeing.

The Growing Communities Fund will commonly provide grant awards of between £500 and £1000. You can apply for up to £3000 if you feel you have an exemplary project and are able to accept payment in arrears. Applications, regardless of value, will be assessed using the same process.

Projects can:

- link to already established work and add value
- be new and in response to an identified need
- use innovation to improve efficiency, reach a wider range of people and improve provision.

The fund can support projects that:

- could offer a warm welcome and a safe space, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity and address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity,
- build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals.
- tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem.
- Have a clear and direct community benefit as well as consider the environment during this climate emergency.

Applications for both project and core costs will be considered, subject to meeting eligibility criteria. Also, the inclusion of reasonable costs associated with evaluation and identifying learning, sharing and promoting good practice.

The fund cannot be used for:

- projects or items that are the responsibility of another public body (for example, NHS, Local Authority)
- activities that are contributing to general fundraising
- projects that are delegating any acquired funds to third parties
- projects that are solely for the benefit of animals
- projects that are solely counselling based
- projects that are in support of a single faith without wider community benefit. This includes fabric repairs to church buildings, church yards and cemetery walls.
- retrospective applications for projects or activities that have already been completed, or items that have been purchased

- alcohol or medication
- large projects where the link between a grant awarded and overall project outcomes are not clear
- loss of income
- applications from individuals, sole traders, for-private-profit or grant-making organisations (where funding is requested for grant making)
- political activities
- salaries, wages, or expenses of persons employed by a not-for-private-profit organisation unless these are finite, sessional charges and do not imply any ongoing commitment
- projects that provide support to more than 25% of beneficiaries living outside of the Devon County Council administrative area

#### Who can apply?

- Not-for-profit, voluntary or community groups, registered charities or social enterprises that are providing services or activities for the benefit of people and communities in Devon
- Schools, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the wider community and is over and above statutory provision.
- Churches or church/faith groups, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the wider community and is not promoting a specific religion or worship.
- Parish or town councils, where the project or activity has a clear benefit to the local community and is not replacing statutory provision.
- National charities, where there is a local branch that is managed locally and has its own bank account.

#### **How much can I apply for?**

The amount you can apply for depends on the type of project and the costs involved. Grants will typically be between £500 and £1,000 and these grants will be paid to organisations prior to work taking place.

#### **How to apply**

Applications must be submitted online and funding used or allocated before 31 March 2024.

[Complete the grant application form now](#)

#### **North Devon Link Road**

Information about closures.

Currently night-time closure Aller Cross to Landkey 8pm to 6am

<https://community.alungriffiths.co.uk/projects-in-your-area/north-devon-link-road/>

## **Grit bins and information about gritting routes**

With the colder weather we can expect to be using the grit bins, if you find a bin which needs filling there is an easy to use grit bin map on the website, just click on the icon and ask for it to be filled, damaged bins can also be reported here.

There is a map of the gritting routes in Devon but I would advise that when out driving in icy conditions to treat all roads as if they haven't been gritted as it needs friction for the grit to work.

[Grit Bins map – Road and Transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads/road-works/road-works-projects/gritting-routes)

## **Highways preparations for winter and defects**

A lot of work has gone into the preparation for this winter with the aim of preventing a repeat of the difficulties experienced following the extended freezing conditions through late November and into mid-December last year.

With regard to the winter service and gritting operations, the Highways and Traffic Management Service has been very busy over the summer, preparing for the winter season. This downtime is the opportunity for all the gritters to be serviced and calibrated. This ensures the spread rate and spread pattern for salt is as intended.

Six of the oldest gritters have been replaced with newer models. The approach is to purchase second hand, relatively new gritters and replace them as they approach 10 years old. This ensures the plant is safe and minimises the initial financial outlay and helps to minimise revenue costs.

While last winter was challenging for the service, all the preparation this summer has been achieved while planning for and responding to, an unusually high number of named storms through the summer and autumn. Particularly the two significant flood events and more recently Storm Ciaran.

Devon County Council's Contractor, Milestone undertook a resource analysis in Autumn to identify where there may be capacity in the current planned works and re-programmed some work to free up additional resource (to add to the reactive and gritting teams) through November and December.

This additional resource is being directed to address non-safety 'serviceability' defects ahead of the worst of the weather.

In addition, a 5th dragon patcher has been employed this summer to help address the backlog of serviceability defects. This additional machine has been working in tandem to the trial of Elastomac, an innovative low-carbon repair technique and the wider patching works which aims to pick up clusters of defects. We had this come to Barbrook last week, following my intervention about the awful defect we had, the other non safety defects nearby were also attended to on this visit.

The Government's announcement ahead of the Autumn Statement of an £8.3 billion investment for road maintenance over the next 11 years is very welcome. Devon will receive an extra £6.663 million this financial year and next. It is unclear how the funding will be allocated beyond next year. The funding is being put to use immediately to carry out patching work and other serviceability repairs.

However, the majority of the funding will enable the County Council to bring forward resurfacing schemes earmarked within its future works programme. The schemes have been identified based on 'need' using the Council's asset management approach. Road condition surveys and pothole data, together with local knowledge has been used to prioritise the next 60 resurfacing schemes in the forward programme. Bringing forward this work will replace worn out road surfaces and prevent the formation of potholes.

**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

***Merry Christmas***

*Andrea Davis*

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