

Draft

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
8th February 2024 in the Village Hall, Shirwell**

Present

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

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

Officer

G Dwyer

Feb24/1 Apologies for Absence

There were none

Feb24/2 Public Question Time

There were no questions

Feb24/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th January 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

With members agreement the Chairman moved Agenda item 11 Planning Application 78250 Chilbridge Farm Shirwell to this point on the agenda.

Feb24/11 Planning Applications

Planning Application 78250 Chillbridge Farm Shirwell. Demolition of a redundant agricultural building and erection of one new dwelling (fallback to Class Q approval 77560)

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak to this application.

A member of the public spoke to support this application which was to provide accommodation for himself and his family

The meeting was reconvened under Standing Orders

Members discussed the detail of the application and it was RESOLVED to recommend APPROVAL

Feb24/4 Matters arising from the minutes

Nothing that was not on the agenda

Feb24/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned

Feb24/6 Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs Davis had forwarded a copy of her report today which is attached to these minutes

Feb24/7 Questions to the County Councillor

Councillors queried the reason behind Shirwell street lights being on all day. County Cllr Davis reported this on the DCC website at the meeting

Feb24/8 Report of the District Councillor

There was no report

Feb24/9 Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions

Feb24/10 Correspondence

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

- Copy of our letter to DALC re. subscription increase and of their reply
- Invitation to ND planning seminar
- DALC bulletin
- Village Halls week
- Election act. Summary of changes
- Road map. DCC changes summary
- NDC weekly information sheet

Feb24/11 Planning Applications

Planning Application 78250 was dealt with earlier on the agenda

Feb24/12 2024/2025 Precept

The Clerk confirmed that the 2nd precept letter had been sent

Feb24/13 Cheques for Payment

A Cheque for £150 to G Dwyer (Clerks salary) was signed at the meeting

Feb24/14 Reports from Councillors

- Cllr Abretti reported that the proposed meeting with the local PCC had been cancelled due to illness.
- Members of the public had questioned with Councillors the diversion signs in the village, it was noted that these had not been authorised by the Highways Authority and a report would be made.

Feb24/15 Matters brought forward by Members of the Public

There were none

Feb24/16 Clerks Report

- The Clerk tabled the reply from DALC regarding the subscription increases and it was **RESOLVED** to discuss the Councils continuing membership at the March meeting
- Members discussed the preferred area for the 20mph speed limit in the Village

Feb24/17 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There was none

Feb24/18 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 7.51 pm

Chairman: Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors report February 2024

Call for sites: EV charging at Parish and Community car parks in Devon

Devon County Council (DCC) have been provisionally allocated £7m by the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, and are working with district councils and others to develop the project. This project will enable Devon local authorities to deliver chargepoints across the county over coming years in parish and community car parks, local authority car parks, and on-street locations.

DCC are now seeking Parish Councils and community groups interested in hosting an Electric Vehicle charging point in a car park they own. We understand that many Parish, Town Hall, and Community Hall car parks are owned by community trusts, and these sites will also be eligible. **If you are interested in hosting an EV chargepoint please complete the form linked below.** DCC will then assess the sites and provide feedback and further details. An outline of the proposed chargepoint type, car park requirements, and proposed delivery approach is included in the link. At this stage, there is no binding commitment needed to the project by parish councils or community groups as this is only a call for sites. To find out more and complete the form, please visit:

<https://forms.gle/Y72qpbDrm85tBGiX7>

Highways update

This winter season has been relatively kind to the highway network with only 24 days where the temperature has dipped below zero and a low of minus 7.3°. At the same point in 2023 there had been 38 days and a minimum temperature of minus 9.4°. This has led to a reduction in gritting treatments which has been below the 5-year average for November, December and January.

Following the very difficult winter last year the Asset Management and the Network Response teams have worked very closely together through late summer and autumn to prepare for the winter season. As a result of this hard work and the milder winter, the service has recorded 5,500 safety defect potholes in January, while this is slightly below the 7 year average (5,926) it compares well to the 7,500 in 2023.

The significant reduction in the gritting operations mentioned above in turn frees up resources to continue the planned patching operations, again helping to reduce safety defect potholes across the county.

The gully cleaning operations have slipped behind programme due to the high number of extreme weather events the Service has responded to this year and a series of unexpected equipment breakdowns. Milestone (the contractor) have worked hard to get this workstream back on programme and are confident that all programmed gullies will have been attended by the end of March.

A lot of work has been put into addressing drainage referrals raised by the cleaning gangs. Over 14,000 gully issues have been resolved this financial year, however, the backlog remains high with new issues identified as quickly as the old ones are being tackled.

The joint trial with Devon's Flood team to place gully sensors in selected streets in Devon is now live. The data recorded will provide insight into whether technology can be used to inform policy or reaction for cyclical gully cleaning. The trial intends to run for an 18-month period.

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 \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

Highway defects

Changes have been made to the front end of the 'report a problem' website. The additional information will help provide data to inform future enhancements and hopes to highlight that members of the public can add themselves to existing reports rather than enter duplicate reports.

[Following the recent cold weather we can expect an increase in potholes, please would you report any you come across at Report a pothole - Devon County Council](#)

[Drainage issues; Report standing water, flooding or blocked drains - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

You will see on the website there are other highway categories such as fallen trees etc.

Highway emergency number is :0345 155 1004 (If you are reporting an emergency that is very likely to present an imminent threat to life or serious injury or serious damage to property)

Andrea Davis

County Councillor Combe Martin Rural division

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