

Draft

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
11th April 2024 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
Cllr S Shortridge

Also present four members of the public

Officer

G Dwyer

Apr24/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs C Parkhouse

Apr24/2 Public Question Time

A member of the public commented on the length of time that the street lights in Shirwell had been on continuously, it was noted that the matter had been raised before. County Councillor Mrs A Davis logged the issue on the DCC website whilst at the meeting.

The following reply was received from a DCC Officer following the meeting

I was under the impression from ENERVEO that this had been completed , I have raise jobs for numbers 4 and 7 to be repaired but will need to go to Shirwell to see what else needs doing as very unclear on our system.

Can only apologise for it not being completed

With Councillors agreement the Chairman brought Agenda item 9 Planning Applications, to this point on the agenda

Apr24/11 Planning Applications

- **Planning Application 78411. Former Office The Old Rectory Shirwell Barnstaple.** Change of use of former architects' office from restricted business use to dwelling

Cllrs S Shortridge and E Abretti declared a prejudicial interest in this application, left the room and did not speak or vote thereon

With Councillors approval the Chairman suspended standing orders to allow 2 members of the Public to speak in support of the application.

The applicant outlined the reasons for the application, highlighting the reduction of traffic movement through the village at key times of the day. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend APPROVAL

Apr24/3 Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th Mar 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Apr24/4 Matters arising from the minutes

Nothing that was not on the agenda

Apr24/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned. A 'defibrillator' sign would be put in place in the near future

Apr24/6 Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs Davis had today forwarded a copy of her report which is attached to these minutes, she highlighted the information outlined in the retrofit guide for energy conservation measures

Apr24/7 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

Apr24/8 Report of the District Councillor

There was no report

Apr24/9 Questions to the District Councillor

There were no questions

Apr24/10 Correspondence

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

Dalc news letter
Current election information
ND weekly information sheet
Dalc invoices 5406, 5701

Apr24/11 Planning Applications

- **See earlier on the agenda**

Apr24/12 Cheques for Payment

Cheques for £150 to G Dwyer (Clerks salary) £18.00 (DALC course fee) and £147.00 DALC annual membership were signed at the meeting

Apr24/13 Reports from Councillors

Councillors had nothing additional to report

Apr24/14 Matters brought forward by Members of the Public

A member of the Public brought members attention to the issues that were relevant to health provision in N Devon and exacerbated by it's relative isolation

Apr24/15 Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has been selected for intermediate review for the 2023/24 reporting year as part of the required 5% sample of those who would otherwise be subject to a basic review.

Apr/16 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There was none

Apr/17 Urgent Business

There was none

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Chairman:

Dated:.....

**Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors report
April 2024**

**Visit to Combe Martin Rural Division by SoS for Transport Mark Harper
Maundy Thursday.**



The SoS was very interested in the Safer Roads Scheme and our plans to improve safety along the A361 to Mullacott, including the ambition to put in average speed cameras, we had a chat about the Tarka Trail and he was enthusiastic about the electric buses you will have on the 21 route. I was very happy to bring him to the area and have the opportunity to explain life for us in rural Devon with regard to transport and how it differs from our more urban neighbours.

Highway updates for the Parish.

Last week I did several site visits with the local highway officer who will be chasing up why the safety defects and drainage issues have not been completed. Please keep reporting the safety defects as they will be done, if you keep a note of the number and send over to me if they aren't done, I can easily chase up. (I'll explain why I didn't actually get to Shirwell with him when I see you later on)

Safer Roads Fund

Devon County Council has been awarded more than £5m by the Department for Transport (DfT) to deliver safety improvements on the A361 in North Devon. As mentioned above this will include average speed cameras along the route and improvements to junctions and crossing points. Detail will be worked up over the next weeks

This is one of only 17 roads in England to be allocated funding from the Safer Roads Fund.

Next stage of the Tarka Trail

Some detail for you;

Phase 2 – works to start this week

700 metre long x 3.5m wide tarmacked track, built on the former railway.

Works entail extensive vegetation clearance, drainage construction including 3 new culverts, earthworks, construction of the new track which consists of recycled road plannings for the base and a tarmacked surface.

Directional signing, fencing and picnic/rest areas to be installed along the trail. Land acquired from 3 separate landowners over an 8 year period. Planning permission granted for construction in 2023. Works to start Easter 2024. Biodiversity Net Gain work agreed on three off site DCC owned locations, which entails tree and shrub planting. Overall Cost £583k.

Devon Awarded £5.3m for zero emission buses

A fleet of 41 electric buses are set to take to Devon's roads in Exeter, North Devon and Torridge.

DCC's successful joint bid with Stagecoach has secured £5.3 million from the second round of the Department for Transport's [Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas \(ZEBRA\) scheme](#).

[Stagecoach](#) will be investing a further £15 million into the project to roll out new EV buses in Exeter on Service 4, Service A and the Green Park and Ride service, while in North Devon and Torridge they will operate on Services 21/21A as well as town services in Barnstaple.

The introduction of electric buses, which should be on the road by early 2026, is expected to create a new image which we hope will appeal to new passengers, boost park and ride use and improve air quality by reducing pollution.

Stagecoach is ready to roll out EV charging infrastructure across its depots, including Exeter and Barnstaple.

This new investment will form the basis for the bus company to expand its fleet of zero and low emission vehicles across the south west, and there are also plans in place to develop a community charging hub at the Matford depot in Exeter.

Councillor Andrea Davis, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment and Transport, said:

We want to tackle carbon emissions and reducing emissions of public transport can have a huge impact in helping us achieve our net zero targets. These new electric buses can help transform our local bus network in Devon and hopefully they will appeal to more people and encourage them to travel by bus. I am very pleased that the 21 buses are included in this as not only will it show that buses on long rural routes can be electric it also serves some of the communities I represent.

Devon County Council are one of 25 local authorities across the country receiving a share of the £143 million funding through the second round of the ZEBRA programme, enabling the rollout of 955 zero emission buses in England.

General Devon updates.....

Government cash support for Devon's special needs education

A high level agreement has been signed between Devon County Council and the Government which will see an extra £95 million of national funds set aside to reduce the deficit on special needs education. In common with councils across the country, we have been negotiating with the Government for extra funding under the so-called Safety Valve programme.

[Devon Retrofit guide](#)

Devon County Council have published a free guide giving Devon homeowners, tradespeople and architects detailed advice about adding energy efficiency measures to the house types most commonly found in Devon.

We have led the production of the guide on behalf of Energy Saving Devon, as part of our work to improve the quality and speed of work to improve the energy efficiency of homes – also called ‘retrofitting’ .

The retrofitting of homes in Devon is needed to eliminate carbon emissions by 2050, lower energy bills and create comfortable, healthy homes.

The guide focuses on how to upgrade four of the most common housing types in Devon: Victorian granite detached houses, mid-century detached houses, mid-century semi-detached houses and cob houses.

Almost 25 per cent of Devon’s greenhouse gas emissions come from our homes and around 80 per cent of the housing we will occupy in 2050 has already been built.

The Devon Retrofit Guide covers a range of retrofit components including insulation, renewable energy systems and ventilation. It gives technical details to equip installers and architects with the knowledge and tools to advise clients about how to reduce their energy costs and carbon emissions. It’s equally useful for competent DIYers.

The Energy Saving Devon Retrofit Guide is free to download here: [The Devon Retrofit Guide](#)

DCC awarded more than £7m to deliver more Electric Vehicle charging points

Devon County Council has been awarded more than £7m of Government funding to support its delivery of thousands of new, publicly accessible, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points across the county over the next few years.

The capital funding comes from the Department for Transport’s Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund. The Fund aims to support the roll-out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across England, for drivers without off-street parking. and we’ve received one of the largest allocations in the country.

With the rainfall forecast over the next few days on already saturated ground.....

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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