

**Draft**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council**  
**held on the**  
**9th May 2024 in the Village Hall**

**Present**

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

Also in attendance County Councillor Mrs A Davis and two members of the public

**Officer**

G Dwyer

**May24/1 Election of Chairman**

*The Clerk took the Chair for this item only*

Cllr J Friend was proposed and seconded, there being no other nominations it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr J Friend be elected Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

**May24/2 Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Mr J Watt was proposed and seconded, there being no other nominations it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr J Watt be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

**May24/3 Apologies for Absence**

District Councillor Mrs J Hunt

**May24/4 Public Question Time**

- A member of the public commented that he was pleased that the street lights were no longer on all day. It was noted that the brightness of the lights could be altered if necessary.
- A member of the public advised that the church choir was recruiting members.

## **May24/5 Minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

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

### **May24/6 Matters arising from the minutes**

Nothing that was not on the agenda

### **May 24/7 Inspection of Defibrillator**

The defibrillator had been inspected and cleaned and the batteries and pads replaced.

### **May24/8 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 additional £12m being invested in pothole repairs, the Village Hall growing community fund and announced that consultation about the Rail station would be announced.

### **May24/9 Questions to the County Councillor**

There were no questions

### **May24/810 Report of the District Councillor**

There was no report

### **May24/911 Questions to the District Councillor**

There were no questions

### **May24/13 Correspondence**

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

- Insurance renewal documentation
- DALC bulletin
- Community Planning event info
- NDDH news
- County Councillors report
- Parish Forum meeting info

## **May24/14 Planning Applications**

*Cllr Friend declared a prejudicial interest in this application, left the room and did not speak or vote thereon. Cllr Watts took the Chair for this item.*

**Planning Application 78382. West Plaistow Lane to West Plaistow Muddiford Barnstaple Devon.** Extension to silage pit, with the excavation of the adjoining bank. **RESOLVED** to recommend **APPROVAL**

## **May24/15 Cheques for Payment**

Cheques for £150 to G Dwyer (Clerks salary) £18 (DALC course fee), £169.17 (DALC annual membership), £139.90 (Comm First Annual Insurance premium £184 (defibrillator Batteries and Pads) were signed at the meeting

## **May24/16 Reports from Councillors**

Councillors asked the Clerk to arrange for Tollbar Cross verges to be cut.

## **May24/14 Matters brought forward by Members of the Public**

There were none

## **May24/17 Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported on the 2023/2024 accounts which were tabled together with the AGAR forms for the Audit Commission review. It was **RESOLVED** that the AGAR forms be signed and forwarded to the Auditors

## **May24/18 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda**

There was none

## **May24/19 Urgent Business**

There was none

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Chairman:                      Dated:.....

# Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors report May 2024

## **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.

News from today's cabinet meeting where we were already set to discuss a £10 million boost to pothole repairs and pre-emptive road drainage work. But have now agreed to add a further £2 million to the total after hearing that the overall county budget for 2023/24 has come in underspent.

So the county's budget for repairing potholes and drainage work will be boosted by a total of £12 million overall. This is a significant cash injection which will have a positive impact on the condition of our roads, not only by repairing potholes but also improving drainage to make our roads more resilient. The extremely wet weather over the past year has inflicted a huge amount of damage on the network so there's no denying that there's a substantial amount of work that our highway teams will be tackling.

## **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.

### **Growing Communities Fund**

If you know of a community group that has a project that could improve people's wellbeing, relieve hardship, or provide a warm space to work, learn or socialise in the area there is a grant available:

Information at [communitygrants@devon.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@devon.gov.uk)

## **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.

## **Household Support Fund**

It is welcome news that we are able to confirm that DCC have been allocated a little over £5 million from the government to help households struggling to pay higher bills for energy, food, water, and other essential items.

This will be the fifth round of Household Support Funding that we have received from the Department for Work and Pensions, to run between April and September 2024. It will take Devon's total level of Household Support Funding received so far to just over £30 million.

The funding is to support households in most need, but specifically those that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government.

We must submit plans mid-May to the Department of Work and Pensions, setting out how we, with Devon's District, City and Borough councils and other voluntary and community partners, will make the latest funding available.

Plans are expected to include:

- a funding allocation to specifically support families in receipt of Free School Meals, to provide food vouchers that can be exchanged at supermarkets to buy food during school holidays. 21,700 children in Devon were eligible for free school meal vouchers during the last holidays
- some funding will also go to provide financial support for food, energy and other essentials to eligible low income households with children and young people, through the County Council's Early Help service
- Team Devon's District/City/Borough councils will plan to continue helping households that are in greatest financial need and struggling to pay for food, energy and other related essentials. They will publicise further details soon, once plans have been finalised
- Citizens Advice Devon will continue to receive funding to support households that are using pre-payment and credit meters, to help with energy costs
- Devon Community Foundation will deploy funds to voluntary and community organisations that support specific groups who may struggle to access the help and support they need

The Household Support Fund is one aspect of the support that councils across the county are making available to households. For [more information about the range of support available, visit our website.](#)

***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).  
Reporting defects on the highway the Devon County Website [Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)***

Andrea Davis  
County Councillor Combe Martin Rural division  
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