

**Draft**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council  
held on the  
12<sup>th</sup> Decemebr 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

2 members of the public

**Officer**

G Dwyer

**Dec24/1 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Mrs C Parkhouse and County Cllr Mrs A Davis

**Dec24/2 Public Question Time**

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for their help in getting the white lines in the village reinstated

**Dec24/3 Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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

**Dec24/4 Matters arising from the minutes**

Discussions on the possibility of setting up a speed awareness monitor was deferred to the next meeting to enable the County Councillor to contribute her findings.

**Dec24/5 Inspection of Defibrillator**

The defibrillator has been inspected and cleaned.

### **Dec24/6 Report of the County Councillor**

The County Councillor was at a public meeting at Roundswell and had advised the Council that she might not be able to attend A copy of the County Councillors report is attached to these minutes.

### **Dec24/7 Questions to the County Councillor**

There were no questions

### **Dec24/8 Report of the District Councillor**

There was no report

### **Dec24/9 Questions to the District Councillor**

There were no questions

### **Dec24/10 Correspondence**

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

- Dalc bulletin
- Planning Applications 79527 and 78639
- Parish forum presentations

### **Dec24/11 Planning Applications**

**Planning Application 78639 Coxleigh Barton.** Erection of B8 storage and distribution industrial unit

After detailed and lengthy discussion the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to recommend REFUSAL as

- the opportunity for this application existed because a previous application (75132) was wrongly sited requiring retrospective approval.. and this created the space necessary for this development. We consider it wrong that what might be a deliberate error results in an opportunity that is advantageous for the owner.
- development of the site has been piecemeal and not structured resulting in an overdevelopment
- The Parish Council have expressed concern on several occasions because Planning Conditions for this site have been ignored.

**Planning Application 79527 Planning Application 79527 Land between Southlands and No.1 Youlston Close Shirwell Barnstaple Devon.** Outline application for the erection of three dwellings and access with some matters reserved (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale)

*Cllr Friend declared a prejudicial interest in the site withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion. Cllr Watts declared a personal interest in the application as he lives close to the site*

**RESOLVED** to recommend **REFUSAL** as the proposed development is too large a development for Shirwell and is contrary to the development principles accepted by the Parish Council of small infill development. In addition, the proposed units are not designed to cater for the needs of local people, they are all large and expensive properties. Concern was expressed at the adequacy of sight lines and visibility splays and it was felt that the proposed exit onto the A361 was inappropriate as it would not be a safe entrance and exit for the magnitude of traffic associated with these types of houses.

#### **Dec24/12 Cheques for Payment**

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

#### **Dec24/13 Reports from Councillors**

- Cllr Watts gave a progress report on the early success of the table tennis sessions he had arranged and a brief summary of the future timetable. He was pleased with the progress so far.

#### **Dec24/14 Clerks Report**

- It was resolved to set the precept for 2025/2026 at £2910.
- The Clerk had been advised that the Planning Appeal for Poppys View (78444) had been dismissed.

#### **Dec24/15 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda**

There were none

#### **Dec24/16 Urgent Business**

The Council were reminded that they owned the Village Hall gardening cup  
**RESOLVED** the Clerk check that the Barnstaple Museum are aware of this

The meeting closed 8.13 pm

Chairman:                      Dated:.....

## **Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors report**

### **County Councillors report December 2024**

#### **Storm Darragh**

We were particularly hard hit in Combe Martin Rural and North Devon, I have residents still without electricity across the area. There are also areas without mobile coverage still.

Despite the challenging conditions, the county's road network is already largely back to normal.

During the period covered by the Met Office's weather warnings, Devon's Network Operations Control Centre received more than 680 calls, with more than 300 of those relating to tree issues.

The highest wind gust recorded over the weekend was 78mph at Taw Bridge. As a safety precaution, the A361 Taw Bridge and A39 Torridge Bridge were both closed at midnight on Friday night as planned and were re-opened on Sunday morning. Devon's Household Waste Recycling Centres were also closed on Saturday.

Although wind speeds dropped by Sunday afternoon, calls to the control centre continued as road users came across issues. A large share of the calls were from people reporting roads that were blocked or partially blocked by trees or debris from buildings.

#### **Changes for disposal of upholstered furniture**

New environmental requirements will mean that from **Sunday December 1** we will only be able to dispose of their upholstered furniture at one of eight of our specially designated Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

It follows the introduction of new requirements from the Environment Agency which require our recycling centres to have segregated facilities to handle Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS). WUDS include sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, recliner chairs, upholstered kitchen and dining room chairs, upholstered garden furniture, stools and foot stools, office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor and sofa cushions.

These items contain large quantities of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs or forever chemicals) and other hazardous chemicals in the textiles and foam. These chemicals are often used as fire retardants; they persist in the environment, can accumulate in human and wildlife fatty tissues and can be harmful to health and the environment. All WUDS need to be sent for incineration separately where these chemicals are destroyed.

We are now required by the Environment Agency to ensure that all WUDS are segregated and transported separately from other waste. This segregation will require additional containers and facilities to be provided at HWRCs. However, due to space constraints, only a limited number of sites in Devon will be able to accept WUDS. This means that the majority of our recycling centres will not have the facilities to accept these items.

The HWRCs that will be able to accept Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating from Sunday December 1 2024 are: –

East Devon; Knowle Hill in Exmouth

Exeter; Pinbrook Road, Exeter

Mid Devon; Ashley, Tiverton

**North Devon, Seven Brethren, Barnstaple**

Torridge; Bideford

South Hams; Ivybridge

West Devon: Okehampton

Teignbridge: Brunel Road, Newton Abbot

WUDS cannot be accepted at any other Devon HWRC after December 1 and residents will need to ensure that they take their WUDS to a site that can accept them or book a bulky collection with their district council who will charge for the service.

**To be very clear we will have to go to Barnstaple with any Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (upholstered furniture, chairs, sofas, floor cushions etc)**

**The ‘Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority Regulations 2024’, a ‘statutory instrument’ (SI), has been laid in Parliament, paving the way towards the creation of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority.**

The Regulations will be debated in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. When they are signed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP, under powers delegated by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) will come into being.

The CCA will make decisions about the powers and funding devolved from Whitehall to Devon and Torbay through the deal that was agreed in January this year.

Devon and Torbay recently received £16 million in capital funding as part of the authorities’ devolution deal.

The funding, which is just the start, will enable 16 projects to progress, to provide more affordable homes, sheltered accommodation, green jobs and business growth across Devon and Torbay.

*I strongly suspect this will be rather outdated news by the end of the month and a new conversation may well be needed.....just my opinion!*

**The DCC website is very useful for reporting highway problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. Report a problem - Roads and transport**

**Alternatively, the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004**

**If it’s a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188**

**Winter road updates; <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/safe-travel/winter-travel/>**

Travel Devon website; home - Travel Devon

**Merry Christmas and a very happy 2025**

*Andrea Davis*

*County Councillor*

*Combe Martin Rural Division [Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk](mailto:Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk)*