

**Draft**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council  
held on the  
9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in the Village Hall, Shirwell**

**Present**

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

Also in attendance County Councillor A Davis

**Officer**

G Dwyer

**Jan25/1 Apologies for Absence**

There were none

**Jan25/2 Public Question Time**

There were no members of the Public present

**Jan25/3/ Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

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

**Jan25/4 Matters arising from the minutes**

Deferred to agenda item 13. (Councillors items)

**Jan25/5 Inspection of Defibrillator**

The defibrillator has been inspected and cleaned.

### **Jan25/6 Report of the County Councillor**

The County Councillor had forwarded her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In particular she highlighted the recent Government White Paper dealing with Local Government reorganisation and the new regulations regarding the disposal of upholstered furniture. It was noted that Seven Brethren would continue to accept upholstered furniture.

### **Jan25/7 Questions to the County Councillor**

There were no questions

### **Jan25/8 Report of the District Councillor**

There was no report

### **Jan25/9 Questions to the District Councillor**

There were no questions

### **Jan25/10 Correspondence**

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

- Dalc bulletin
- Climate and Environment grant

### **Jan25/11 Planning Applications**

There were none.

### **Jan25/12 Cheques for Payment**

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

### **Jan25/12 Speed Awareness monitor**

Councillors discussed the possible locations and it was **RESOLVED** that The School site, the Flower Bed, at the bus stop and the verge at Hilltop Cottages be proposed as the preferred sites. Potential sites in BurrIDGE to be identified later. The Clerk to fill out the application form

### **Jan25/13 Reports from Councillors**

- It was noted that LangaforD Hill was continually flooding following the unauthorised engineering works last year and is a danger in icy weather. **RESOLVED** the Clerk to report the issue to the environment agency.

- Cllr Watts undated Concillors on the early success of the table tennins club started in the Village Hall

### **Jan25/14 Clerks Report**

The Clerk confirmed he had submitted the second precept letter

### **Jan25/15 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda**

There were none

### **Jan25/16 Urgent Business**

There was none

The meeting closed 7.35 pm

Chairman:                      Dated:.....

## **Shirwell Parish Council County Councillors report January 2025**

***Happy New Year***

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

The English Devolution White Paper was published on just before Christmas. Extract from the ministers letter probably gives some explanation as to where we are heading as residents in a two tier area;

*Local government reorganisation My intention is to formally invite unitary proposals in January 2025 from all councils in two-tier areas, and small neighbouring unitary councils. In this invitation, I will set out further detail on the criteria I will consider when taking decisions on the proposals that are submitted to Government. I intend to ask for interim plans by March 2025. As set out in the White Paper, new unitary councils must be the right size to achieve efficiencies, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks. For most areas, this will mean creating councils with a population of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including on devolution. Final decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. We will ask you to work with other councils in your area to develop unitary proposals that are in the best interests of the whole area, rather than developing competing proposals.*

### **Statement from Andrea**

Following publication of the Governments Devolution White paper it is clear that considerable change is going to happen in Local Government in Devon.

We have two options;

- 1. Do nothing and the government will impose changes**
- 2. Engage with government to get the best result for the residents of Devon.**

I believe that engagement with the government is the best option. While I may not agree with all the governments proposals, I need to do everything I can to ensure that the changes will make local government sustainable for the long term and able to withstand shocks like the pandemic and the world financial crisis. At the heart of all this must be a stronger voice to inform the government of the issues my residents in Combe Martin Rural and the residents in the wider area of Devon face.

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

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 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](#)

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