

Draft
Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
11th December 2025 in the Village Hall, Shirwell

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr J Watts (Dep Chairman)
Cllr E Abretti
Cllr R Pelling
Cllr Mrs S Pine
Cllr S Shortridge

There were no members of the public present

Dec 25/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mrs Parkhouse and County Councillor Mrs A Davis

Dec 25/2 Public Question Time

There were no questions.

Dec 25/3 Minutes the meeting of the 13th November 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Dec 25/4 Matters arising from the minutes

There were none that were not on the agenda

Dec 25/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected prior to the meeting.

Dec 25/6 Report of the County Councillor

The County Councillor had apologised for her non attendance as she was unwell, a copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Dec 25/7 Questions to the County Councillor

There were none

Dec 25/8 Report of the District Councillor

There was no report

Dec 25/9 Questions to the District Councillor

There were none

Dec 25/10 Correspondence

Snow warden – update
Parish Forum Nov.25 – notes of meeting
North Devon -Weekly info sheet
Local Plan - update

Dec 25/11 Planning Applications

Cllr Friend declared a prejudicial interest in the application as he is related to the applicant, he left the meeting and did not speak or vote thereon.

Planning Application 81110 Brightlycott, Shirwell Barnstaple. Installation of roof mounted Solar PV panels on ancillary barn It was **RESOLVED** to Recommend **APPROVAL**

Dec 25/12 Planning Decisions

Appeal reference: 6000670 Site - Land adj No. 1 Youlstone Shirwell, Barnstaple – Appeal upheld, planning permission Granted

Dec 25/13 Cheques for Payment

A cheque to G Dwyer for clerks salary £200.00 was signed at the meeting.

Dec 25/14 Reports from Councillors

- There was no progress with removing the surplus Pylons although Cllr Shortridge had made some progress with identifying responsibility. **RESOLVED** Cllr Shortridge to continue to apply pressure.
- Cllr Watts expressed interest in taking up the duties of footpath warden. **RESOLVED** he contact the footpath Officer in Devon County Council for more information

Dec 25/15 Sub Committee Report LG reorganisation

The Clerk briefly updated members on the latest position as to area divisions/responsibility in Devon, but this was liable to change in the next two months as further consultations take place.

Dec 25/16 Clerks Report

The Clerk had nothing to report but members confirmed that he be authorised to forward the 2nd letter for the precept at £2910

Dec **25/17** Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There was none.

Dec **25/18 Urgent Business**

There was none

The meeting closed 8.06 pm

Chairman:

Dated:.....

**Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors report
December 2025**

County-Wide Restructure: Devon Unitary Proposals

The process for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon is currently at a critical juncture, with several competing proposals being formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by the deadline of Friday, November 28, 2025.

The Four Primary Unitary Proposals submitted for Devon are based on three distinct models:

- 1 The one Devon County Council model**
- 2 The Three seven District Council way split known as the 4-5-1**
- 3. The four way split; Plymouth Exeter and Torbay Councils**

Timeline for Government Response

The period for local proposals is now closing. The next steps in the process, as outlined by the Department, are:

1. Statutory Consultation: The Government will examine all proposals received and is expected to decide which one(s) will proceed to statutory consultation with stakeholders during the first half of 2026.
2. Final Decision: A final decision on the preferred model for Devon is anticipated by the Summer of 2026.
3. Vesting Day: Should a proposal be backed, the new authority/authorities would typically hold shadow elections in May 2027 before formally taking on all powers and responsibilities (Vesting Day) on April 1, 2028.

Library Consultation

A public consultation asking people to help shape the future of Devon's 50 libraries launched yesterday, this is to seek views about the future of the library service in Devon.

It will run for 12 weeks and focus on a number of options, including opening hours, the use of technology, and the potential for community-managed libraries.

The consultation will be available online via a Devon County Council engagement platform at <https://devon.cc/devon-libraries-pm>

Visitors will be able to:

- Fill in one of two surveys (one is specifically for young people aged 13 to 17 years)
- View a detailed overview proposal
- View an opening hours document and other information

Printed copies of the survey are also available in libraries and Devon County Council reception areas (County Hall in Exeter, Taw View in Barnstaple and Follaton House in Totnes).

Highway Defects

With the winter fast approaching it is more likely there will be defects in the highway network, this includes streetlights and signs.

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

Weather conditions are being constantly monitored and gritting teams are ready to be called into action when needed. However, preparations started months ago. Gritting depots across the county are topped up with almost 24,000 tonnes of salt for the start of the season.

Gritting lorries have been serviced and maintained, and five of the 37 frontline gritters have been replaced with newer models to help improve reliability and reduce maintenance costs. All of these newer gritters feature touchscreen controls to enable drivers to adjust salt spreading rates and the position of their plough attachments without leaving their cab, which improves safety.

The DCC website is very useful for reporting problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. 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

Please do get in touch if you think I can help with anything;
Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year, I look forward to working with you in 2026.

Andrea

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division

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