

Draft
Minutes of the meeting of Shirwell Parish Council
held on the
8th January 2026 in the Village Hall, Shirwell

Present

Cllr J Friend (Chairman)
Cllr J Watts (Dep Chairman)
Cllr EW Abretti
Cllr Mrs C Parkhouse
Cllr S Shortridge

Also in attendance

There was one member of the public present

Jan 26/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Pelling, Cllr Mrs Pine.

Jan 26/2 Public Question Time

The member of the public asked the Councils reaction to the Library Service survey, stressing that the survey involved wider issues than the lending service managed by the County Council. Councillors had responded to the survey on an individual but not as the Parish Council. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk prepare a draft response advance of February's meeting for Councillors consideration.

Jan 26/3 Minutes the meeting of the 11th December 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

Jan 26/4 Matters arising from the minutes

There were none that were not on the agenda

Jan 26/5 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected prior to the meeting.

Jan 26/6 Report of the County Councillor

Councillor Mrs Davis arrived part way through the meeting, apologised for her late attendance as she had been to other Parish Councils, a copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Jan 26/7 Questions to the County Councillor

There were none

Jan 26/8 Report of the District Councillor

There was no report

Jan 26/9 Questions to the District Councillor

There were none

Jan 26/10 Correspondence

- County Councillors report
- North Devon council weekly information sheet
- NDDH newsletter

Jan 26/11 Planning Applications

There were none

Jan 26/13 Cheques for Payment

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

Jan 26/14 Reports from Councillors

- There was progress with removing the surplus Pylons and they should be removed within weeks. **RESOLVED** Cllrs Shortridge and Abretti 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

Jan 26/15 Sub Committee Report LG reorganisation

No progress since the report in December 2020.

Jan 26/16 Clerks Report

The Clerk confirmed he had forwarded the second precept letter

Jan 26/17 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There was none but there was some discussion as to the future of the skittle alley wagon, it was **RESOLVED** that should the Parish Council be approached then they would be in favour of allowing its removal for restoration.

Jan 26/18 **Urgent Business**

There was none

The meeting closed at 7.40

Chairman:

Dated:.....

**Shirwell Parish Council
County Councillors report
January 2026**

Library Consultation- reminder

A public consultation asking people to help shape the future of Devon's 50 libraries was recently launched, 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. **Closing date 22nd February.**

The consultation is 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)

Highway Defects

With the winter now very much upon us, 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

Happy New Year, I look forward to working with you in 2026.

*Andrea
County Councillor
Combe Martin Rural Division
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