

numbering

Draft

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Shirwell Parish Council held on the 14th May 2026 in the Village Hall, Shirwell

Present

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

Also in attendance

County Councillor Mrs A Davis and one member of the public

May 26/1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Pelling, Cllr Mrs Parkhouse and District Councillor Mrs J Hunt

May26/2 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.*

May26/3 Election of Vice Chairman

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

May 26/4 Planning Applications

*With members approval the Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the member of the Public to speak on **Planning Application 81668.***

Magnolia House Shirwell

Cllr E Abretti declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is a near neighbour of the applicant, and did not speak or vote thereon.

The member of the public thanked Councillors for allowing him to speak and briefly outlined the details of the application, in particular he stressed that the

application would be amended to allow a sightline issue to be avoided and was seeking an approval in principle rather than a detailed approval.

The applicant confirmed that he was aware that the Parish Council commented in an advisory capacity and that statutory planning powers were with the District Council.

The meeting resumed under standing orders.

May 26/5 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present at this time

May 26/6 Minutes the meeting of the 9th April 2026

RESOLVED that the minutes as previously circulated be approved

May 26/7 Matters arising from the minutes

There were none that were not on the agenda

May 26/8 Inspection of Defibrillator

The defibrillator had been inspected prior to the meeting.

May 26/9 Report of the County Councillor

Councillor Mrs Davis spoke briefly to her report a copy of which is attached to these minutes, and highlighted the results of the library consultation and touched briefly on the uses for the safer road scheme cameras being installed on some roads.

May 26/10 Questions to the County Councillor

There were no questions

May 26/11 Report of the District Councillor

There was no report

May 26/12 Questions to the District Councillor

There were none

May 26/13 Correspondence

- NDC weekly information sheet
- Parish Paths partnership update
- 2025.2026 Draft Accounts

May 26/14 Planning Applications

- **Planning Application 81653 Land adjacent Warren Cottages Shirwell Barnstaple Devon EX31 4JZ.** *Erection of an agricultural shed/workshop together with associated works* **Grid Ref: 259374; 138727** Members considered the site details contained in the Planning Application and expressed concern at the accuracy of the site layout as the location shown for the existing building did not appear accurate, it was also felt that the application would result in sporadic development. In addition Members queried what restrictions would be placed on the future use of the buildings. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend **REFUSAL**.
- **Planning Application 81668. Magnolia House Shirwell Barnstaple Devon EX31 4JU**
notification for prior approval for larger home extension which extends 4.25m beyond the rear wall, 3.2m to the ridge and 3.2m to the eaves. **Grid Ref: 259961; 137604** It was **RESOLVED** to recommend **APPROVAL**

May 26/15 Planning Decisions

There were none that differed from the recommendation of the Paris Council

May 26/16 Cheques for Payment

Cheques to G Dwyer for clerks salary (£200.00) Comm First Insurance (£235.72) and DALC (£184.05) were signed at the meeting

May 26/17 Community Governance Review/Local Government Reorganisation

There was no new information

May 26/18 Reports from Councillors

Councillors discussed the links that were being considered to provide an access point for Parishioners

May 26/19 Clerks Report

The Clerk updated Councillors on the draft 2025.2026 accounts and spoke briefly of the implications to Parish Council costs of any changes. It was **RESOLVED** that the draft accounts be submitted to the Auditor.

May 26/20 Public Questions regarding business on this agenda

There were none

May 26/21 Urgent Business

There was none

May 26/22 Annual Meeting of the Parish

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Followed the Annual General Meeting of the Council and the Chairman gave the following summary of activities

- There had been 16 Planning Applications including North Woolley and the Quarry Extraction licence at Muddiford Plantation, Muddiford Woods, Muddiford, Barnstaple
- There had been an 81% attendance at meetings
- Thanks to the District Councillor
- Thanks to the County Councillor for assisting with grants for the Table tennis table and the Visual speed awareness device
- Parish Councillors for their contributions over the year
- Chris Seage for carrying out the grass cutting contract
- Chris Wallace for drain clearance work
- The Clerk
- All the members of the public who had attended meetings and contributed during the open part of the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman:

Dated:.....

Shirwell Parish Council County Councillor's Report May 2026

Library consultation- latest

The proposals follows a three-month public consultation that attracted more than 25,000 responses, including 5,300 paper surveys and feedback from 2,246 young people.

Possible changes to staffed opening hours generated the strongest response, with many saying it would affect how often they use their local library.

Next Wednesday Cabinet will be asked to consider three options for statutory opening hours:

- reducing total staffed hours by 30 per cent
- reducing hours by ten per cent
- making no change to current staffed hours

A scrutiny committee has already recommended that any proposals should not include reductions to statutory opening hours.

The Cabinet report also sets out wider plans to develop the library service, alongside a new long-term vision. These include expanding Open Plus technology, making greater use of volunteers and community partnerships, and investing through a proposed library transformation fund.

Consultation responses highlighted strong backing for libraries as community spaces, particularly for children, older people and more vulnerable residents. More than 6,000 people also said they would be willing to volunteer in their local library.

Under all three options, there would be potential to extend opening hours in future through volunteering, technology and community partnerships.

A361 Safer Roads Scheme- cameras

I've had a few emails about this, not in the parish but we all use the road at times.

Answers to some FAQ's

- There will be 'average speed check' signage going up.
- AI camera

One AI camera or "Distracted Driver System" (DDS) camera as they are also known, will be going in at Ashford along with the Average speed cameras. This is new technology and not Home Office Type Approved like our speed cameras currently are. But the AI involved simply detects the potential driver offence and the camera will only record evidence of potential phone\seatbelt offences. Like speed cameras this evidence is securely controlled for police use only. Devon & Cornwall police have been pioneering the use of mobile DDS cameras for seatbelt and mobile phone use detection for over 4 years now and they have checked that their data protection processes are compliant. DDS is being included in this road safety project due to the sad prevalence of in-vehicle distraction or not wearing a seatbelt being involved in serious and fatal collisions. But will only be used for this specific purpose and they will not be able to record any other personal information.

- Data Protection

Speed cameras are Home Office Type Approved and cannot record driver or vehicle data for any other purposes. They securely encrypt and transmit evidence of speed offences to police back-office systems. Devon & Cornwall Police are fully compliant with all data protection regulations.

<https://roadsafety.devon-cornwall.police.uk/speed-offence-enquiries/speed-camera-information/>

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/data-pro/data-protection/>

- Other safer roads scheme works scheduled

The October HATOC is scheduled for approvals of the Williams Arms and Barton Lane crossings with a build dated subject to other roadworks by Feb 2027. This will also include the Ashford crossing. The Knowle crossing may join them although this could potentially be a bigger road scheme proposal subject to local support\views. The Tarka Trail works from Heddon Mills to Dean Cross have a construction permit for Jan-Apr 2027.

The Safer roads funding can only be used on this route and only for additionality (safety related, the proposals are all compliant and have been through the department of transports own checks as it is their funding). The funding cannot be used for potholes.

Subsidised composting bins available

Making compost at home is a natural and affordable way of adding moisture, structure and nutrients back into the soil which supports the growth of healthy plants and increases biodiversity in gardens of all sizes.

Devon residents can purchase Blackwall Compost Converters from £25 by ordering online at www.getcomposting.com.

The Blackwall 220 Litre Black Compost Converter is the UK's best-selling home compost bin. Made in the UK from recycled plastic, it's UV stabilised for maximum durability and comes with a 5 year guarantee.

Priced at just £25.00 (plus delivery) due to a Devon County Council subsidy, it provides an affordable and secure environment for compost, helping you transform your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden.

The Green Johanna 330 Litre Compost Bin is the natural waste composter with a difference. Unlike standard compost bins, this hot-composter turns garden and food waste including cooked food, bones, meat and fish into nutrient rich, organic compost. Recommended as a Best Buy in Gardeners' World magazine and Which? Magazine, the Green Johanna can digest all biodegradable waste due to its enclosed base, meaning more nutrient rich compost for your garden. The Green Johanna is now reduced to £62 (RRP £144.99) for Devon residents.

Wormeries, water butts and other accessories are also available.

For more information about composting at home visit www.recycledevon.org.

Highway Defects and road closures

Road closures can be seen at [Causeway one.network](#)

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

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

Andrea