

The monthly meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 7:30. Chairman Cllr Clarke-Irons.

**Present:** Cllrs Brown, Clarke-Irons, Forrester, Frost, Mason, Pratt, Sellers, Turner, Whiting; and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Cllr Denham who is recuperating, D Cllr Thomas and C Cllr Knight who are attending an EDDC Council meeting; PCSO Jones who was unable to attend.
2. **Adoption of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 2009 meeting were adopted and signed.
3. **Matters arising:** None
4. **Planning**

**Applications dealt with by Planning Committee**

- **Seaforth Yawl Hill Lane.** Erection of detached garden room. **Comments:** The application is for a living/sleeping area with shower/WC and potential cooking area with sink, which in fact constitutes a separate living accommodation, especially if sold. This is another attempted precedent outside the Development Boundary. The Parish Council does not support this application
- **Land Adjacent To Rocombe Cross Harcombe Road.** Erection of detached bungalow and garage. **Comments:** This application is for a large new development outside the Development Area where previous applications have been refused. The Parish Council strongly objects to this application, as another attempted precedent.
- **Bramble Hayes Yawl Hill Lane.** Erection of front and rear extensions and covered way. **Comments:** The Parish Council has no objection to this application.
- **The Chantry Rhode Lane.** Erection of single storey front and rear extensions and front porch.. **Comments:** The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

**Applications being considered**

- **Land Adjacent Lydwell House Lyme Road.** Construction of 2 pairs of semi-detached houses (alternative scheme to 09/0885/FUL).
- **Hedgehog Corner Lyme Road.** Extension to holiday unit.
- **Applegarth Pound Lane.** Crown lift 1 turkey oak; fell 1 cherry, 1 sycamore, 2 ash; 1 ash reduce height by 10%; 1 sycamore remove sub-dominant stem and reduce height by 20%.

**Applications granted or rejected by EDDC since last meeting**

- **Hook Farm Camping and Caravan Site Gore Lane.** Construction of conservatory, porch and study and erection of decking. *Granted*
- **Undermead Venlake Lane.** Reduce by 5% overhanging side branches of one Beech tree. *Refused*  
Miss Wilson asks that it is minuted that the beech tree referred to as belonging to Undermead in this planning application, and also minuted last month, is actually on her property, Little Cedar House.
- **The Orchard Rhode Lane.** 1 x Oak: remove 2 x low lateral branches. *Withdrawn*

**Other planning.** Building is going on at Lydwell House – apparently without permission. Clerk to contact EDDC enforcement with more information. Draft letter about planning policy change was read out by the Clerk and approved by Council, to be sent to EDDC Chief Executive.

5. **Finance :** The Clerk reported on the **current position at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009:**

Current Account	7,140.66	Including Restricted Funds of :	
Business Instant Access A/c	5,351.74	Footpath funds	2,148.06
Millennium Tree Fund	55.06	Uplyme Speed Campaign	879.01
	<u>12,547.46</u>	Playground funds	<u>1,582.01</u>
			<u>4,609.08</u>
<b>Payments Out</b>		<b>Payments In</b>	
Grounds maintenance	508.33	Cemetery receipts	190.00
Clerk's salary	410.28	Bank interest	<u>0.23</u>
Clerk's expenses	87.59		<u>190.23</u>
Cllr Clarke-Irons' expenses	47.38		
A. J Booth	70.00		
	<u>1,123.58</u>		

The Clerk submitted the list of current payments for inspection:

<i>cheque #</i>	<i>payee, re</i>	<i>amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Net</i>
1141	DAPC - new councillor training - VOID	-86.75	-11.25	-75.00
1142	A J Booth - PPP	70.00		70.00
1143	RBL WS Poppy Appeal - wreath donation	16.50		16.50
1144	Uplyme PCC - clock repair donation	500.00		500.00
1145	TruGreen - Grounds maintenance	508.33		508.33
1146	L Wakeman - Clerk's expenses	79.36		79.36
1147	J Clarke-Irons - travel expenses	38.77		38.77
1148	P Frost - travel expenses	12.00		12.00
1149	Village Hall - hire (Red Cross)	28.35		28.35

It was resolved unanimously to authorise the purchase of a replacement battery and Microsoft Office software for the Parish Council laptop (approx. £80 and £260 respectively). Proposed Cllr Pratt and seconded Cllr Sellers.

6. **Precept.** The clerk summarised the items that she was currently considering in preparing for setting the precept next year. Other items that should be considered were increases in tenders for maintenance, and the increased hours the Clerk had to put in over the contracted 40/month.
7. **Footpaths** – Cllr Mason reported that progress in getting a contractor to clear the Glen FP was frustratingly slow. It is now held up because there is an Uplyme FP inspection in progress by a DCC officer. In 1-2 weeks, he has been promised a report of all faults found and proposals for action, which must be confirmed with the Parish Council. Some jobs may be done using DCC finance, rest by PPP funds.
8. **Highway matters:** Trinity Hill is being salted at last. Deep water collection past Country Covers on dangerous corner causes concern; Clerk will write to highways requesting a drain. The Chairman wishes to apologise to Mr Cooksey over the length of time that it has taken to get locality funding organised for the drainage problems at Culver and West Hill Farm, owing to personal circumstances. Clerk also to write to Highways re: 1 or 2 listing trees on the B3165 past Yawl.
9. **Maintenance of Parish Council land:** No grass cutting has been possible recently as ground so wet. Cllr Sellers has recommended that the payment to the contractor should be made, which was agreed. Problems with tap and broken panel at cemetery are already known about. Floodwater from Lyme Road is draining into the playground through unofficial trenches dug by residents opposite; Clerk will write to highways requesting the drain to be moved to a more effective position. Cllr Clarke-Irons has sourced a toddler slide to go on playground embankment which will not cost anything to install.
10. **Affordable Housing:** The clerk read out an email from Phil Townsend (Development Control Manager for Devon Highways East Area Team) email about the roundabout, and passed to Cllr Whiting a plan from Guinness Trust of the proposed junction layout. Councillors were asked to comment on the revised design proposals from Guinness Trust after the meeting, so Cllr Whiting can co-ordinate a response to the architect.
11. **Clerk's probation.** It was resolved unanimously to confirm the Clerk's position at the end of her probationary period (proposed Cllr Clarke-Irons, seconded Cllr Brown). The Clerk explained that she was not able to do all that was required within the 40 hours contracted in April 09, and had for example done 45 hours in November. It was resolved unanimously that the Council should, each month, retrospectively authorise an overtime payment to be made at the same hourly rate as in the contract; and further that 5 hours overtime for November be authorised immediately. (Proposed Cllr Clarke-Irons, seconded Cllr Turner). This will need to be accounted for in the precept – up to 50 hours if work grows apace.
12. **Emergency plan.** Cllr Sellers reported that there will be a committee meeting before the next Council meeting; sandbags are a pressing issue. Nick Collier has offered sand from Shapwick, and Paul Bright has offered the use of sand dumped at Harcombe. Volunteers will be needed to fill some sandbags for frail parishioners although durability of filled bags is poor; some can self-help if we have a "depot". Different people have different tasks allotted. Cllr Turner is compiling a 4WD owners' and drivers' list, Cllr Forrester a list of medical personnel. Plan will need to cover the first hours when emergency services are too busy or cannot get here; collecting people in danger and taking them to a safe place. Jane Tancock (EDDC Emergency Planning Officer) has volunteered to review the plan when it is complete. There is a need to monitor certain culverts, and a list of what needs checking is essential. Cllr Clarke-Irons tendered his resignation from the Emergency Plan committee, which was accepted.
13. **County Councillor's report.** The Clerk read out various items of information from C Cllr Knight, including the raised table for installation in the February 2010 half term, newsletter on safe winter travel and hedge cutting for landowners, lengthy road closures next year (Rhode Lane and Gore Lane), results of monitoring visit made to Shapwick Quarry in September.
14. **District Councillor's report.** The Clerk read out D Cllr Thomas' press release regarding the Boundary Commission's decision to recommend a unitary authority for Devon to the Minister. The Council has not changed its opposition since

this issue was last discussed, and the Clerk will write a draft letter to the Secretary of State for discussion at the next meeting.

15. **Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Frost was unable to attend the DAPC training as the venue was wrongly advertised. Cllr Clarke-Irons presented the annual Ring & Ride report. Block bookings are now stopped to allow Uplyme residents a better chance to get on the outings. 18/month in Uplyme are using it on average. Cllr Clarke-Irons also attended a "Customer interface" meeting at EDDC, and made various observations to the officers.

16. **Correspondence:** the Clerk summarised correspondence. Plunkett Foundation, RSN and EDVSA surveys will be completed by Clerk; suitable action on DCC fairer funding campaign for Devon schools will be investigated; Clerk will write to Ray Steer-Kemp on his retirement

The Clerk read out a letter and accompanying decision notice from EDDC Monitoring Officer (an appeal by Mrs J Hamblen against the decision not to follow up her allegation of a breach of the Code Of Conduct was dismissed as there was no evidence that Cllr Turner had breached the Code.) Cllr Mason was concerned that anyone can accuse a Councillor of anything and the accused does not know until the letter arrives informing of the first decision. There is no representation or chance to refute an accusation until a case is established. The principle is wrong, and "mud sticks". Clerk to draft a letter to Standards Board for discussion at the next meeting.

Councillors were reminded that some parishioners cannot hear proceedings especially when heating is in operation, and mikes should always be used. However, only one was working and the other was intermittent. Cllr Pratt will follow up. The Clerk read out letters to EDDC Trees Officer and the Forestry Commission re: Furzehill Plantation.

17. **Any other business:** it is possible that the Breast Cancer Unit may move to Bournemouth from Dorchester, which will inconvenience local sufferers. Clerk to write in protest.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:02 p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....