

The Council meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 7:15pm.

Chairman Cllr Whiting.

**Present:** Cllrs Brown, Forrester, Frost, Garland, Mason, Ostler, Pratt (arrived 7.20), Turner, Wellman, Whiting and 7, later 9 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from D Cllr Ian Thomas, and PCSO Wooster.

Meeting was adjourned for an address by Cllr Peter Halse, Chairman of EDDC, then the Open Forum.

2. **Adoption of Minutes:** It was resolved unanimously to adopt the minutes of the January 2013 meeting (proposed Cllr Garland, seconded Cllr Turner).
3. **Matters arising:** Sand had to be purchased for sandbags as playground silt was not clean enough to use.
4. **Pecuniary or other interests.** No declarations or requests for dispensation were received.
5. **Planning:**

**Applications dealt with by the Planning Committee:**

- **Land East Of Yawl Cross Lyme Road Raymonds Hill.** Creation of access onto B3165 Lyme Road. *The Parish Council objects to this application on the same grounds as it objected to 12/1654/FUL, which appears to relate to the same agricultural holding. It is in the AONB and access onto the B3165 is poor.*  
Letter of objection to response received from applicant's consultant because land was in separate holding: Councillors considered that highway concerns override any other matters and would not have changed the decision.
- **Staddles Cathole Lane.** Construction of 2 storey extension and remodelling of existing bungalow (to include re-cladding and new roof) and replacement garage with office accommodation area. *The Parish Council does not object to this application.*
- **Highways Harcombe Road.** Construction of single storey dwelling (outline application all matters reserved). *The Parish Council objects to this application as being overdevelopment of a small site.*
- **Land North West Of Yawl Hill Lane.** Retrospective application for retention of access track (re-submission of application 12/1654/FUL). *The Parish Council sees no material difference in this application to the previous one for the same track/site, and objects on the same grounds as before.*

**Applications dealt with at the meeting:**

- **Land at Undercliffs Ware.** Erection of low voltage overhead line. It was resolved unanimously to respond as follows: *"The Parish Council does not object to this application"* (proposed Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Frost).
- **Hillside Farm Harcombe.** Extension and conversion of redundant milking parlour to form new dwelling. It was resolved to respond as follows: *"The Parish Council objects to this application"* (proposed Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Wellman).
- **Lower Rhode Farm Rhode Hill.** Retention of conversion of barn to ancillary accommodation. The papers had arrived too late to make a response at the meeting.

**Applications approved/refused by EDDC:**

- **Land Adjacent to Lyme Road Uplyme (adjoining Uplyme Village Hall).** Two storey school building, improvements to existing access off Lyme Road, car parking, all weather play and sports area, grassed playing field and associated infrastructure. *Approved with conditions*
- **20 Barnes Meadow.** T1 oak - remove. *Refused*
- **Staddles Cathole Lane.** *Approved*

6. **Finance:** The Clerk submitted the schedule of current payments for approval. It was resolved unanimously to approve them (proposed Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Frost).

It was resolved unanimously to revise Financial Regulations to take account of the emergency spending powers agreed at the January meeting (proposed Cllr Garland, seconded Cllr Brown).

Cllr Garland summarised the cemetery compound work necessary and the two estimates he had been able to obtain. It was resolved unanimously to accept the estimate from Martin Taylor Landscaping (proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Wellman).

It was resolved unanimously to allocate the 'Parishes Together' money to the Axe Valley Ring and Ride second bus (proposed Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Mason), in the absence of any progress with a common lengthsman with Combyne/Rousdon.

7. **Correspondence:** The letter from Guinness and email from Mr M Denham re: reverting the name of the affordable housing development to “Denham Close” were discussed, after the Clerk gave a potted history of the matter. It was resolved unanimously that the Clerk would write to Mr Denham and Guinness Trust stating that the Council did not wish to reconsider its decision (proposed Cllr Turner, seconded Cllr Ostler).  
A letter from a bereaved relative regarding daffodil vandalism in the cemetery was discussed. The Council agreed that this was highly regrettable and the motive for the damage was puzzling. The Police were not willing to take any action.  
The letter from the developer’s liquidators re: transferring the Millennium Copse to the Council was discussed. Meeting suspended to hear from Mr Sole and Mrs Denham, who confirmed that some groundworks were done in the past before the retention was released to the developer. It was felt unlikely that any further funding to get the land back into a good state would be forthcoming. It was resolved unanimously that the Clerk would write to the liquidators accepting the transfer subject to the diversion of footpath 12 (proposed Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Turner).  
Request for grant towards drugs education at Mrs Ethelston’s – Clerk to write suggesting asking School Trustees instead as that is their purpose.  
Grant towards disabled WC at church: will be considered at next meeting when more information is available.
8. **Maintenance of Parish Council land.** Playground closure because ground so wet – may be opened next month as no safety reasons not to do so. Triangle trees must have a licence according to DCC officers: Cllrs find this absurd. Cllrs Turner, Garland, Ostler, and Wellman will form a Working Party to follow up lengthsman issue with neighbouring villages. The meeting was suspended to hear from D Cllr Halse and C Cllr Knight who sympathised with Cllrs’ concerns about the poor service and value for money of the DCC contractor service.
9. **Flooding WP:** a report of progress since the last meeting was made by Cllr Whiting, especially noting that action was at last being taken on getting a survey and design under way. Environment Agency will be doing clearance work in river soon. Meeting was suspended to hear from C Cllr Knight, who will ask if Uplyme can be included in new flooding money allocated to Devon.
10. **Complaints procedure.** It was resolved unanimously to adopt the complaints procedure drafted by the Clerk (proposed Cllr Garland, seconded Cllr Turner).
11. **Reports to note.**
  - i. **Finance** to January 31<sup>st</sup> 2013.
  - ii. **Footpaths** – FP 64 bridge would be £30K. Specialist bridgework necessary: Council still does not see why simple wooden bridge with handrails cannot be installed. Cathole FP signs taken away but still dangerous near Amherst Farm. Cart Road is closed but very dangerous. Hackers Mead and Glen – contractor being chased to finish work.
  - iii. **Highway matters.** Springhead Road at Whitty Down – tankers will break up road when dumping starts again.
  - iv. **Playground:** Slide installed, and Cllr Forrester complimented the installers on their neat handiwork .
  - v. **Emergency plan** Public thanks were proposed to the gritting team of Mr D Foxwell, Mr J Fowler and Cllr Turner. Cllr Turner will be organising a new training session for extra volunteers with 4x4 vehicles.
  - vi. **Affordable Housing:** Positive meeting at EDDC was summarised by Cllr Whiting. Cllrs were pleased to hear that tenants would be on 12 months’ probation in case of antisocial behaviour or fraudulent applications.
  - vii. **C Cllrs report** – DCC is managing debt reduction and keeping council tax the same. Services are being preserved. Lengthsman is a known problem: DCC’s contractor is trying teams of 2 instead of 1 in future, although some merriment was expressed about the likely efficacy of this approach.
  - viii. **D Cllrs report** – EDDC is also keeping council tax the same. Funding for broadband in the local area is being closely monitored, and the meeting he arranged re: affordable housing came to a satisfactory conclusion.
12. **Any other business:** Meeting will begin by presentation from Env. Agency next month. Combyne/Rousdon leaflet for natural features etc. is being written and it was agreed that Uplyme habitats could be included. Clerk outlined process for shortlisting and interviewing applicants for maintenance contract. Insurer is visiting on 20<sup>th</sup> to walk round with Clerk and any Cllrs interested. Issue of possible double insurance on playground to be clarified.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....