

The monthly meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th November 2009 at 8:35 pm (delayed by late finish of pre-meeting). Chairman Cllr Clarke-Irons.

Present: Cllrs Brown, Clarke-Irons, Forrester, Frost, Mason, Pratt, Sellers, Whiting; C Cllr Knight and D Cllr Thomas; 11 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Cllr Denham who is in hospital, Cllr Turner who is away, and PCSO Jones who was unable to attend.
2. **Adoption of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 2009 meeting were adopted and signed.
3. **Matters arising:** none
4. **Planning**

Applications dealt with by Planning Sub Committee

- **Undermead Venlake Lane.** Reduce by 5% overhanging side branches of one Beech tree **Comments:** The Parish Council considers this to be a very poor application. No proof of damage or likelihood of damage is given that could be checked by the tree warden, as required in section 8 para 2 for works on trees covered by TPO. It seems the most likely reason is given in section 7 – “reduce leaf fall in autumn” – not a valid reason for 5% reduction, neither is “to reduce excessive shading” – excessive is a subjective term, not objective. The Parish Council considers some minor trimming may be needed where the tree trespasses on the adjacent property of Spinney Cottage.
- **The Orchard Rhode Lane.** 1 x Oak: remove 2 x low lateral branches **Comments:** The Parish Council considers this to be a poor quality application, especially with regard to the location plan. The tree in question is Oak tree T1, which according to the TPO was located in Thursater, but which is now called The Orchard. The Parish Tree Warden has examined Oak tree T1 in conjunction with the applicants, and he considers that there are no grounds for removal of either lateral at this time. It is understood that the applicants are in agreement with this, and hence may withdraw their application. This is a fine specimen tree, and the Parish Council therefore cannot support this application.
- **Rose Markie Gore Lane.** Erection of bungalow **Comments:** EDDC Local Plan 2005-2011 refers to infill sites within a development area and says EDDC will seek appropriate density schemes. The Parish Council considers that this particular application would constitute over-development of the site. The site is on unstable ground and would require a detailed construction method statement as per page DS-4 of the Uplyme Parish Plan. The Highways Authority must confirm that access is considered suitable.
- **Seaforth Yawl Hill Lane.** Erection of detached garden room.
- **Land Adjacent To Rocombe Cross Harcombe Road.** Erection of detached bungalow and garage

Applications granted or rejected by EDDC since last meeting

- **Sunnymead Yawl Hill Lane.** Erection of extensions to dwelling, detached double garage, construction of terrace area and formation of new access. *Granted*
- **The Old Nurseries Rhode Lane.** Internal and external alterations to coach house to form 2 bedroom unit of ancillary accommodation. *Granted with conditions*
- **Woodside Woodhouse Lane.** Removal of 2 sheds and 1 summerhouse and replacement summerhouse/shed *Granted*

Other planning. Presentation on the planning roles and responsibilities of councillors was passed to Cllr Whiting for circulation to the Planning Committee. There will be an appeal against the refusal of planning for a parking space and decking in Church St.

5. **Finance :** The Clerk reported on the **current position at 31st October 2009:**

	Current Account	8,074.24	Including Restricted Funds of:	
	Business Instant Access A/c	5,351.51	Footpath funds	2,218.06
	Millennium Tree Fund	55.06	Uplyme Speed Campaign	879.01
		13,480.81	Playground funds	1,511.72
		13,480.81		4,608.79

Payments Out		Payments In	
Grounds maintenance	508.33	Bank interest	0.22
Clerk's salary	410.28		
Clerk's expenses	16.51		0.22
Cllr Denham's expenses	114.04		0.22
Cllr Clarke-Irons' expenses	15.41		
Cllr Mason's expenses	22.13		
DAPC (training and conference fees)	55.00		
Veolia Env. Services (waste admin fee)	30.00		
VAT	8.25		
	1,179.95		

The Clerk submitted the list of current payments for inspection:

<i>cheque number</i>	<i>payee, re</i>	<i>amount</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>Net</i>
1138	TruGreen - Grounds maintenance	508.33		508.33
1139	L Wakeman - Clerk's expenses	87.59		87.59
1140	J Clarke-Irons - travel expenses	47.38		47.38
1141	DAPC - new councillor training	86.25	11.25	75.00

(After the meeting, Cllr Mason presented a bill for £70 for payment from PPP funds, chq. 1142.) The Clerk reported on the quarterly audit for June-September.

6. **Footpaths** Old Mill gate is now fixed, and Cllr Mason is still awaiting DCC action for Glen improvements. Several bridleway signs are to be put up or replaced. Footpaths only have to be passable for people, so wire that prevents dogs passing through stiles is not illegal.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 for the Tree Warden to report on felling at Furzehill Plantation. David Colman (EDDC Trees Officer) recommends the Council writes to Forestry Commission about the felling licence (one has been issued for some of trees), copied to D Colman. The meeting reconvened at 8:49. It was resolved unanimously that the Clerk should liaise with the tree warden to draft such a letter (proposed Cllr Sellers, seconded Cllr Mason).
7. **Highway matters:** the Clerk reported that the Hunter's Lodge bus shelter has been straightened but has no windows. She has not heard from the insurers of the driver who wrecked it. A letter from Mr Kennard re: Harcombe HGV traffic was discussed, and the need for warning signs. C Cllr Knight will take the issue up, and asked the Clerk to send him a copy of the letter. No action has yet been taken on locality funding for a SpeedVisor.
8. **Maintenance of Parish Council land:** Cllr Sellers has recommended that the payment to the contractor should be made, which was agreed. The War Memorial was clear and tidy for Remembrance Day.
9. **Affordable Housing:** the Clerk summarised an email from Clare Brimm of Guinness Trust to the Chairman explaining the current situation. It was resolved unanimously that the Clerk should write to Claire Brimm telling her that the Council wishes to see the design before the planning application is considered, and to ensure that priority is given to finishing the roundabout before construction starts (proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Pratt). C Cllr Knight recommended writing to Phil Townsend (Development Control Manager for Devon Highways East Area Team) about the roundabout.
10. **County Councillor's report.** Road closure at Gore Lane in December. Progress on the raised tablet outside the Village Hall is ongoing. There was a meeting to resolve adoption of highways at Barnes Meadow. Ownership of a possibly dangerous tree with TPO at Venlake has been determined. Footpath issues will be looked at.
11. **District Councillor's report.** D Cllr Thomas explained the difficulties of coming into the job halfway through a term. He noted a scam where bogus councillors call to get financial details under the pretext of a council tax refund.
12. **Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Denham and Cllr Clarke-Irons attended the DAPC Axminster area meeting. Cllr Denham, Cllr Clarke-Irons (and the Clerk) attended the EDDC Annual Parishes meeting. Topics covered included the Boundary review, standard emails for parishes, asset transfer, and participatory budgeting. In the open discussion, there was much talk of emergency plans. Mark Williams will be circulating advice. Also, a discussion of why 20MPH limits are so hard to achieve – this may be easier if local funding is offered. The Clerk attended finance training in October. Cllr Pratt attended the Village Hall Committee meeting – planning for extension is in pipeline. Cllr Frost attended her first meeting of Mrs Ethelston's Trustees.

13. **Correspondence:** the Clerk summarised correspondence. No response was to be made to consultation document from SW Ambulance Service. Response to emails from DAPC and Rural Services Network about surveys will be deferred till the next meeting, when the Clerk will provide more information. A consultation pack from WDDC on their draft Planning Obligation Guidelines is being considered by Cllr Whiting. We cannot take part in a mass tree-planting event on 5th December for National Tree Week owing to lack of notice, but individuals can still do so. We have been accepted for a free Biodiversity audit from the AONB Partnership. The Clerk was instructed to return the ballot paper for the East Devon vacancy on County Committee voting for John Shiel. Councillors are requested to let the Clerk know if they want the weekly EDDC email bulletin "The Knowledge" forwarded to them. The Clerk will write to EDDC Democratic Services pointing out that not all Councillors have email facilities. Westbound #31 bus stop at Hunter's Lodge may be moved or discontinued in about 2 months' time; Clerk has requested more info of First Bus.

14. **Any other business:** none.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

Signed Chairman

Date