

Notes from the monthly Council meeting, 11th January 2012

At the open forum, issues including the state of Pound Cottage were discussed. The Clerk reported that EDDC is hoping to take action against the landlord. Our PCSO notes that no crimes were reported since the December meeting

Planning: Tenders for the affordable housing are in, and completion for mid-November is still hoped for. Applications will be considered in August/September, so *it's important for local applicants to make sure their Devon Home Choice registration is up-to-date* before then (call 01395 517469 or email devonhomechoice@eastdevon.gov.uk).

Applications dealt with at meeting

- **Post Office Lyme Road.** Demolition of existing single span storey shop unit to facilitate construction of 2 storey residential units (*2nd revised plans*). *The Parish Council does not wish to amend its comments made on the original plan and objects to this application.*
- **Land At Red Lane Cross Rocombe.** Retention of field shelter for equine use. *The Parish Council does not object to this application.*
- **Ware Barn Ware.** Internal alterations to garage to form pantry (Listed Building Consent). *The Parish Council supports this application*
- **Dashwood House Lyme Road.** T1, Scots Pine - shorten low second order branch on north side of tree by 1.5m. *The Parish Council supports this application.*

Applications granted by EDDC since last meeting

- **Hunters Cross Farm Yawl Hill Lane.** Construction of agricultural storage building. *Granted with conditions.*
- **Hook Farm Camping and Caravan Site Gore Lane.** Installation of solar pv panels on roofs of reception building and 2no amenity buildings. *Granted with conditions.*

Readers can look at www.uplymeparishcouncil.org for full details of these decisions, which are published in the Minutes section after approval by the Council, and minutes are also displayed on the PC noticeboards.

Chestnut tree in Pound Lane: it was reluctantly agreed that this memorial tree, which is terminally infected with Chestnut Bleeding Canker disease (confirmed by the EDDC Tree Warden), should be felled. The Council will consider suitable replacement native tree(s), after discussion with the Horticultural Society, in time for planting next winter.

Highway matters: There is some extra funding from Devon Highways, which will be used for jetting the culvert by the tennis courts and ditching

improvements in Cannington Lane. Cllr Turner was thanked for all his efforts in getting supplies and equipment for snow clearance, a process that has been far from easy!

Precept: the Council set the Parish Precept for next year (April 2012 – March 2013) at the same level as for the last two years, namely, £16,260 (which equates to £19.07 per Band D property, or 37p a week – only a penny more than the price of a second-class stamp). This is despite budgeting for extra items including expenses for the Snow Warden winter self-help scheme, a computer and printer to replace the 7½-year old kit currently in use, a generous contribution towards a new toddler slide for the playground, and a substantial sum towards the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The surplus from the current financial year (due largely to the fact there was no election in May 2011) will be used to defray the shortfall in anticipated income.

Footpaths: Scalpings will be used to repair the surface of the Hacker's Mead footpath, and the permissive path from Venlake will soon be finished. Litter deposited on the Coach Rd is a continuing problem; the Police cleaned up after the last incident, but did not find any evidence of drug-taking, despite local reports to this effect. A handrail will be fitted in the Glen near a drop in the ground.

Stafford Mount: the Council realises that this garden is under-used presently, and welcomes suggestions on how the space could be best used, before spending any money on refurbishment or alteration. Please give your ideas to a Councillor or the Clerk.

Council handyman jobs: local tradesmen (or women!) who would be interested in consideration for small jobs in the parish are asked to contact the Clerk with details of their hourly rate, and areas of expertise. Examples include minor repairs to fences, bus shelters, footpath signs etc. and one-off gardening/groundwork tasks not covered by the regular maintenance contract.

Councillor vacancy: since Cllr Sellers resigned in December, a vacancy for a co-opted Councillor has become available. Anyone interested should contact a Councillor or the Clerk for more information, and can attend a meeting to see some of what's involved.

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