

The monthly meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th January 2010 at 7:30. Chairman Cllr Denham.

Preceded by a silence for Esme Ralphs, a much-valued former councillor, who died a few days ago.

Present: Cllrs, Clarke-Irons, Denham, Forrester, Frost, Mason, Pratt, Sellers, Turner, Whiting; D Cllr Thomas, C Cllr Knight and 5 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Cllr Brown owing to potential icy conditions in his road.
2. **Adoption of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 2009 meeting were adopted and signed.
3. **Matters arising:** none.
4. **Planning**

Applications dealt with by Planning Committee

- **Land adjacent to Lydwell House Lyme Road** Construction of 2 pairs of semi-detached houses (alternative scheme to 09/0885/FUL) **Comments:** The Parish Council objects to this application as it is a clear case of overdevelopment. The overdevelopment will provide scope for yet more extensions and garden clutter. It will also generate additional traffic in a dangerous area. Any construction will need a method statement because of instability of the greensand, and the statement should avoid recommending sheet piling driven by hammer. The chert walls should be reinstated, rather than replaced by a rendered wall with a stone top or by beech hedges, as appears to be suggested by the drawings.
- **Hedgehog Corner Lyme Road** Extension to holiday unit **Comments:** The Parish Council supports this application.
- **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% **Comments:** The Parish Council supports this application, subject to the report made by the Parish Tree Warden; namely work may be carried out as applied for, except in the following cases: T3: we are opposed to reduction in height, but subdominant stem removal is acceptable; T4: we oppose removal; T6 is a sycamore not an ash as recorded in the application: we oppose height reduction as the tree is not obviously needing its stability improved; T9: we only recommend removal of 1 or 2 minor branches to aid the apple tree which was planted too close to the oak; any more significant work on this fine specimen is not recommended.
- **Land at Hunter's Croft** Agricultural building (permitted development) **Comments:** The Parish Council supports this application.
- **Land and Garage North Side of Venlake Lane** Erection of dwelling **Comments:** The Parish Council objects to this application as being totally unsuitable for this small site, and clearly overdevelopment. This is in complete accordance with all previous objections from the Parish Council to such a development.
- **Nutshell Venlake End** Erection of two storey side extension **Comments:** Whereas the Parish Council has no objection to this application in principle, it is considered to be large in volume, and the new roof level could be reduced more than is shown. Materials and colours require approval. (Note: no site notices or opposite neighbour notification from EDDC. Clerk to follow this up.)
- **Rhode Hill Lodge Rhode Lane** Fell 1 Norway spruce **Comments:** The Parish Council has no objection to this application.
- **Willow Cottage Springhead Road** Erection of detached dwelling. **Comments:** The Parish Council strongly objects to this application as being overdevelopment in line with previous refusals.

Applications being considered

- **Rhodes Harcombe Road** Extensions and alterations
- **Uplyme Village Hall Lyme Road** Extension to provide additional store room and infant toilets

Applications granted or refused by EDDC since last meeting

- **Seaforth Yawl Hill Lane** Erection of detached garden room. *Granted with conditions*
- **Bramble Hayes Yawl Hill Lane** Erection of front and rear extensions and covered way *Granted with conditions*
- **Land adjacent to Lydwell House Lyme Road** Construction of 2 pairs of semi-detached houses (alternative scheme to 09/0885/FUL) *Refused*

Other planning Affordable housing designs have been revised after consultation – the windows are rather small and the architect has agreed to improve this. Windows will be wooden, not PVC. Scheme should go to planning in a fortnight or so. Cllr Denham thanked Peter Whiting for all his hard work on the plans.

Reply from EDDC Chief Executive, to Council's letter about planning policy change, was read out by the Clerk.

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

Balances at 31st December 2009

Current Account	7,707.93	Including Restricted Funds of :	
Business Instant Access A/c	5,351.96	Footpath funds	2,148.06
Millennium Tree Fund	<u>55.06</u>	Uplyme Speed Campaign	879.01
	<u>13,114.95</u>	Playground funds	<u>3,507.01</u>
			<u>6,534.08</u>

Payments Out

		Payments In	
Grounds maintenance	508.33	VAT repayment	2,159.30
Clerk's salary	410.28	Bank interest	0.22
Clerk's expenses	79.36	War stock dividend	<u>1.56</u>
Cllr Clarke-Irons' expenses	38.77		<u>2,161.08</u>
Cllr Frost's expenses	12.00		
RBL WS Poppy Appeal - wreath donation	16.50		
Uplyme PCC - clock repair donation	500.00		
Village Hall - hire (Red Cross)	<u>28.35</u>		
	<u>1,593.59</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>
1150	G Sims - Grounds maintenance	508.33		508.33
1151	L Wakeman - Clerk's expenses	22.05		22.05
1152	L Wakeman - Clerk's overtime (5hrs)	47.34		47.34
1153	L Wakeman - PC battery and Office software	362.00	53.92	308.78
1154	J Clarke-Irons - telephone expenses	11.74		11.74
1155	AJ Wakely & Sons – fee refund	150		150.00

It was resolved unanimously to authorise the payment of 5.625 hrs overtime to the Clerk for December. Proposed Cllr Denham, seconded Cllr Clarke-Irons .

6. **Precept.** The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented her recommendations for the amount to be precepted for 2010-2011. A figure of £15963 would allow reserves to be maintained at a prudent level and cover the deficit from 2009-2010 of £1226. This represents a 12.42% increase, of which almost half is to pay for the Church Clock donation; other significant items not budgeted for include new Clerk's training allowance, increased travel expenses, training and meetings, and new hardware and software for the Council PC. For a Band D property, this works out at £19.07, an increase of £2.18 over last year's figure. It was resolved unanimously to precept £15963 for 2010-2011. Proposed Cllr Denham, seconded Cllr Clarke-Irons.
7. **Footpaths** – Cllr Mason reported that work still can't go ahead with Glen improvements and the project could go into next financial year. DCC Officer says, if necessary, money can carry over to next year without affecting PPP funding. Meeting with DCC to see who pays for various improvements is still expected soon.
8. **Highway matters:** Trinity Hill – gritting has made a real difference and residents are very grateful. Cllr Forrester explained that grit bins can only be ordered in spring; she is compiling a list of where they are needed. Ice on the road at Harcombe and roadworks have combined to cause problems for residents; the Clerk did her best to get grit delivered but one resident is very unhappy with the Council's "miserable" response: her email was read out and discussed at length. The Clerk is to reply explaining the facts about who is responsible for highways and roadworks: the Parish Council has no involvement in timing, position, and nature of operation of road works, and limited ability to request grit deliveries, especially in a county-wide situation. Thanks to Cllr Forrester, John Fowler, Traffords, Brimicombes, J Crabbe, B Parsons and others for all their hard work in spreading grit on the roads.
9. **Maintenance of Parish Council land:** Cemetery: grass on paths will be treated once growing again. Tarmac is in poor condition. Spoil on adjoining graves from Mr Fry's interment was reported to Wakely's by Clerk – she must withhold the

refund of their overpaid fee until they clear up the mess. Fencing propped up for now, and compound emptied. Contractor’s payment was agreed, and he is carrying on his winter maintenance schedule while the weather is bad. Four tenders for 2010-11 have been received. Interviews will be arranged in early February with the 3 lowest tenderers, by an interview panel consisting of Cllrs Pratt, Sellers and Denham.

10. **Emergency plan.** Cllr Sellers reported that the 4WD drivers’ list is being compiled; Cllr Forrester that Red Cross in Taunton can provide blankets, soup, hot drinks, etc. First Responders in Lyme will attend an emergency also. Cllr Frost has list of sandbag-holding councillors; Hook Farm will provide accommodation, and other venues are being investigated. Plan should be finalised by next meeting – will be reviewed by J Tancock (EDDC Emergency Planning Officer). Cllr Pratt reported that Village Hall will be made available in emergency, and sandbags can be put in corner of rear car park. Cllr Denham praised the hard work that has gone into updating the plan.
11. **Committee structure.** The Clerk read a summary of the main points of how Council committees must be constituted.
12. **County Councillor’s report.** Salt bins: C Cllr Knight was unaware of problems so unable to help at the time. Wall up Rhode Lane will be protected by metal posts ASAP, weather permitting. Locality budget for Culver drainage went to committee today and should be agreed. He will have a bus shelter in April on which we will have first refusal – hardstanding will be needed. Cllr Turner asked for 25 bags grit for emergency use, which will be actioned. Seaton Coastal Traffic Group – any issues can be brought to Cllr Turner as the local representative. Cllr Sellers thanked C Cllr Knight for his close eye on local matters.
13. **District Councillor’s report.** Rubbish collections have been badly disrupted here and everywhere, and are now back to the normal schedule. Devon Home Choice launched now, allowing residents to bid for Council and affordable housing Devon-wide. EDDC Press releases are now sent to all parishes. Devon Unitary Authority decision will be made soon. EDDC budget: pressing need to concentrate on frontline services. Non-essential services will be cut or dropped. A large shortfall is expected.
14. **Meetings attended by Councillors:** Cllr Pratt attended the Village Hall committee at which the Council’s emergency plan requests were granted. He still needs to remind them of microphone problems. Cllr Clarke-Irons gave feedback from earlier “Speak Now” meeting attended by himself and Cllr Frost.
15. **Correspondence:** the Clerk summarised correspondence. Enforcement issues included Lydwell House and “The Downs” at Woodhouse. She read out a letter from the Forestry Commission re: Furzehill Plantation (copied to the Tree Warden); an email from the EDDC Chief Executive about the timing of elections for a new unitary council (if established) and number of councillors – the Clerk is to write supporting the EDDC position. New councillor training on March 17th should be booked ASAP; Cllr Pratt was nominated for consideration as the Parish Council member on EDDC’s Standards Board; draft letter to the Standards Board re: investigations process was read out by the Clerk and approved by the Council.

Cllr Denham declared an interest in the next item and took no part in the discussion. A draft letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government re: Boundary Commission proposals for unitary councils was read out by the Clerk and approved by the Council.

Finally, a letter from Cllr Clarke-Irons regarding council constitution and conduct was read out by Cllr Denham, who then said that the Council has not been knowingly operating illegally with subcommittees as was stated at the last meeting. Cllr Clarke-Irons was asked to apologise for his remarks at the last meeting but replied that they were factually correct and he stood by them. Cllr Denham said that the Council must take legal advice before taking any decisions on the matter. Cllrs were reminded to read the Code of Conduct about bringing other members into disrepute.

16. **Any other business:** none.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:22 p.m.

Signed Chairman
 Date