

The Council meeting was held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 7:15pm. Chairman Cllr Whiting. **Present:** Cllrs Brown, Forrester, Frost, Garland, Mason, Ostler, Pratt, Wellman, Whiting and 7, later 8 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing all present a Happy New Year, and then welcomed the new Cllr Gary Wellman. A short silence was held for Mrs Barbara Austin, former mayor of Lyme Regis and long-serving Cllr there.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Turner who was unavoidably detained. Also PCSO Wooster. Meeting was then adjourned for the open forum.
2. **Adoption of Minutes:** It was resolved unanimously to adopt the minutes of the December 2012 meeting (proposed Cllr Garland, seconded Cllr Ostler).
3. **Matters arising:** Yawl Hill Lane hedgerow was cut back on day of meeting – but channel now full of parings. Landowner had not been not co-operative when asked to remove these in the past.
4. **Pecuniary or other interests.** No declarations or requests for dispensation were received. Councillors were already covered by a blanket dispensation to both speak and vote on the budget and setting of the precept.
5. **Planning:** No papers had been received for 4 recent applications; therefore it will need a Planning Committee meeting to respond to these.

Applications approved by EDDC:

- **Lymewood Retirement Home Lyme Road** Display of 2no advertisement entrance signs. *Approved with conditions.* Cllrs felt the new ones were a considerable improvement on the old.
6. **Finance:** The Clerk submitted the schedule of current payments for approval. It was resolved unanimously to approve them (proposed Cllr Frost, seconded Cllr Brown). J Booth had been authorised under the Clerk's emergency powers to clear the culvert entrance in Venlake after last flood, but no bill had yet been received. It was resolved unanimously that up to £500 in any one month could be authorised in writing in an emergency by the Chairman or Vice Chairman and one other cllr, if for any reason the Clerk was not contactable (proposed Cllr Frost, seconded Cllr Brown). There is an emergency fund in the budget. The Clerk presented her recommendation and revised budget for setting the precept. It was resolved unanimously to set the precept for 2013-14 at £15479 (proposed Cllr Garland, seconded Cllr Pratt). This results in a small decrease per household, taking into account the Council Tax Benefit support grant from EDDC. The C Cllr's Locality Funding submission should be made in respect of materials and tools for flood prevention/emergency assistance.
 7. **Correspondence:** lengthsman issue is important. Cllr Whiting to draft response to Millennium Copse letter with Clerk. Neighbourhood planning event – Cllrs Whiting and Garland, and possibly Terry Sweeney to attend. Clerk to find out if FP64 bridge would really be £30,000 to repair as alleged by PROW officer. Tree planting licence for triangle – C Cllr Knight to report next month.
 8. **Maintenance of Parish Council land:** Cllrs Pratt and Garland will finalise the arrangements for the tender document.
 9. **Flooding WP:** a report of progress since the last meeting was made by Cllr Whiting. Clerk/Cllr Whiting to write follow-up letter to MP explaining the DCC flood report (Ch 13 re: Uplyme) and attaching the latest flood report. Lack of ditch maintenance is a big part of the problem – list of problem areas needed for report. Vote of thanks to all who have helped with floods, including Cllr Ostler on digger over the recent period, and Cllr Pratt also. Lower Lyme Rd culvert still not cleared: some confusion about why not. Silt from playground clearance will be used to fill sandbags rather than buying clean sand.
 10. **Complaints procedure.** Required by new Code of Conduct – Clerk to prepare draft before next meeting, taking suggested comments from Cllrs as the basis.
 11. **Councillors' emails:** all Councillors except Cllrs Wellman and Pratt (and subsequently, Cllr Turner) agreed that their emails could appear on the web site to aid residents in contacting them.
 12. **Reports to note.**
 - i. **Finance** to December 31st 2012.
 - ii. **Footpaths** – FP89 in St Mary's Lane is dangerous and walkers should not attempt to use it.
 - iii. **Highway matters.**
 - iv. **Playground:** Slide installation on 29th. J O'Neill will be back on 16th for pressure washing.

- v. **Emergency plan** – accommodation other than Village Hall required if this is flooded – Scout Hut will be added to plan.
 - vi. **Affordable Housing:** Council visit scheduled in mid-February. Finish will probably be cream and buff. Highways access is still not sorted out. Councillors were extremely concerned at anecdotal reports of local applicants being told by Devon Home Choice that they could not apply if they had no children or were already in reasonable accommodation. C Cllr Knight will raise issue at Housing Review Board meeting.
 - vii. **C Cllrs report** – tree license information not available as officer on holiday. Culvert railings next to filling station to be installed soon. Funding applied for to repair road foundations by Village Hall.
13. **Any other business:** Cllr Halse (EDDC Chair) will be visiting next month. Unwanted signs review – none yet identified that could safely be taken away.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8:50 p.m.

Signed Chairman

Date