

WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024, 7pm

Present: Cllr A McArthur (Chair)
Cllr D Dearden
Cllr J Yarwood
Cllr T Olive

Also present: Amy Tregellas (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

137. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

138. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

139. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present

140. Minutes of the previous meeting of Whimple Parish Council

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Whimple Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19 February 2024.

(proposed by Cllr McArthur; seconded by Cllr Dearden)

141. District and County Councillor Reports:

i) East Devon District Councillor

Cllr Olive provided the following update:

- EDDC Council have now confirmed that the Council Tax rate will be increasing by £5 for the 2024/25 tax year, resulting in a Band D charge of £166.78. EDDC's budget is fully balanced, with no requirement to draw on reserves
- EDDC has allocated additional budgets to fund new posts in Asset Management and the Housing Task Force. The asset management role is to support the development of an Asset Management Strategy to help review and rationalize the Council's land and buildings portfolios. The role in the Housing Task Force will focus on ongoing work to bring the EDDC Housing Stock and Service back up to the appropriate standards.
- EDDC Council voted that it has no confidence in South West Water with regards to the state of the sewage network and failings of South West Water
- A new 'Advisory Steering Group' consisting of senior Cabinet Members, Members of the Strategic Planning Committee and Cllr Olive is being convened to meet fortnightly to focus on the Green Wedge Policy and ongoing progress with the Local Plan.

ii) Devon County Councillor

Cllr Chubb was not in attendance and had not sent a report.

142. Environment & Community

i) To receive an update re the proposed footbridge

No update at this time.

ii) To receive an update re the Community Speed Watch initiative

The Clerk confirmed that the Council article in the next edition of the Whimble News included information about the Community Speedwatch initiative, including a request for volunteers.

iii) To receive an update on S106 Town Lane play equipment

Cllr Dearden confirmed that she has nearly completed the unpicking of the exact amount of funding that is available for the Town Lane Play Equipment, and whether the Community Infrastructure Levy and/or Section 106 contributions are held by EDDC.

iv) To consider any other arising environment and community issues

- Potholes – councillors commented that there were a number of potholes that need to be repaired in the village. The repairs will be carried out when the weather improves. The Council asked the Clerk to liaise with Devon County Council Highways to arrange Chapter 8 training for Councillors.
- Flooding of the Square. The Clerk confirmed that the local resident had been in touch to request a meeting with the Councillors. A meeting will now be scheduled. The local resident had stated that the recent rain had caused the river to overflow causing raw sewage to flow down through the Square. Councillors asked the Clerk to go back to the local resident to ask for the date this happened so that it can be raised with the Environment Agency and South West Water.

143. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors confirmed that work is continuing on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Olive confirmed that officers at EDDC had confirmed that the Housing Needs survey would be going out in the week commencing 24 March 2024. Cllr Olive also updated that he had included information on this in his update in the next edition of the Whimble News. The Council asked the Clerk to add this to the website and on Facebook when it has been confirmed that the survey has gone out to local residents.

144. Allotments

i) To receive an update regarding allotments

Nothing to update on at this time.

145. Planning

To consider Planning Applications

i) Planning application 24/0217/FUL – 1 Pithayes Cottages, Church Road, Whimble, EX5 2TG; Construction of Detached Double Garage, with workshop and gym/storage on first floor.

Discussion took place around:

- The development being part of the Pithayes Farm complex
- The building would be adjacent to another building
- Materials would include clay tiles and black timber effect cladding
- There was very little information and detail on the plans on the EDDC website
- This is off road and not overlooking
- The Council doesn't object to a garage being build but there was concern regarding the scale and size of the proposed garage

- It would be built in the green wedge

The Council **RESOLVED** that the following comments be given to the local planning authority 'Whimble Parish Council does not object in principle to a garage. However, this development is not just a garage and the scale is significant in size. Also the location of the development means that the garage would be built in the green wedge. Therefore, the Council cannot support the application and objects to it.

(Proposed Cllr Yarwood; seconded Cllr Dearden)

146. Finance

i) To approve the summary receipts and payments for 2023/24 to 29 February 2024

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the summary of receipts and payments to 29 February 2024

(Proposed Cllr McArthur; seconded Cllr Dearden)

ii) To approve the Unity bank reconciliation as at the end February 2024

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Unity Bank reconciliation to end February 2024

(Proposed Cllr McArthur; seconded Cllr Dearden)

iii) To approve the Santander bank reconciliations as at the end February 2024

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Santander Bank reconciliation to end February 2024

(Proposed Cllr McArthur; seconded Cllr Dearden)

iv) To approve the scheduled of payments for March 2024 totalling £1,026.61, which included payments for:

Whimble Victory Hall hire; February 2024 = £12.50

Billy Bloomfield Handyman work to heighten mirror at Old Post Office = £50

Clerk salary; March 2024 = £751.32

HMRC PAYE and Employers National Insurance contributions = £212.79

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for February 2024.

(proposed Cllr McArthur; seconded Cllr Dearden)

v) To review the Budget Monitoring Report as at end February 2024

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the budget monitoring report as at end February 2024.

(Proposed by Cllr McArthur; seconded by Cllr Dearden)

147. Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Council asked the Clerk to liaise with the current contractor to ensure that the schedule of works for 2024/25 are carried out.

148. Lomas Seat

The Clerk confirmed that she had liaised with the Historic Society and gone through the available audit trail from minutes dating back to 2021. Previous minutes had shown that the Council had previously appointed a contractor to fix the Lomas Seat but this had fallen through. At the Whimble Parish Council meeting on 8 May 2022, the Council had resolved to remove the existing Lomas seat due to the costs of repairing it, and to see if the Heritage Centre can make anything from the wood. The Parish Council also resolved to put a replacement bench within the village to be named the Lomas Seat.

The Council **RESOLVED** not to take any further action in respect of the Loams Seat. If the Heritage Centre wish to repair it, they can approach the Council for a donation of up to £1,000.

149. Correspondence

The Council considered the following correspondence:

- i) An email from Victoria Robinson, EDDC regarding food banks and pantries in the local area.
- ii) An email from EDDC regarding the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan being out for consultation.

150. Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk confirmed that legally the Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1 March and 1 June.

The Council **RESOLVED** to hold the Whimple Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 20 May 2024, at 6pm. The Annual Council meeting will commence upon the rising of the Annual Parish Meeting or at 7pm.

(Moved by Cllr McArthur; seconded by Cllr Olive)

151. Chair's Business

The following item of business was raised:

- i) The fallen tree that was reported some weeks ago, has not yet been dealt with. The Council asked Cllr Olive to chase this up again with the appropriate officers at DDC.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

The next Planning Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 April 2024 (as the Monday is a Bank Holiday) * *A planning meeting will be cancelled if no new planning applications are received by the Tuesday prior to the planning meeting date.* The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 15 April 2024.