

**WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2025, 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr Denise Dearden (chair)  
Cllr Jo Yarwood  
Cllr Richard Lawrence  
Cllr Todd Olive

**Also present:** Amy Tregellas (Parish Clerk)

There were four members of the public present.

**121. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr McArthur, who is seriously ill. Councillors recorded their best wishes for Cllr McArthur and his family  
Cllr Olive had given his apologies due to attending a special meeting of the EDDC Cabinet, but he arrived to the meeting at 7.45pm, during agenda item 6i.

**122. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**123. Public Participation**

Four members of the public spoke.

Mr Terry Hill spoke regarding the East Devon District Council (EDDC) Emerging Local Plan and the decision of the Strategic Planning Committee to include the Bramley Gardens site (Whim\_08a) as an allocation for housing and a community orchard. Mr Hill asked the Council that when it considers its response to the Local Plan consultation, that consideration is given to the residents that live in bungalows behind the proposed site, who are elderly people. Mr Hill also asked how can EDDC turn the existing orchard into a community orchard.

Mr Bob Glanville spoke regarding the East Devon District Council (EDDC) Emerging Local Plan and the decision of the Strategic Planning Committee to include the Bramley Gardens site (Whim\_08a). Mr Glanville commented that he was disappointed that the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee had gone against officer advice and included the Bramley Gardens site as an allocation. Mr Glanville stated that he had concerns regarding the safety of Church Road and that he had written to Devon County Council Highways about this matter. Mr Glanville also commented that he couldn't understand the change of direction from the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee. What has changed since the site selection report was considered and the site was rejected. Mr Glanville confirmed that he had written to Mr Ed Freeman (Assistant Director Planning Strategy and Development Management) and received a reply that site Whim\_08 was not recommended by officers. Mr Glanville also commented that before Christmas he had observed a digger in the field digging a trench and putting in flexible piping and tubing. He spoke to Cllr Olive about this, and Cllr Olive said he would look into it. To date Mr Glanville has not received a response.

Mr Glenn Starkey attended to answer any questions that the councillors might have regarding the Whimple Fest proposal to replace the Parish Field shed. Councillors were supportive of the proposal and **RESOLVED** to approve it.

*(moved Cllr Lawrence; seconded Cllr Yarwood)*

Mr Starkey also advised the Council that the date for Whimble Fest in 2025 is Saturday 5 July.

Mr Robert Hazell spoke regarding flooding. He advised the Council that he had reported a fallen tree trunk wedged against the footbridge across Cranny Brook, Slewton Crescent to the Environment Agency following the recent floods. He had also reported a second tree which had fallen across Cranny Brook further up stream of the footbridge several months ago. To date, nothing has been done to remove the tree and Mr Hazell asked the Council what it can do to put pressure on the responsible organisations. Mr Hazell said that the Environment Agency had advised him that they had passed his query on to Devon County Council (DCC). Mr Hazell has not received a response from DCC. Mr Hazell raised concerns that the blockages restrict the flow of Cranny Brook and impact on flooding. Mr Hazell expressed concerns that more development in the Village would potentially cause more flooding. He advised that he had written to the Council in October 2024 raising his concerns that the Cranny Brook had flooded over the footbridge adjacent to Slewton Crescent 9 times in Autumn/Winter 2024. Mr Hazell asked for assurances as to how existing homes would be protected should Whimble be allocated and developed.

Councillors asked the Clerk to follow up Mr Hazell's query with Devon County Council.

#### **124. Minutes of the previous meeting of Whimble Parish Council**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Whimble Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025.

*(proposed by Cllr Dearden; seconded by Cllr Lawrence)*

#### **125. District and County Councillor reports:**

##### East Devon District Councillor report

Cllr Olive was not in attendance at this point and had not sent a report.

##### Devon County Councillor Report

Cllr Iain Chubb was not in attendance and had not sent a report (due to being on leave).

#### **126. Environment & Community**

##### **i) Community Speed Watch initiative**

The Clerk confirmed that a list of Community Speed Watch volunteers had been drafted.

Cllr Lawrence confirmed that he had been registering the volunteers and contacting them to ask them to complete the online registration process and training.

Cllr Olive arrived to the meeting at 7.45pm.

##### **ii) To receive an update on S106 Town Lane play equipment**

The Clerk confirmed that she had been liaising with a number of play equipment suppliers and was asking them to provide information for the Council to consider. Due to the expenditure exceeding £25,000 the Council needs to follow the Public Contract Regulations 2015. An update will come forward to the March 2025 meeting.

##### **iii) Dince Hill Footpath**

The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response from Mrs Hansford's daughter.

##### **iv) Flooding**

The Chair confirmed that the Council had heard the concerns raised by Mr Hzaell during public participation. Councillors also raised concerns about Cobden Lane and the state or disrepair where the road goes over the stream, causing flooding issues. Councillors will keep an eye on this and make a report to DCC if appropriate.

Councillors asked the Clerk to pop information on the noticeboard to tell members of the public how, and to whom, to report problems such as flooding. It was noted that this information had been shared in Whimble News several times already.

#### **v) The Lomas Seat**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an updated quote from Mr Withers in respect of the brackets for the Lomas Seat.

Whilst the Clerk confirmed that she had not received an update quote from Mr Delves, Cllr Lawrence advised that he had received an updated verbal quote for the works to the roof. The Clerk confirmed that she would pop the information into a report covering repairs to the existing Lomas Seat and the cost of purchasing a new memorial bench. This report will be brought back to the 17 March 2025 meeting.

#### **vi) Goal mouth/posts for the Parish Field**

The Clerk confirmed that she had not heard anything further from WACY regarding liaising with the football club.

Mr Starkey advised the council that it was his understanding that the area being considered for the goal mouth is not under any current lease and liaison would need to take place with the Whimble Recreation Trust (WRT) rather than the Football Club. He understood that there was a clause that football is not played in that particular area.

The Clerk to liaise with Mr Starkey, who kindly offered to send the WRT contact details.

#### **vii) Village Maintenance**

The Clerk confirmed that she would be walking around the Village with Cllr Lawrence on Wednesday 19 February 2025 to identify items to be included in a Village maintenance schedule to bring back to the Council in March 2025.

The Clerk suggested that when considering the schedule that councillors focus on prioritise the items so that the highest priority areas are then costed.

Cllr Lawrence advised the Council that he had met with a couple of tree surgeons regarding the trees in the Square. There are 7 trees located either side of the stream near Whimble Stores in the Square. One tree is dead and needs to be removed. A number of branches are rotten in a couple of the other trees. The two trees nearest Whimble Stores are intertwined with electricity and telephone cables. Cllr Lawrence advised that verbal quotes ranged from £600 to £2400. The information is to be included in the Village Maintenance report and written quotes to be forwarded to the Clerk. Councillors asked for a map showing the exact location of the trees.

#### **viii) Any other arising environment and community issues**

##### Damage to the trim trail in the Parish Field

The Clerk confirmed that no quotes had been received from local trades people. Cllr Lawrence confirmed that Mr Bloomfield did not wish to quote and advised the Council to go back to the Company that had installed the play equipment due to children using the play area. The Clerk advised that there should probably be an assessment of the whole site to ensure that the equipment is safe for children to use. The Council asked the Clerk to contact the Company that had installed the equipment for a quote.

##### Water meter

The Clerk advised that South West Water (SWW) have been chasing regarding repairing the meter near the Parish Field. As Cllr McArthur is not available to meet the SWW operative on site, Mr Starkey kindly offered to stand in. The Clerk confirmed that she would liaise with SWW and Mr Starkey.

#### Parish Car Park

The Clerk confirmed that she had tried to contact Whimble Young Farmers to see if they would be interested in cutting back brambles and tidying up the Parish Car Park. To date no response has been received. Cllr Dearden provide the Clerk with a contact telephone number and asked her to follow up with them.

### **127. Allotments**

Councillors noted the list of allotment rent payments that had been received following the issue of the allotment invoices.

### **128. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Olive advised that the applications for Government funding had been submitted but there is no update at present.

### **129. Planning**

#### **i) To consider Planning Applications**

No planning applications had come forward from EDDC for consideration at this meeting.

### **130. Finance**

#### **i) Summary receipts and payments for 2024/25 to 31 January 2025**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the summary of receipts and payments to 31 January 2025  
(*Proposed Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Yarwood*)

#### **ii) Unity Bank current account reconciliation as at the end January 2025**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Unity Bank current account reconciliation to end January 2025

(*Proposed Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Yarwood*)

#### **iii) Unity Bank savings account reconciliation as at the end January 2025**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Unity Bank savings account reconciliation to end January 2025

(*Proposed Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Yarwood*)

#### **iv) To approve the scheduled of payments for February 2025 totalling £1509.26, which included payments for:**

Whimble Victory Hall hire January 2025 = £20.00

Savills Whimble Allotments rent in advance = £345.00

Vision ICT – registration of gov.uk domain name and new email account = £48.00

Source for Business Water bill for Recreation Ground = £22.56

Source for Business water bill for Grove Road Allotments = £38.51

South West Water bill for Heberton Close Allotments = £22.28

Clerk salary; February 2025 = £781.53

HMRC PAYE and Employers NIC; February 2025 = £225.38

Unity Trust Bank service charge 01/01/25 to 31/01/25 = £6.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments for February 2025.

(*proposed Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Yarwood*)

v) Budget Monitoring Report 2024/25 as at end January 2025

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the budget monitoring report as at end January 2025  
(Proposed by Cllr Dearden; seconded by Cllr Yarwood)

**131. Communications Strategy and Policy / Media Policy / Social Media Policy and Website Report on improvements to the website**

This item was deferred until the 17 March 2025 meeting.

**132. List of Policies**

The Council considered the list of policies, which included details of frequency of update, the date approved and the date of the next review. The Clerk confirmed that she had taken the list of core documents and policies from the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) and used this as the basis of the list of policies. Key documents such as the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Controls, Code of Conduct, Scheme of Delegation, Risk Management Strategy and Asset Register will be reviewed and updated annually. Policies relating to Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Health and Safety will be reviewed and updated every two years. All other policies will be updated every three years (unless legislation or best practice changes, requiring an earlier update).

The Clerk confirmed that the policies that require updating in 2025 have been scheduled into the Council's Forward Plan.

**133. Forward Plan**

The Council noted the Forward Plan, which set out the agenda items for meetings until the end of the calendar year. The Clerk confirmed that this would be reviewed and updated on a monthly basis and used to assist with agenda setting.

**134. Correspondence**

The Council considered the following correspondence:

1. An email from Ms Luscombe, a local resident regarding the signage on the entrance route into Whimble.  
Councillors asked the Clerk to respond to Ms Luscombe to explain that the Council will need to ask Devon County Council Highways to move their signage in order to reinstate the Whimble signage. Councillors asked the Clerk to copy in DCC Cllr Chubb.
2. Email from EDDC regarding Public Space Protection Orders that they are consulting on. As none of these relate specifically to Whimble, it was decided that no response would be submitted.
3. Email from EDDC regarding consultation on how they can enhance and improve communication and engagement with town and parish councils. Councillors to think about feedback for EDDC and to discuss at the next meeting.
4. Email from EDDC regarding the Emerging Local Plan confirming that it is now out to consultation. Consultation takes place until 9am on Monday 31 March.  
Councillors asked the Clerk to post something on the website and Facebook to get as many people as possible to respond, as well as putting a poster on the noticeboard and in the Whimble Stores window.  
The Council to consider it's response at the Planning Meeting on Monday 3 March 2025
5. Email from EDDC regarding the Cranbrook Community Governance Review. A report is being considered at the EDDC Council meeting on 25 February 2025.
6. Email from former Councillor Johnson expressing an interest to be co-opted back on to the Council. The Clerk advised that the co-option paperwork had been sent to Ms Johnson for completion and return. Co-options had been added to the Council agenda for 17 March 2025.

### **135. Chair's Business**

Cllr Olive advised councillors that he had received a number of threatening telephone calls in relation to his role as the EDDC Ward Councillor and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and the EDDC Emerging Local Plan. Cllr Olive had reported the incidents to the Police. All Councillors agreed that the behaviour towards Cllr Olive was completely unacceptable.

The meeting closed at 8.49pm

The next Planning Meetings will be held on Monday 3 March 2025 at 7pm \* *A planning meeting will be cancelled if no new planning applications are received by the date that the agenda is published (the Tuesday before the meeting).* The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 17 March 2025 at 7pm.

Signed by Chair:

17/03/2025