

**WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 16 JUNE 2025, 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr Denise Dearden  
Cllr Todd Olive  
Cllr Angela Trimblett

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

There were three members of the public present.

Cllr Cathy Connor (DCC) arrive at approximately 7.10pm and left the meeting after presenting her report.

**34. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Patrick, Yarwood and Johnson.

**35. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**36. Public Participation**

Mr Glenn Starkey spoke to the Council regarding Whimple Fest which takes place on Saturday 5 July 2025 and confirmed that setting up would commence on Thursday 3 July 2025. The Clerk confirmed that she had asked the grounds maintenance contractor to cut the grass one or two days prior to the Thursday.

Two members of the public were present for the planning applications, so the chair proposed, and councillors agreed to take the planning applications as the next item of business, and that the members of the public could speak when their applications were being considered.

**37. Planning**

**25/1020/FUL – Land at Bogmoor Lane, Knowle Cross Lane, Whimple**

Change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage, erection of detached garage building with garden store, erection of polytunnel.

Mr Farmer spoke as the applicant/agent. He commented that this application is linked to the application currently being considered by EDDC 25/0416/PDQ prior approval application for conversion of 1 agricultural building into one dwelling at Knowle Farm, Broadclyst Road, Whimple. Mr Farmer explained that the planning decision should have been made by EDDC by Easter but that he was still waiting for a decision. The curtilage of this application is joined to the previous application, and it relates to building a garage and a polytunnel. Mr Farmer's parents are downsizing and moving into the property. This application would include a garage, polytunnel and vegetable garden, and it is anticipated that the final third of the land would become an orchard. Mr Farmer confirmed that the biodiversity net gain requirement would be met within the red lines on the site plan.

Discussion took place around:

- No comments from members of the public
- A comment from the EDDC Tree Officer which raises concerns regarding the Oak tree and hedgerows. They have asked for a suitable survey of the tree and hedgerow plus an

arbocultural impact assessment. Mr Farmer said that he didn't feel that the tree and hedgerow would be impacted by the development but would look at the Tree Officer comments and provide EDDC with the information they need.

The Council **RESOLVED** that it had no objection to the application.  
(*moved Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Trimblett*)

The Chair decided to take the next two applications together:

**24/1524/MOUT and 24/1525/MOUT Land to the South of London Road (Grange Area) Cranbrook.**

These applications relate to development put forward by Baker Estates. Both applications have been previously considered by the Council but they returned due to some minor amendments.

Nicole Stacey from Baker Estates spoke on the applications and confirmed that a couple of statutory consultees had raised comments regarding the applications which have resulted in a couple of minor amendments / clarifications to the application. The changes comprise of:

1. The access plans have been updated in light of discussions with Devon County Council (Highways Authority). An Addendum to the Transport Statement has been submitted which summarises these discussions and resulting minor amendments to the access plans. In summary, the western most junction onto London Road has been removed and one junction has been re-positioned to tie in better with the access serving the Cobden's development to the north. The eastern most junction has also been updated to include a further pedestrian/ cycle crossing.
2. The drainage plans have been updated to more clearly show the proposed diversion of the existing ditch watercourse feature within the western parcel.
3. The application plans (Concept Masterplan, Built Form Plan, Access Strategy Plan, Land Use Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan and Phasing Plan) have been updated to take account of the above changes. The internal vehicle route through to Gribble Lane has also been amended to account for the revised junction access in the western parcel and is proposed to as an 'all vehicle route' to reflect the proposals to the west of Gribble Lane. Indicative pedestrian accesses into the SANGS area is also now shown on the updated Green Infrastructure Plans.

Discussion took place around:

- One comment being received in this round of consultation which was from Exeter Airport and asked for a condition regarding the height of the development not to be over 12 meters high). Ms Stacey confirmed that the height would not exceed 12 meters.
- Councillors felt that the changes were uncontroversial and improved the application

The Council **RESOLVED** that it had no objection to applications 24/1524/MOUT and 24/1525/MOUT.  
(*moved Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Trimblett*)

**25/1199/FUL – 5 Dince Hill Close, Whimble, Exeter, EX5 2TE**  
Single storey rear, side and front extensions.

Discussion took place around:

- The being no comments from members of the public or statutory consultees

- The extensions related to adding a large kitchen, and office and porch and a garden store off the existing utility room.

The Council **RESOLVED** that it had no objection to the application.  
(*moved Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Trimblett*)

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

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Whimble Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025.

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

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

#### East Devon District Council (EDDC) Councillor report

Cllr Olive gave a verbal update to the meeting:

- The Government's Spending Review has cut locality funding so there will be no more support for Neighbourhood Plans.
- There was a public meeting today regarding the Whimble Rail loop. The Strategic Business Plan will be coming forward in the next six weeks. There is a possibility that if the loop is put in that Whimble may lose its direct stop to London.
- The EDDC Emerging Local Plan Regulation 19 feedback will be going to the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on 8 July 2025.

#### Devon County Council (DCC) Councillor Report

Councillors were circulated a copy of the Cllr Cathy Connors report. Cllr Connor advised that, whilst she is a new DCC Councillor, she has been a District councillor at Mid Devon District Council, and therefore already has knowledge of how local government works. Cllr Connor confirmed that her contact details are available on the DCC website but her preferred method of contact is by email.

The key points from Cllr Connor's report were:

- List of the Leader of the Council and new Cabinet at DCC
- A range of improved support for fully approved Devon foster carers has been agreed by the DCC Cabinet
- The DCC Locality Budget Scheme for 2025/26 is now open. Each councillor has £8,000 to spend across their patch

Councillors asked Cllr Connor:

Who the current Highways Neighbourhood Officer is for Whimble, as there have been a number of changes in the last couple of years.

Whether DCC still provide Chapter 8 training for parish councils.

Councillors also informed Cllr Connor about Whimble Fest which takes place on Saturday 5 July from 11.30am/12 noon to 5pm.

Cllr Connor confirmed that she would look into both points raised and come back to the Clerk with the information. Cllr Connor left after presenting her report.

### **40. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Devon**

The Clerk confirmed that there is no updated information available on the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) website or any of the County or District council websites.

## **41. Environment & Community**

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

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted former Cllr Lawrence to see if he was interested in remaining as the Community Speed Watch (CSW) Co-ordinator. No response had been received. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the Police to ascertain if the CSW equipment had been returned to them, to obtain an up to date list of trained volunteers and to get details of the number and type of incidences reported.

### **ii) To receive an update on the Play Area Project (Parish Field)**

There was no update on this project. The Clerk confirmed that illness has meant that the first meeting has not yet taken place. Information has been received from 9 play equipment suppliers, who have confirmed they would like to meet with the Working Group to discuss their proposals. The Clerk confirmed she will get a revised date into the diary as soon as possible.

### **iii) To receive an update on the Town Lane Project**

The Clerk confirmed that quotations had been received from six suppliers by the 12 noon deadline on Friday 23 May 2025. The quotes were to remove the old furniture and equipment and to cut back overgrown trees. The Clerk confirmed that she had gone back to five of the suppliers for additional information regarding which trees they proposed to cut back. The Clerk confirmed that she plans to bring a report to the July council meeting in order to select a supplier.

### **iv) Village Maintenance Schedule**

The Clerk confirmed that she has drafted a specification for works to improve the stream in The Square. This will involve removal of the weeds from the riverbed. It is anticipated that quotes will come to the July council meeting for consideration.

The Clerk also advised that she is liaising with the contractors selected to carry out the Parish Car Park works regarding a date. Once this has been agreed the Clerk will publicise on the Council website and social media. Notices will also be left on cars in the car park to politely ask them not to park on the confirmed date.

### **v) The Parish Field**

The Clerk confirmed that she had been liaising with a resident whose property backs onto the Parish Field regarding the barbed wire and wooden posts visible in the soil. As this is a health and safety issue which needs to be dealt with as soon as possible, a couple of local contractors had been asked to quote for the works. Only one contractor had provided a quote, which was for the amount of £210 plus VAT. Councillors asked the Clerk to continue to look into the land ownership to gain an understanding as to who is responsible for that section of the parish field.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve Pro Lawn to remove the barbed wire and wooden posts in the Parish Field for the price of £210 plus VAT.

*(moved Cllr Trimblett; seconded Cllr Dearden).*

Councillors raised the fact that the padlock for the Parish Field gate has disappeared and asked the Clerk to look into purchasing a new padlock.

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

There were no matters arising.

## **42. Allotments**

The Clerk confirmed that she had drawn up a specification of works to circulate to local contractors to invite them to quote for the works. This will include the communal areas and a separate cost for clearing individual plots. It is anticipated that quotes for the works will be considered at the July council meeting.

The Clerk is liaising with people that have expressed an interest in being on the waiting list to see if they wish to clear a plot themselves or have the Council clear it for them.

#### **43. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Olive confirmed that there is no current update on the Neighbourhood Plan other than the fact that there will not be any Localities funding following the recent Spending Review. Cllr Olive confirmed that he need to meet with the Clerk to draw up a specification to go out for Masterplanning the two potential sites included in the EDDC Emerging Local Plan.

#### **44. Finance**

##### **i) Summary receipts and payments for 2025/26 to 31 May 2025**

The Clerk confirmed that following the decision made at the last meeting the sum of £21,000 had been transferred from the current account into the savings account, meaning that the total in savings now matched the amount in earmarked reserves.

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

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

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Unity Bank current account reconciliation to end May 2025, with the amount in the Current Account totalling to £29,013.80.

(*Proposed Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Olive*)

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

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Unity Bank savings account reconciliation to end May 2025, with the amount in the Savings Account totalling to £57,535.16.

(*Proposed Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Olive*)

##### **iv) To approve the scheduled of payments for June 2025** totalling £1,487.19, which included payments for:

Whimble Victory Hall hire May 2025 = £12.50

Pro Lawn grass cutting session 02/06/25 = £336.00

Vision ICT – setting up new councillor email accounts = £24.00

Clerk salary; June 2025 = £781.33

HMRC PAYE and Employers NIC; June 2025 = £279.36

Unity Trust Bank Duplicate Statements for 2022/23 = £48.00

Unity Trust Bank service charge 01/05/25 to 31/05/25 = £6.00

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

(*proposed Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Olive*)

##### **v) Budget Monitoring Report 2025/26 as at end March 2025**

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the budget monitoring report as at end May 2025

(*Proposed by Cllr Dearden; seconded by Cllr Olive*)

#### **45. Applications for grants and donations**

The Clerk confirmed that no applications for grants or donations had been received.

#### **46. Grants and Donations Policy**

The Clerk confirmed that she had put the Grants and Donations Policy on the agenda to change the number of times a year that the Council considers applications. The current Policy states that applications will be considered in June and December. However, it is proposed that applications are considered three times a year in July, November and March. The other slight change to the policy is amending the email address to [clerk@whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Councillors felt that it would be a good idea to pop an article on the news page of the website and also to promote the application process on social media.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the amended Grants and Donations Policy.  
(*Moved Cllr Olive; seconded Cllr Dearden*)

#### **47. Community Engagement Policy**

Councillors considered the Community Engagement Policy.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Community Engagement Policy.  
(*Moved Cllr Dearden; seconded Cllr Trimblett*)

#### **48. IT Policy**

Councillors considered the IT Policy.

Discussion took place around:

- The Council laptop which the Clerk is finding overheats and that the battery charge drains very quickly. Councillors asked the Clerk to look at the options of a replacement battery and charger.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the IT Policy.  
(*Moved Cllr Olive; seconded Cllr Dearden*)

#### **49. Councillor Responsibilities**

Councillors considered the list of roles and responsibilities that had been allocated at the May council meeting. Cllr Trimblett confirmed that she did not wish to be the Snow Warden / Road Warden so it was agreed to bring the list back to the July Council meeting for the items of:

Community Speed Watch  
Snow Warden/Road Warden  
Emergency Plan

#### **50. Cranbrook Community Governance Review**

The Clerk confirmed that there was no update regarding the Cranbrook Community Governance Review (CGR). Cllr Olive (wearing his EDDC hat) confirmed that consultation would be going live between the period of July to October 2025.

#### **51. Forward Plan**

The Council noted the Forward Plan, and noted the items coming forward in July, which are:

- Financial reports
- Planning applications (if appropriate)
- Roles and responsibilities for Community Speed Watch, Snow Warden / Road Warden and the Emergency Plan
- Cranbrook Community Governance Review
- Local Government Reorganisation

- Risk Assessment Review
- Internal Control checklist

## **52. Correspondence**

The Council considered the following correspondence:

- i) The Clerk confirmed that correspondence had been received from the South Western Ambulance Chairty who have a fundraising appeal for £30,000 to buy, convert and equip a second community response vehicle (CRV) for use in North and East Devon. They have asked that Parish Councils donate money (£300) towards their appeal. Councillors felt that they were not able to agree any donations at this time. However, councillors asked the Clerk to promote the fundraising appeal on the Council website and to see if they may wish to attend Whimble Fest to fund raise.
- ii) An email had been received from St Petrocks inviting councillors to attend their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea Party on Saturday 21 June 2025. Councillors were not able to attend so they asked the Clerk to send their apologies and congratulations on their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **53. Chair's Business**

Councillors raised whether something in the village (maybe a new road) could be named after Cllr McArthur. Cllr Dearden said that she would speak to his family to get their view on this proposal.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

The next Planning Meetings will be held on Monday 7 July 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 take place on Monday 21 July 2025 at 7pm.

Signed by Chair:

21/07/2025