

WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr J Griffiths
Briar Cottage
Church Road
Whimble
EX5 2TA
01404 823480

Clerk:
Mr K Finch
PO Box 900
Exeter
EX3 9BW
01404 823385

Dear Colleague,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to be held Virtually on Monday 15th March 2021 2020 at 7 p.m., to transact the following business.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The requirement to give notice of the time and place of the meeting (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) has been amended to permit this meeting to be held virtually. Where a parish council does this then the principal council (EDDC) will display the notice on their website, however it is limited to notification of the time and place of the meeting. Once notice has been given, the Parish Council may alter the frequency, move or cancel such meetings, without requirement for further notice - a meeting can be cancelled, even if the agenda has been published.

Whimble Parish Council will also post a copy of this agenda onto its website - www.whimpleparishcouncil.weebly.com.

For a practical alternative to joining the meeting, residents can contact the Parish Clerk, preferably by email with a question - relevant to the agenda - you wish to be raised with Councillors on your behalf. We will do our best to respond with a written response as soon as possible after the meeting. Members of the public who may still wish to attend will need to contact the Parish Clerk (whimpleparishcouncil@gmail.com) before 11.30 a.m. Monday 15th March to receive joining instructions.

1. **Public Participation –**
2. **To accept apologies for absence – Cllr**
3. **Declarations of Interest** - Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any interests that are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it. Requests for Dispensations should be made in writing to the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting
4. **To confirm and sign minutes** of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th February 2021
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
6. **Planning –**
 - i) **New Applications**
 - a) **21/0450/FUL Mr Stuart Bell Orchard Lea, Church Rd Whimble EX5 2TF** -Construction of single storey rear/side extension, rear dormer window and side link extension to garage.
 - b) **21/0213/FUL D Walker (SW Highways) South West Highways Rockbeare Hill Rockbeare Exeter EX5 2HB** Construction of concrete base and installation of open storage bay and covered storage area for the management of hazardous waste on northern part of site; construction of concrete base for open storage area to southern part of site for storage of non-hazardous waste management.
 - c) **19/1422/MRES East Devon New Community Partners Phase 4 Infrastructure To The East Of The Ecology Park And West Of Southbrook Lane Cranbrook New Community** Reserved matters comprising layout, scale, appearance, landscaping and access for the

construction of a foul water pumping station (to include both underground and over ground infrastructure and secure boundary fence), two surface water basins, a shared footway and cycleway and connecting highway link and the removal and the construction of a new hedgerow. (Subsequent application in respect of permission 03/P1900 which was accompanied by an environmental statement)

d) **20/2481/FUL Mr Dominic Morgan New Fountain Inn, Church Road, Whimble EX5 2TA**

Response to Agents comments - Subdivision of public house to create dwelling and construction of three 2 bedroom dwellings with associated parking and gardens **Response** Objection The Parish Council stand by their previous comments and objection to this application and disagree with the interpretation the agent has placed on many of the planning concerns.

In the opening statement the agent indicates that the applicants have previously run Woodhayes Country House "a high quality boutique bed and breakfast". This business was closed down by the applicant and converted to residential and then sold.

The New Fountain Inn owner was in detailed discussions with another successful local publican who went to considerable expense in looking to take on the New Fountain Inn in 2020 only for the current owner to withdraw. The Parish Council is not aware that the New Fountain Inn has been advertised for sale by the current owner and therefore how could the Community Order be followed up on by residents.

The Parish Council would disagree with the remark that the new houses would contribute substantially to the economy of Whimble. A thriving local pub serving food and employing local people would contribute more. In addition it is felt that the houses would have a detrimental impact on passing visitors to the Heritage Centre.

Parking is a concern and the fact that the agent is dismissive of this by saying "the reduced size pub is designed to principally attract local residents who will walk there." That of course cannot be guaranteed and should be of concern particularly when both pubs in the village have always attracted customers from outside of the village who drive and need to park. It is wrong to make any assumption that these customers are irresponsible and drink and drive!

One comment "The main entrances to the proposed development open directly onto Church Road, possibly causing a hazard with traffic passing directly passed them." This was dismissed with "The properties do not discharge directly onto Church Road and are set back" was actually not addressed. The plans for the micropub show there is in fact an entrance directly onto Church Road.

In terms of the drainage response "The proposal would create a very small load on the system and no Whimble development embargo is known about on the basis of drainage infrastructure." The Parish Council do not think that is accurate as 4 additional dwellings and a 'thriving micropub' are bound to have an impact. The agent seems to disregard the drainage/sewage concerns but these considerations are very real and further development should be put on hold until SWAA improve the existing facilities.

The tone of the agent was dismissive of what is obviously a contentious issue for the village and in some instances down right rude."

ii) Planning Applications Approved by EDDC

- a) **20/2288/FUL David Mansfield Ashmead, Whimble, EX5 2TS** These amendments relate to Pitch on proposed rear extension reduced to minimise loss of sunlight to neighbouring properties - Approval with conditions 24.2.21
- b) **20/2803/FUL Mrs Heather Triggs Gledhow, Hand and Pen, Whimble EX5 2PX** Change of use of part of garden to cattery, including construction of two 6 berth cattery buildings and associated works. Approval with conditions 26.2.21
- c) **20/2705/CPE – Mr D Calver – 12 Bramley Gardens, Whimble EX5 2SJ** - Lawful development certificate for the construction of porch to front – CPE Approved 2.3.21

iii) Planning Decisions Refused by EDDC

- a) None

7. **A New Local Plan for East Devon – Issues and Options Report Consultation** – The Parish Response was completed using the EDDC online form and acknowledged by EDDC - *Thank you for your response to the East Devon Local Plan 2021 - 2040 consultation. Your reference for this submission is : FS-Case-313070314*

8. **Meetings Attended** –
i) **Victory Hall** - Cllr Griffiths update

9. **Future Parish Meetings – Annual Parish Meetings** It is normally a requirement that the annual parish meeting assembles on some day between 1 March and 1 June (inclusive) in every year. Last year, DALC advised councils to cancel this event and in August 2020, the Covid-19 regulations were amended to remove the requirement for the annual parish meeting to assemble, along with the requirement for proceedings to commence no earlier than 6.00pm. The amendment also allowed parish meetings (as well as parish and town councils) to meet remotely. Since there is currently no requirement to assemble the annual parish meeting, Councillors can choose not to do so.

It will be necessary to continue with virtual meetings until the final Covid restrictions are lifted which is currently planned to be ‘not before 21 Jun’ e. Therefore the first ‘open’ meeting in the village Hall, subject to confirmation, may be possible in July

10. Finance

i) a) **Ratify the agreed payments** as per the Payment Schedule dated 1st March 2021,

PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH ENDING 1st March 2021			
	Balance from Payment Schedule	Feb	£38,830.75
<u>Receipts</u>			
Receipts		£0.00	
<u>INTEREST</u>			
Santander Interest 1 Mar		£ 0.11	
<u>TOTAL ALL RECEIPTS</u>			£0.11
			<u>£38,830.86</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>			
PAYEE	CHEQ NO.		
XLN Telecom due 12/03 inv	SO	£40.13	
Mr K Finch 15 Mar (net of tax)	SO	£736.98	
HMRC Clerk PAYE & NI salary deductions	1407	£206.82	
HMRC employer NI	1407	£29.23	
		£973.03	
Huck Nets Inv 273537	1408	£775.72	
Grassmats Ltd Inv S04642	1409	£155.88	
K Finch (Re Weebly 2 yr. renewal 49661)	1410	£168.00	
BALANCE			£2,112.76
			<u>£36,718.10</u>

b) **Ratify the Audit report** dated 1st March 2021

RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES BOOK

CASH AT BANK

Balance b/f	£38,830.75	Current Account	£24,491.19
		P3 A/C - held in c/a	£351.10
		Balance of election funds c/f	£400.00
Receipts	£0.00	election funds 2020/21	£350.00
		Total Election funds held in c/a	£750.00
		Balance of comp c/f	£0.00
		Comp fund 2020/21	£105.91
		Total Comp Funds held in c/a	£105.91
		Lomas Seat	£89.88
		CIL	£543.49
		Plandscape & CA see file note *	£396.22
		Essential repairs contingency	£0.00
		Designated - Neighbourhood Plan	£3,356.12
		Total of above restricted/designated funds	£5,592.72
		Santander	£14,556.46
		Spectrum commuted sum -held in Santander	£11,032.26
Santander Interest I Mar	£0.11		
TOTAL	£38,830.86	TOTAL	£39,047.65
Less purchases to be approved	£2,112.76	Less new payments	£2,112.76
		Less o/s cheques	£216.79
Balance in Hand	£36,718.10	Balance in hand	£36,718.10

c) **Appointment of a new Internal Auditor** – The Parish Council needs to seek and appoint a new Internal Auditor in the AGM in May

11. **Maintenance** –

- i) **Parish Field** -Update from The Recreation officer,
- ii) **Car Park Closure** – Update from the clerk
- iii) **Car Parking issues in The Square** – Update Cllr D Dearden/Cllr R Lawrence
- iii) **Pathway from the Square to The Green** – Cllr R Lawrence
- iv) **Heberton Close Allotments - Pond** – Clerk
- v) **Telephone Box/Book store** from a resident ‘ *I’ve noticed the phone box in the square is getting full of unwanted items mainly books. Am I right in assuming that the phone still works?*

Anyway I'm looking to see if I can establish a little library in Whimple, which is essentially a book exchange. I was thinking if the phone box, as well as being a public phone, could be used for a free book exchange. Of course have proper shelves for some books built and not have them just piled up on the floor. Failing that I was going to ask permission to put in a free standing little library at a location that was agreeable to you.

vi) **Hedgerow Trees** – from a resident I was just emailing as I've been discussing the ongoing orchard project with the school (you may have seen we've made a good start and I'm so pleased with how it is progressing!), anyway one of the next steps is hedgerow creation. We currently have 50m of hedgerow whips coming our way from the woodland trust, 30m of which was scheduled for the northern boundary. However given the success of the dead hedge along this boundary, and after discussions with school we now don't think we will need these 30m of hedgerow whips. I can amend our order to remove these whips or/ we could keep the order if the Parish would like the additional 30m worth of native whips to possibly plant on the opposite bank in the parish field to continue the planted tree band along there to the little bridge.

Trees come with canes and spiral guards free. I could arrange a team of volunteers if you would like. If you want to discuss with the parish council or just let me know and I can either ask the woodland trust to amend our order to remove these whips or I can arrange for some volunteer planting. Whips are arriving early April (which is a bit on the late side for tree planting but they have been delayed due to Covid).

12. **S016 Update** from Cllr Griffiths – Paul Walsh is no longer able to lead the sub committee dealing with the tenders for the funds. A new sub committee will need to be established to move forward the commencement of the work voted on by residents in the ballot. Covid has had a significant impact on the tendering process with several companies failing to respond. The tendering will need to be expediated to bring forward the project to completion.

Background for New/All Councillors. There is approx. £40,000 of Section 106 sports money to spend within the parish of Whimple. Whimple Parish Council spearheaded a project to spend the restricted funds, supported through the process by East Devon District Council. The community were asked to put forward their ideas for how this money could be spent on outdoor, capital sports projects. Five eligible, possible and affordable proposals were put forward. The highest % of voting for 'A small tarmac or concrete area with a couple of simple ramps / activities for skateboarding, roller-skating, scootering and BMXing in Whimple Project cost: £40,000' was ratified and taken forward as the preferred option. This project is therefore 'binding' and cannot be changed but the final cost and location are subject to tender and viability

Cllr Griffiths explained in the Parish meeting on 22 June 2020 (minute ref 65/06/2020) that the location for the track in the Town Lane Recreation Park had been discussed at length in numerous previous meetings and had been voted on by Councillors as the preferred location. Residents who had proposed the pump track/skating track in the initial 'call for suggestions' also agreed with the location in meetings with ex Cllr P Walsh. Councillor Griffiths explained that Town Lane Recreation Ground became the preferred location for the pump track for the following reasons:-

- a. A specialist made a site inspection and recommended Town Lane Recreation Ground over the Parish Field due to the site being more level and having better drainage.
- b. S106 funds are split into two parts – sports and play. Part of these funds (Play £8,932.10) can only be spent in the Town Lane Recreation Ground and EDDC have previously vetoed a project in the Parish Field as it sits outside the s106 permitted spend boundary for part of the funds. The remainder of the funds (Sport Capital £39,438.00 & Generic Open Space £2348.76) can be spent in either location (This makes Town Lane Recreation Ground the only option for the whole play/sport project).
- c. Town Lane Recreation Ground has always been a designated Recreation area but has been neglected for many years. The facility needs to be improved and the location in the centre of the village is less remote and in a better location for many residents compared to the Parish Field which is located on one far edge of the village.
- d. Town Lane Recreation Ground has lighting nearby with a potential to add additional lights subject to future planning and costing. The Parish Field has no lighting where the pump track would need to be placed and the cost of bringing electricity and lights to the site would be prohibitive. With the existing lighting Town Lane Recreation Ground could be used at more times, particularly in the winter.

e. Although Town Lane Recreation Ground is the preferred location the sub group have sought tenders for the track to be located in either Town lane or the Parish Field. The final location will be discussed and agreed on receipt of all tenders

The clerk has previously suggested that once all the information is to hand a public 'exhibition' could be held, possibly in the village hall (CV-19 rules permitting) for Councillors to show the proposed site plans and explain the reasons behind it and how the final location became the viable option.

13. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Update from Cllr Dearden

14. **Town and Parish Council Consultation** - East Devon District Council Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Procedure. Please note that this consultation relates to the draft Community Asset Transfer Procedure and it is not the opportunity to discuss individual assets at this stage, however, for a broad overview of the land and property assets (non-housing) in your town or parish, please use the following link: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/property-estates/find-out-if-we-own-a-particular-piece-of-land/> . The closing date for completion/submission of the online web form is 25th April 2021

15. **EDDC Governance review** – The clerk noted that the EDDC Cabinet meeting held on the 3rd March 2021 had the following included in the draft minutes:-

The CEO explained that a request has been received from Cranbrook Town Council requesting that the Council undertake a community governance review under section 80 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The purpose of the review would be to assess whether the current boundaries of the town should be expanded in anticipation of further planning approvals for housing and related development in the neighbouring parish areas but adjacent to Cranbrook itself. The report asked for the authorisation of Council to carry out the review.

During discussion there was a concern raised that presently there were no ward members for the wards of Whimple and Rockbeare.

RECOMMENDED to Council:

-That the Council undertake a Community Governance Review of the current Cranbrook Town Council area with a view to establishing whether expansion of the current town boundaries is considered to be appropriate

- That the Terms of Reference be agreed, including the timetable and arrangements for public consultation.

- That further reports will be brought to Cabinet in order that decisions may be made in respect of draft proposals and final recommendations of the Review.

-That a budget of £5000 be made available for administrative costs associated with the Community Governance Review.

REASON:

a) In accordance with the provisions of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; the principal legal framework within which councils must undertake these reviews.

b) Alternative Options

To not take any action and continue with current boundaries

c) Risk Considerations

That objections are raised to the principle of expanding the existing town boundaries

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

To be dealt with within current budgets

e) Date for Review of Decision

N/A.

As soon as more details are received these will be shared by the clerk to Councillors and Residents

16. Update on Parish Clerk Resignation/Applications –

17. Parish Councillor Resignation – It is with regret that the resignation of Cllr Sam Walker has been accepted. Sam is working extra hours due to vaccinating , trying to finish her ANP masters course and balance family life and regrettably something ‘had to give’ . The clerk has completed the relevant paper work and sent to EDDC to start the recruitment of a new Parish Councillor15.

18. Chairman’s business – Kathy McLauchlan, The District Councillor for Whimple and Rockbeare has resigned from her post with immediate effect and elections will be held by EDDC in May for a new elected member.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Monday 12th April 2021* **NOTE This date may require a change to Monday 19th April depending on updated year end accounting requirements.**

(The AGM will be held virtually on Tuesday 4th May)

Kevin Finch

Mr K Finch

Parish Clerk

Whimple Parish Council