

WEST HILL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th July 2021 AT 7.30PM

Present:	Chairman Cllr Margaret Piper (MP), Cllr Margaret Hall (MH), Cllr Amanda Townsend (AT), Cllr Alan Cook (ABC), Cllr Alison Carr (AC), District Cllr/WHPC Cllr Jessica Bailey (JB),
In attendance: Apologies received from:	Anne Oliver Parish Clerk, 5 members of the public attended the meeting Cllr Della Cannings (DC)

AGENDA – ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

ltem (a)	Discussion and decisions (b)
21/037	Welcome and Chairman's announcements Chairman to make the Declaration of Acceptance and sign the prescribed form. The meeting started at 7.30PM. Chair MP welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that the meeting was being sound recorded.
21/038	Apologies. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr DC.
21/039	 Public question time (3 minutes) From 7.30pm residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for further consideration at the discretion of the Chairman, before the start of the Parish Council meeting. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself. This item included issues submitted to the Clerk prior to the meeting. 5 members of the public attended the meeting. As 4 members of the public wished to speak on agenda item 21/048 the Chairman agreed to suspend Standing Orders and bring consideration of this item forward to follow item 21/043.
21/040	 District and County Councillors' reports for information (items raised for decision will appear on the agenda for the next meeting) DCC + EDDC Cllr JB circulated a report prior to the meeting and gave an update at the meeting: a. Broadband: Cllr JB reported that village broadband was very patchy and the future plans of suppliers were unclear. (Please see item 21/059 for more detail) b. Straitgate Quarry: EDDC have submitted an objection to DCC on grounds of road safety and the impact of increased cattle crossings. c. B3180: Working with the B3180 campaign group Cllr JB is seeking to extend the 30mph zone. d. Local Plan Review: An interactive map of The Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) is now available on the EDDC Website.(Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment - East Devon). Cllr JB has requested details of the HELAA panel due to concerns about fair representation from the community and environmental groups.
21/041	 Declarations of Interest a. Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. b. To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature. To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and their nature (Councillors with DPIs must leave the room for the relevant items).



	Cllrs JB, MP, MH, AT, AC, ABC declared a personal interest in agenda item 21/044 10 Warren Park as they knew the applicant through a number of different matters but remained free from bias and predetermination and stated they would approach the matter with an open mind.
	Cllr JB declared a personal interest in agenda item 21/044 21/1565/OUT
	Cllr AC declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 21/044 11 Warren Close and would leave the room for this item.
21/042	Confidential/exempt items. In consideration of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted): to agree any items to be dealt with after the public and press have been excluded.
	Cllrs agreed to consider agenda item 21/060 in confidential session.
21/043	 Minutes To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 1st June 2021. To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 11th June 2021, subject to the following amendment: Item 21/032 Declaration of Interests Cllrs AC, MH, MP – no interests declared should read Cllrs AC, MH, MP, DC – no interests declared. Noted and approved
	Chairman MP suspended Standing Orders to bring forward agenda item 21/048 to allow public participation.
21/048	Traffic Study Working Group: Proposed pedestrian link to the Village Hall.
	 To consider and approve a report on the recent Public Consultation To receive an update on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Village Hall. To resolve to submit the Planning Application for the proposed pedestrian link to the Village Hall. To approve the budget for the application. Cost estimate £142.00.
	 Cllr MH gave an update on progress a. The Public Consultation closed on the 4th June. 139 responses were received: 107 in support (78%), 28 opposed, 3 neutral. All of the responses, including detailed responses from opposed contributors, had been reviewed by the joint Village Hall/WHPC working group. The group will be exploring possible measures to mitigate the concerns raised. A report of the results and a response to the concerns raised had been produced. This was approved by the Village Hall Trustees (VHT) at their meeting on 28th June 2021 and Cllr MH recommended the report to Cllrs for approval. Cllr MH thanked Cllr AC for creating the online survey. b. The Memorandum of Understanding was under discussion with some matters still to be resolved. In addition, discussion was continuing with regard to Village Hall financial risk, grant application, permissive path status. c. The Village Hall Trustees meeting on 28th June 2021 agreed to submit the planning application. Cllr MH recommended Cllrs approved submission of the application.
	 Four residents attended the meeting to voice their serious concerns regarding the proposal, including Safety concerns, particularly children's safety, stating the proposal was "an accident waiting to happen". Vehicle speeds are in excess of the findings of the speed survey. Proposal was more dangerous than the current arrangement at the school. Could the existing Village Hall car park be enlarged?



Standing Orders were resumed
 Cllr MH addressed the concerns: Safety had been the top concern for the joint working group throughout the project. The Primary School and VHT considered the current arrangements for school drop off/pick were not satisfactory as there had been several "near misses". The Headteacher had confirmed that the children's journey to and from school was the responsibility of parents at all times. Children are not allowed to leave school without a parent (or appointed adult). Older children are allowed to leave unaccompanied only if their parents had given written consent. The speed survey had been conducted by an independent professional company and this had taken place shortly before the start of the pandemic and lockdown. The public consultation had been delayed due to difficulties in agreeing the final design.
Cllr ABC considered there was insufficient space available to extend the car park. Cllr JB noted the public consultation had taken place with a significant majority of response in support. She proposed the planning application was submitted. Cllr MP noted residents could submit their views to EDDC via the planning application process.
 It was resolved to a. submit the planning application with 5 Cllrs in support and 1 abstention with an associated budget of £142. b. To approve the Consultation report and publish it on the WHPC website.
Cllr ABC raised comments on the possible responsibility for (a) contracts and (b) permissive paths.
Planning Applications received
21/0872/FUL The Pines Toadpit Lane EX11 1TR Applicant Mr M Norris Construction of new detached double garage and storeroom involving demolition of existing cottage
Councillors supported the application in principle but expressed concern at the loss of one of the oldest traditional buildings in the village.
21/1635/FUL 11 Warren Close, West Hill EX11 1XB Applicant Mr + Mrs Miszewska Raising of existing roof to form additional floor and single storey side extension.
Cllrs noted that adding an upper floor to the building would be out of character with surrounding properties. They also noted a letter submitted in support. Cllrs supported the application.
 21/1529/FUL Touch Wood 3 Hylands Close, Higher Broad Oak Road EX11 1XJ Applicant Mr+Mrs John Single storey rear extension and two storey front extension including 8 side roof lights and conversion of attached garage to habitable use. Alterations to front porch. Enlargement of driveway.
Cllrs considered the objections submitted by the public. Cllrs supported their requests for obscure glazing in overlooking windows.
Cllrs noted the restricted access to the rear of the site and the close proximity of trees. They also noted that the Arboricultural Impact Assessment in the Tree Report was not completed. They requested that the EDDC Tree Officer inspect the site to assess impact on trees Cllrs supported the application but requested the following conditions:



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	 b) Reduce crown by 10 metres leaving crown 6 metres wide and 10 metres high. The present tree height is 20 metres and will be 10 metres which is the distance to the two Houses of nos. 10 and 12 should it fall from the bank, being more weighted on the south side. The crown will be 10 metres high with width being 5 metres (NOT SUPPORTED) T3 - Cherry a) Visible damage to some branches on west side underlapping T2 caused by touching by branches of T2. Pruning as necessary to obtain clearance from T2.(SUPPORTED) b) reduce crown by 10 metres from 20 metres to same height as T2 to encourage lower growth and leave height of tree as 10 metres. (NOT SUPPORTED)
	 T4 - Silver Birch a) reduce crown by 1.5 metres to get clearance from power lines. (SUPPORT) b) prune lateral branch by 1.5 metres leaving 1.5 metres to trunk to promote new growth from the lower trunk to improve appearance and shape. The tree height remaining will be 5 metres. The remaining crown will be 2m wide. (NOT SUPPORTED)
	T5 - Ash a) Coppice to ground level due to Ash die-back disease. (SUPPORT)
	 T6 - Beech a) Reduce crown by 3 metres to reduce height from 18 metres to 15 metres (NOT SUPPORTED) b) Raise crown by 2 metres to provide clearance over hazel hedgerow. Remaining crown will be 10 metres high and 8 metres wide. (NOT SUPPORTED)
	 T7 - Hazel a) Coppice 5 of the multiple stems on the south side to stop smothering of a mature Acer. (SUPPORTED) b) Reduce crown of remaining two substantial (200 mm diameter) stems by 5 metres from 7 metres leaving the height of the remaining stems alongside the footway and road to 2 metres bringing it to hedge height. (SUPPORTED)
	T8 and T9 - Ash Coppice due to ash die-back disease. Will be replaced by native hedging and/or native hedgerow trees. (SUPPORTED)
	 In summary, Clirs expressed concerns regarding the extent of the proposed crown reduction. Clirs requested that this should be kept to a minimum to reduce the adverse impact on the streetscene, a prominent thoroughfare through West Hill. Clirs acknowledge the need to manage diseased trees in particular Ash Die Back which is prevalent in the area. However, the extent of remedial work required on other trees is unclear as no arboricultural report was submitted. Clirs supported the proposal to re-plant with native species as necessary.
21/045	EDDC Planning decisions received for information (*denotes WHPC differed)
	21/1222/FUL South Oak Higher Metcombe EX11 1SQ Approved Erection of front porch, single storey rear and side extension, and replacement of existing two garages with single garage and workshop and alterations to fenestration.



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	21/1201/TRE 16 Eastfield West Hill EX11 1XN Approved* T1 - 4 Lawson cypress - fell. The trees have out grown their position. T5, horse chestnut - cut to a six foot stump. To allow more light into the garden. T6, beech - reduce by approximately 0.5m to allow more light into the glasshouse.
	21/1191/TRE Pine Bank Warren Close West Hill EX11 1XB Approved Various tree works
	21/1159/TRE Oasis Toadpit Lane West Hill EX11 1TR Approved Various treeworks
	21/1144/FUL Treetops Lodge 6 Birch Grove EX11 1XP Approved Demolition of conservatory and erection of a balcony.
	21/1031/FUL 4 Moorlands West Hill EX11 1UL Approved Addition of dormer window to front elevation of garage.
	21/0561/FUL Land At Orchard Cottage Elsdon Lane West Hill Refused Construction of a detached bungalow with integral garage
	21/0400/TRE The Vicarage Bendarroch Road EX11 1UW Decided Various treeworks
	Noted
21/046	TPO notifications - for information - n/a
21/047	Planning matters:
	1. To receive an update on Strategic Planning Committee/Local Plan Review
	District Cllr JB sits on the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee and advised that it will meet monthly during the Local Plan Review. The July meeting will consider proposals for how the new homes target can be achieved through the possible creation of new towns, expanded villages etc. The meetings can be viewed via a link on the EDDC website.
	Cllrs shared their concerns regarding the HELAA panel and supported Cllr JB's request for transparency of its membership. They also expressed concerns regarding DCC Highways and their insufficient resources leading to their limited involvement in the review.
	It was agreed to create a page on the WHPC website for Cllrs JB/MH to inform residents as the Local Plan Review progresses.
	To receive an update on the Parliamentary constituency boundary review and to consider a response by WHPC.
	 Cllrs discussed the Parliamentary constituency boundary review and noted West Hill Parish has been assigned to the new Exmouth constituency. Cllr MH noted the (electoral) population sizes of neighbouring constituencies: Exmouth 76,601 Exeter 71,713
	• Honiton 73,669 The constituencies have to be within the range 69,724-77,062 electors. The proposed Exmouth constituency is very close to the upper limit. As this area includes the new town of Cranbrook, further new housing mean that the Exmouth constituency would exceed the permitted electoral number within a short period of time.
	It was agreed to submit a response to the Review to propose that the West Hill and Aylesbeare ward (approx. 2000 electors) should be moved from the proposed Exmouth



constituency to the Honiton constituency. This is a more natural grouping, as West Hill historically was part of Ottery St Mary parish, and identifies more with Honiton than Exmouth.

Committee & Working Groups

21/048	Traffic Study Working Group:
	See above
21/049	Slide Working Group:
	a. To receive an update on the process for use of S106 monies.
	b. To consider options for funding and, if considered appropriate, approve the use of
	S106 monies subject to EDDC approval and Financial Regulations.
	c. To agree next steps.
	Cllr AT circulated a paper prior to the meeting and gave an update: EDDC have confirmed
	that S106 monies can be used for the purchase of a slide but a consultation with playpark
	users is required to confirm the need. WHPC had sought to work with the West Hill Primary
	School to seek the children's input. In view of the disruption to the school year due the Covid
	pandemic the Head has asked for this to be an online survey.
	Cllr MH asked if the pre-school children would be consulted. Cllrs ABC/AT advised the
	existing small slide was provided for pre-school children and the primary school children
	would be the appropriate age group to be consulted.
	It was agreed
	a. To use S106 monies to fund the purchase of a slide (if the purchase is approved at a
	later meeting)
	b. To work with EDDC to carry out a consultation with playpark users.
	c. To prepare an updated Terms of Reference for the working group to be agreed at
	the next Council meeting.
21/050	Finance Working Group
21/050	1. To approve the use of CIL monies for the purchase of a replacement Memorial
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Other Matters

21/052	Coronavirus:
	1. Review the WHPC Risk Assessment for in-person Council meetings and agree
	amendments as required (if any).
	Noted – no changes required.



WHPC Operation/Projects: To consider recent Government Covid announcements (if any) and their impact on WHPC:
1. Can WHPC return to "business as usual"?
Cllrs discussed the recent Government announcements on the lifting of some Covid restrictions. Cllrs felt that WHPC should continue to be cautious for a minimum of a further three months.
 It was agreed to a. Check revised guidance from the Village Hall and revise the risk assessment accordingly. b. Restrict Council meetings to one per month unless in exceptional circumstances c. To hold the 3rd August WHPC meeting in the Acorn Room as the Council would prefer to hold meetings on the ground floor as this has better access for the public. However the sports session in the adjoining room may prove too disruptive.
 Council meetings, activities? a. To consider resumption of the Open Spaces Committee (OSC) or an alternative method of managing open spaces matters. (The OSC Committee is currently suspended to reduce the number of meetings during Covid.)
There were differing views on the resumption of the Open Spaces Committee.
It was agreed to leave the arrangements unchanged for a further three months: The OSC would continue to be suspended with operational matters delegated to the Clerk and other matters for consideration at full Council as required.
b. Current Working Groups (WGs)
 Cllrs agreed Terms of reference for the Finance WG and People and Policy WG To draft, for approval, a Terms of Reference for the Traffic Study WG A Community Events WG is not currently required. A Planning Policy WG may be created at a future date if required, particularly in view of the Local Plan Review currently underway. Proposals for a Community Land WG to be brought to the August meeting.
3. Delegated Powers
Cllrs agreed to continue with current arrangements for Delegated Powers to the Clerk.
 Clerks Report: a. Decisions taken under Delegated Powers a. Playpark Annual Timber Treatment £310+materials+vat. b. Replacement Memorial Bench –the purchase price was amended from £482.37+vat to £495.72+vat for revised ground fixings. (Ref 21/024 1st June 21)
Noted
b. WHPC - Action points from previous meetings
 Land for sale – WHPC did not receive a response to it's letter and the land is now sold.



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	 c. Matters arising a. Lengthsman : Verge cutting was completed in June as per contract. b. Waste Bin at junction of School Lane and West Hill Road; Several residents have raised concerns regarding dog waste and landfill waste in the bin. The bin is owned and operated by EDDC.
	Clirs agreed to monitor the bin for several months to determine if a dog waste bin was required.
	c. DAAT Night Landing Lighting Column Annual Inspection: The 2021 Annual maintenance check has been completed.
	 d. DALC training courses: Cllrs were advised to check the new courses becoming available. e. Reminder Cyber-security training 7th July
	d. Any urgent matters arising.
21/055	Grant Application: To consider an application from West Hill Primary School PTFA to fund a band for the fete (18 th September). Clirs supported the application and approved the grant in full £400 .
21/056	School Fete 2021: To consider taking a fete stall for WHPC and arrangements for the event. Cllrs discussed the delayed 2021 fete which will be taking place on Saturday 18 th September. Cllrs will liaise with Cllr JB regarding a fete stall.
	Time 10.00pm Cllrs resolved to continue the meeting past 2hrs duration as per Standing Orders.
21/057	Queens's Platinum Jubilee 2022: To consider how WHPC/West Hill could mark the Jubilee.
	Cllrs were keen to understand what was already planned to take place in the village before considering possible WHPC activities. Cllrs discussed the possibility of providing grants for community events. Cllrs agreed a. Write to Village groups and organisations to ask if they were planning events. b. Discuss options at the Council meeting on 3 rd August.
04/050	
21/058	Public Footpaths: a. To consider concerns raised regarding Footpath 5 and B3180 Footpath Warden Eileen Perkins had highlighted concerns regarding the risks of crossing the B3180 from Footpath 5 to join the Beggars Roost footpath. She proposed the creation of an additional length of public footpath to allow pedestrians to make a more direct crossing.
	It was agreed to source details of the DCC Public Rights of Way Team (PROW) regarding the process for the creation of footpaths for Eileen.
	b. To receive report of the spread of Japanese Knotweed on Footpath 6. Footpath Warden Eileen Perkins reported the Japanese Knotweed was still present and had spread to the neighbouring property.
	It was agreed that Clir ABC would check that the Footpath Warden had reported the matter to the DCC PROW team.
21/059	Broadband: To receive an update from Providers. Cllr JJB gave an update on discussion with providers Jurassic Fibre, OpenReach and Connecting Devon + Somerset, It was a very complicated situation and subject to commercial decisions.



	west Hill Parish Council
	Cllr JB agreed to publish an article on the website and to the mailing list to provide an update on her discussions with providers. It was agreed that Cllr JB would investigate the availability and cost of expert advice
21/060	Complaint: To record the receipt of a complaint which will be managed via the approved WHPC Complaints Process.
	This agenda item was considered in confidential session. Cllrs discussed the complaint process.
21/061	Police Matters: To receive the monthly West Hill crime stats (May 2021) (for information) Noted
21/062	Parish Online: To consider the digital mapping tool and it's possible uses for WHPC. The Clerk gave an update on the possible use of Parish Online for managing the Council's assets and for publishing maps.
21/063	WHPC Wildflower Challenge: To consider arrangements for judging and agree prize awards. Deferred to the next meeting 3 rd August.
21/064	 Finance and Invoices Tracker Invoices received for approval: Clerk - claim for expenses (incl Microsoft subscription, postage, Title deeds) £97.23 Clerk - claim for Annual Zoom Subscription £119.90+vat WH Village Hall Room Booking Jun-21 £14.40 PLG Services – VAS transfers (Jun) £76.00+vat PLG Services – Playpark+McColls grass cutting 25-Jun-21 £57+vat PLG Services – Verge Cutting £450.00+vat MAT Electrics – Air Ambulance Lighting Column annual maintenance £89.95+vat
	 Approved under Delegated Powers PLG Services – Playpark+McColls grass cutting 5-Jun-21 £57+vat DALC Training Course – Cllr MP £30+vat All noted and approved To receive: 2021-22 Finance Tracker, Bank reconciliations May+Jun 202, ClL/S106 summary Noted and approved (except Bank Reconciliation for June to be presented to the 3rd August meeting)
21/065	Councillors questions, reports and items for future agenda Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. <i>Councillors are</i> <i>respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.</i>
	Cllr JB asked for Cllrs feedback on DCC Highways works schedule. Cllr JB reported she had referred the overgrown vegetation on the West Hill Road pavement to the Village Hall Trustees following road safety concerns raised by residents.
	Cllr AT reported the judging of the PTFA Sunflower Competition would take place on 14 th July. Action: Clerk to check arrangements for Prize Money.
21/066	Next meeting: To confirm the date of the next meeting at the Village Hall which is scheduled for Tuesday 3 rd August 2021, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Signed: Anne Oliver, Clerk to the Council, 7th July 2021