

189 Planning decisions

12/2242/FUL, first floor extension at Marsh Path Cottage – APPROVED

12/0506/MFUL Land to the West of Strawberry Hill

This application was to be considered by the Development Management Committee again on 8th January 2013. Cllr Longhurst informed the Council that the Officers report recommended approval in spite of the site not being included in the Preferred Housing Sites Assessment. Furthermore, the Planning Officers has made comments about other sites which called into question most of the work carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and the views expressed by residents at the public meetings. In view of this he was not prepared to do any further work on the Neighbourhood Plan until the view of EDDC regarding the work that had been carried out, including public consultation had been clarified.

He reminded the Council of previous decisions about the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party.

RESOLVED 1 that a meeting be requested with the Chief Executive or Deputy of EDDC regarding the value of the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and public consultation.

2 that Hugo Swire MP be informed of this deplorable situation and the refusal of EDDC to support the Neighbourhood Plan process including applying for Government funding.

3 that an invoice be sent to EDDC to cover the costs of the work on the Neighbourhood Plan so far.

190 Draft Local Plan

Cllr Longhurst submitted a suggested final response to the draft Local Plan based on previous submissions.

Cllr Atkins reminded the meeting that part of the draft Local Plan at Para 15.14 stated that the existing Local Plan Policies and Village built-Up Area Boundaries were to be retained as part of the new Local Plan for decision making purposes until new built-up Area Boundaries and maps were produced.

RESOLVED that the submission be approved and sent to EDDC.

191 Report by the Police

The Chairman read out the Police report. It was noted that the car that had been parked under the railway bridge for some time was now parked in Underhill.

RESOLVED that this be reported to WPCSO Sarah Trayhurn

192 Report by the District Councillors

Cllr Ingham wished all those present a Happy New Year.

He would be representing the Parish Council's views about the land to the West of Strawberry Hill at the Development Management Committee meeting although this was not easy as he was not a member of any political group. He reminded the Council that it did have a different view about the site a few years ago. He felt that the Officers may feel they have a strong case and that the Parish Council's view is weakened by its change of mind.

He urged the Parish Council to keep its work on a Neighbourhood Plan going as this was essential to support any arguments about future development.

He felt that EDDC Leadership and Officers were sceptical about Localism as it would result in some costs and loss of control over local issues.

193 Chairman's report

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Parish Dinner would be on Saturday 23rd February 2013 at The Redwing.

194 Payments authorised

RESOLVED: that the following payments be approved.

1823	EDF Energy - lighting in Candys' Field / toilets	56.97
1824	Scottish Power - Youth Club	130.35
1825	Optima Graphics Herald printing	275.00
1826	Cllr Longhurst - Land Registry enquiry fee	44.40
1827	Gardencare Marsh Green	240.00
1828	Mrs C Edworthy wages for December 2012	186.00
1829	A J Le Riche sal & Expenses December 2012	709.86
1830	HMRC Tax / NI October	27.59
1831	Gulliford Joint Committee - contribution	200.00
1832	Newton Pop & Harpford PC Toilets supplies	184.16
	TOTAL	2054.33

195 Financial summary

The Council received the following financial summary:

Opening balance at 1st April 2012	9,313.95
Receipts	<u>64,432.52</u>
Total receipts	73,746.47
Transfer from dep ac	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total paid in to current ac	83,746.47
less, Payments	<u>61,804.14</u>
Net balance	21,942.33
Receipts not on statement:	-509.00
Unpresented cheques	14,081.69
Balance per Bank Statement 27 th November 2012	35,515.02
Deposit Account	
Balance at 1st April 2012	10,155.80
Interest to 3rd November 2012	3.98
Transfer to current ac	-10,000.00
Total	159.78

196 Budget performance

The Council received a budget performance report to date.

197 Cheque signatories.

The Clerk reported that Cheque signatories had not been updated for some time. There were three that were no longer on the Council. The Council was recommended to nominate replacements.

RESOLVED 1 that the three signatories who are no longer Members be removed.

2 that Cllrs Eastley and Carter be added to the list.

198 Budget 2013/14 and the Precept

A draft budget for 2013/14 was submitted. Changes to the Council Tax benefit scheme had resulted in changes in the way the Council Tax base was calculated. EDDC would add a grant, based on the

reduction in the Tax Base.

RESOLVED: 1 that the draft budget be approved subject to the following changes:

Code 308 – Insurance, Audit and Elections be increased to £3,000 in view of charges levied by EDDC in other parishes.

Code 616 Benches maintenance be increased to £100.

New Code 1103 Youth Club rates be set at £500 to cover the rates that could be payable.

2 that the Precept be set at £35,000 in addition to the Council Tax grant from EDDC.

199 Matters raised by other Councillors

Cllr Carter reported complaints that the Village Hall was block-booked in the period leading to Christmas. He suggested that the VHMC should be requested to hold back 10% of the available time at busy periods. He had also received complaints about wet paint and open paint tins on the stage during a hiring. Cllr Mrs Scott was requested to raise these points with the VHMC.

Cllr Longhurst reported on the Village Concert on 9th February 2013 and the suggestion that the Parish Council should perform. All Councillors and the Clerk volunteered to perform.

Cllr Atkins had received an enquiry about mugs to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation.

Cllr Mrs Scott asked if the Council had any comments about the proposed developments at lower Halsdon Farm, as reported at the last meeting.

Cllr Hughes raised concern regarding an extension to the Cycle Path which would increase the use of the A376 by cyclists. Traffic lights were to be provided at Courtlands Cross and Rivermead and a pedestrian crossing was to be provided at Seafield Avenue.

Cllr Longhurst reminded the Council that a possible extension to the Cycle Path was to be part of the S106 agreement for the Courtlands Development.

RESOLVED that this be included on the next agenda.

200 County Councillors Report

Cllr Hughes reported that there had been no meetings at DCC since the last meeting of the Parish Council. He had received a letter regarding the volume of water standing in Courtlands Lane and it was felt that this was as a result of the provision of the bund and creation of a lake. He had asked Officers to monitor this.

Cllr Bailey informed Cllr Hughes that gullies in Longmeadow Road, especially around Pretty Corner, were blocked.

He had looked at the drains in Back Lane and it was clear that there was a blockage. Another area, formerly Wares Field, was also flooding.

Work to extend the School had been delayed to the point where it might not be possible to have contractors working during the School holidays. He had asked for this to be expedited.

Planning application details are available At the school.

He had been invited to an event to mark the designation of the Avocet Line as a Community rail line. Statistics showed that the number of passengers had increased over the last three months, possibly in part due to the extra Sunday services.

201 Information items

The Council received the following:

- a) The Playing Field
- b) Junk Mail
- c) Travelling in Winter – DCC Information leaflet.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm

Chairman