MINUTES OF A LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2024.

PRESENT:	
Councillors	D Atkins, S Culhane, S Francis, R Gale-Hasleham, A Minter, J Payne and L Staddon (Chairman)
Clerk	Miss L Tyrrell
County Councillors	J. Trail and R Scott
District Councillors	B. Ingham and G Jung
Public	6 members

The Chairman welcomed all present. She invited members of the public to speak.

Public session
A resident highlighted the fact that there was a lot of money in the PCs bank account and were there plans to separate CIL funding from the account. He asked whether the public would be consulted on how the CIL money would be allocated. Cllr Atkins explained that the bank accounts were being investigated and would update the public in due course.

24/94 Apologies
Cllr Hill and Linfoot due to other commitments.
Cllr Staddon proposed to approve the apologies. Cllr Gale-Hasleham seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the Apologies were approved by the PC.

24/95 Minutes
Cllr Atkins proposed the minutes of the PC meeting held on the 1st July were accurate. Cllr Francis seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PC meeting held on the 1st July 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Atkins proposed the minutes of the PC planning meeting held on the 5th August were accurate. Cllr Francis seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PC planning meeting held on the 5th August 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

24/96 To receive any Declarations of Interest
None.

24/97 Civility and Respect Project (nalc.gov.uk)
The Chair explained that the Civility and Respect Pledge was being introduced because there was no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector. The pledge would enable councils to demonstrate that they were committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector and to drive through positive changes which supported civil and respectful conduct. Cllr Atkins proposed that Lympstone Parish Council signed up to the pledge. Cllr Staddon seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that LPC signed up to NALCs Civility and Respect pledge.

24/98 Clerks report

24/98.1 Grant received – The Clerk explained that a grant had been received by Lympstone Sea Scouts for £220 for additional kayaking safety equipment. Cllr Atkins felt as the Parish had a coastline this was of paramount importance. Cllr Francis seconded. Unan. Cllr Staddon declared a personal interest.

RESOLVED that 1st Lympstone sea scouts grant was awarded in full.

24/98.2 Finance – Payments / Financial summary / Budget report

Cllr Minter reported that the overdue employers NIC to HMRC had been paid. The Clerk added that the interest charged by HMRC had been appealed by LPC and had been waivered. A member of the public queried how this oversight had been missed and whether the PC should consider an external agency to deal with PAYE. Cllr Minter explained he was working with the Clerk on financial procedures.

Cllr Atkins proposed to approve the payments and receipts. He noted the financial summary and budget report. Cllr Staddon seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

July 2024 - Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Current Account

Statement Number	16	Bank Statement No.	16
Statement Opening Balance	£322,275.89	Opening Date	01/07/24
Statement Closing Balance	£282,561.78	Closing Date	31/07/24
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£281,706.89		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
30/04/24	3338	D.G. Atkins – Cllr duty expenses	15.75	0.00	322,260.14
20/06/24	3370	Mrs M Mockler - plants	78.79	0.00	322,181.35
20/06/24	3373	1st Lympstone Sea Scouts	50.00	0.00	322,131.35
20/06/24	3374	D.G. Atkins – Cllr duty expenses	200.00	0.00	321,931.35
20/06/24	3375	Sue Francis – printing	16.21	0.00	321,915.14
01/07/24	3377	Lympstone Academy Brass	250.00	0.00	321,665.14
01/07/24	3378	Halcyon Landscapes Ltd	15,414.00	0.00	306,251.14
01/07/24	3379	Sarah Wilkinson Salty Bandits	250.00	0.00	306,001.14
01/07/24	3380	Lympstone Village Hall CIO	8.00	0.00	305,993.14
01/07/24	3381	Devon Wildlife Consultants	522.00	0.00	305,471.14
01/07/24	3382	N. Linfoot – materials (CPS)	77.97	0.00	305,393.17
01/07/24	3383	Employment	201.58	0.00	305,191.59
01/07/24	3384	Employment	1,996.24	0.00	303,195.35
01/07/24	3385	Employment	1,115.65	0.00	302,079.70
01/07/24	3386	L. Moxom The Looseners	250.00	0.00	301,829.70
01/07/24	3387	D.G. Atkins – Cllr duty expenses	45.45	0.00	301,784.25
01/07/24	3388	Optima Graphics Ltd	808.00	0.00	300,976.25
01/07/24	3389	JD Maintenance Services	479.10	0.00	300,497.15
01/07/24	3390	Mrs Jo Cowe – public toilets	1,830.00	0.00	298,667.15

01/07/24	3391	Lympstone Village Hall CIO	20.00	0.00	298,647.15
01/07/24	3392	PC contractor	1,740.00	0.00	296,907.15
04/07/24	3393	Employment	8,612.18	0.00	288,294.97
04/07/24	DD EDF401 4/7/24	EDF Energy Ref: 671024465401 (Toilets)	63.00	0.00	288,231.97
09/07/24	500075 09/07/24	Burial fee	0.00	276.00	288,507.97
09/07/24	500075 09/07/24	Stone mason	0.00	45.00	288,552.97
12/07/24	FPI 12/07/24	Herlad Advert	0.00	75.00	288,627.97
12/07/24	OM FPI 12/07/24	Orchard Memorials	0.00	195.00	288,822.97
15/07/24	DD 15 07 24 E73	EDF Energy A-813EOE73	78.00	0.00	288,744.97
15/07/24	DD 15/07/24 001	EDF Energy A-DOBDO971	119.00	0.00	288,625.97
15/07/24	DD EDF111 15/7/24	EDF Energy Ref: 9208111111 (Candys Field)	219.84	0.00	288,406.13
23/07/24	3394	Alison West - Bespoke Web Designs	105.00	0.00	288,301.13
23/07/24	3395	Mr Philip Corcos	17.55	0.00	288,283.58
23/07/24	3396	Casa Environmental Services	552.00	0.00	287,731.58
23/07/24	3397	Lympstone Village Hall CIO	8.00	0.00	287,723.58
23/07/24	3398	N. Linfoot	124.95	0.00	287,598.63
23/07/24	3399	Employment	1,435.28	0.00	286,163.35
23/07/24	3400	Employment	3,488.77	0.00	282,674.58
23/07/24	3401	Employment	112.80	0.00	282,561.78

Uncleared and unpresented effects

18/05/23	3176	BT Payphones	1.00		282,560.78
22/08/23	3212	Devon Wildlife Consultants	1,100.00		281,460.78
02/10/23	3212	Devon Wildlife Consultants	-1,100.00		282,560.78
06/11/23	3262	Royal British Legion	100.00		282,460.78
19/12/23	3279	Jemmy Ltd	350.00		282,110.78
28/03/24	3176	BT Payphones	-1.00		282,111.78
28/03/24	3262	Royal British Legion	-100.00		282,211.78
28/03/24	3279	Jemmy Ltd	-350.00		282,561.78
30/04/24	3343	PVM Supplies	222.49		282,339.29
03/06/24	3350	Edge IT Systems Ltd	632.40		281,706.89
		Total uncleared and unpresented	854.89	0.00	
		Total debits / credits	41160	591	

Reconciled by Lucy Tyrrell

August 2024 - Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Current Account

Statement Number	17	Bank Statement No.	17
Statement Opening Balance	£282,561.78	Opening Date	01/08/24
Statement Closing Balance	£282,445.49	Closing Date	31/08/24
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£282,223.00		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
03/06/24	3350	Edge IT Systems Ltd	632.40	0.00	281,929.38
05/08/24	3402	Graham Collins Building Maintenance Contractors	74.00	0.00	281,855.38
05/08/24	3403	Lympstone Village Hall CIO	8.00	0.00	281,847.38
05/08/24	3404	Multiple Suppliers/ Customers	338.70	0.00	281,508.68
05/08/24	3406	JD Maintenance Services	807.13	0.00	280,701.55
05/08/24	3407	N. Linfoot reimburse com payback	56.40	0.00	280,645.15
05/08/24	DD EDF5CC 5/8/24	EDF Energy Ref: 671024465401 (Toilets)	63.00	0.00	280,582.15
06/08/24	OM FPI 06/08/24	Orchard Memorials	0.00	140.00	280,722.15
07/08/24	5000 07/08/24 Gegg	R Gegg & Sons	0.00	691.00	281,413.15
15/08/24	DD 15 08 24 E73	EDF Energy A-813EOE73	78.00	0.00	281,335.15
15/08/24	DD 15/08/24 001	EDF Energy A-DOBDO971	119.00	0.00	281,216.15
15/08/24	DD EDF111 15/8/24	EDF Energy Ref: 9208111111 (Candys Field)	186.66	0.00	281,029.49
20/08/24	FPI 20/08/24	Herald Advert	0.00	10.00	281,039.49
23/08/24	DC 23/08/24	Great Western Railway - grant	0.00	550.00	281,589.49
24/08/24	FPI 24/08/24	Herald Advert	0.00	35.00	281,624.49
28/08/24	500078 22/08/24	R Gegg & Sons	0.00	691.00	282,315.49
30/08/24	OM FPI 30/08/24	Orchard Memorials	0.00	130.00	282,445.49
Uncleared and unpresented effects					
18/05/23	3176	BT Payphones	1.00		282,444.49
22/08/23	3212	Devon Wildlife Consultants	1,100.00		281,344.49
02/10/23	3212	Devon Wildlife Consultants	-1,100.00		282,444.49
06/11/23	3262	Royal British Legion	100.00		282,344.49
19/12/23	3279	Jemmy Ltd	350.00		281,994.49
28/03/24	3176	BT Payphones	-1.00		281,995.49
28/03/24	3262	Royal British Legion	-100.00		282,095.49
28/03/24	3279	Jemmy Ltd	-350.00		282,445.49
30/04/24	3343	PVM Supplies	222.49		282,223.00
		Total uncleared and unpresented	222.49	0.00	
		Total debits / credits	2585.78	2247	

Reconciled by Lucy Tyrrell

1st April 2024 – 31st August 2024 - Financial Statement – Cashbook

Statement of receipts and payments between 01/04/24 and 31/08/24 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£223,360.19
Total	£223,360.19

RECEIPTS	Net (£)	Vat (£)	Gross (£)

Council			
10 Precept	26,068.75	0.00	26,068.75
15 CIL	90,953.10	0.00	90,953.10
20 DCC re Candys Field	0.00	0.00	0.00
25 Herald Adverts	1,813.00	0.00	1,813.00
30 Burial Fees	2,973.00	0.00	2,973.00
35 Lymp FC	0.00	0.00	0.00
40 Flower Beds	0.00	0.00	0.00
45 Wayleaves	7.54	0.00	7.54
50 Misc	0.00	0.00	0.00
55 Web adverts	0.00	0.00	0.00
60 Parishes Together	0.00	0.00	0.00
65 External grants	1,550.00	0.00	1,550.00
70 YC Rech	2,385.09	0.00	2,385.09
75 VHMC	0.00	0.00	0.00
80 MoD Comm Cov	0.00	0.00	0.00
85 DCC error	0.00	0.00	0.00
90 Community Hub	0.00	0.00	0.00
95 Woodbury PC	0.00	0.00	0.00
99 VAT refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
100 Guildford BG	0.00	0.00	0.00
105 FLOS	0.00	0.00	0.00
Council Total	125,750.48	0.00	125,750.48
Total Receipts	125,750.48	0.00	125,750.48
PAYMENTS	Net (£)	Vat (£)	Gross (£)
Council			
1000 Employment	24,452.62	0.00	24,452.62
1005 Employment	809.85	0.00	809.85
1015 Village Hall hire	302.00	0.00	302.00
1020 Chairman's Allowance	200.00	0.00	200.00
1025 Subscriptions	1,187.00	191.58	1,378.58
1030 Courses, travel etc	60.10	0.00	60.10
1035 Insurance, Audit, Electricity	126.20	0.00	126.20
1040 Misc	1,436.85	134.71	1,571.56
1045 Herald Printing	3,026.00	0.00	3,026.00
1050 PC Maintenance Contractor	4,885.00	0.00	4,885.00
1055 Grass cutting	200.00	0.00	200.00
1060 Other maintenance	15,356.56	2,661.00	18,017.56
1065 General tree work	0.00	0.00	0.00
1070 Bin emptying	0.00	0.00	0.00
1075 Handyman	0.00	0.00	0.00
1080 Notice boards - maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
1085 Play equipment	126.00	25.20	151.20
1090 Lights in CF	1,046.55	52.33	1,098.88
1095 Toilets	2,774.85	114.91	2,889.76
1100 Flood equip maintenance	54.00	0.00	54.00
1105 LFRG expenses	17.55	0.00	17.55
1110 Gulliford cemetery	0.00	0.00	0.00
1115 Burial Ground	0.00	0.00	0.00
1120 YC Maintenance	641.00	128.20	769.20
1125 YC Utilities	938.10	46.90	985.00
1130 Website etc	1,180.50	0.00	1,180.50
1135 Adv Weath	0.00	0.00	0.00
1140 Gully Emptying	0.00	0.00	0.00
1145 Parishes Together	0.00	0.00	0.00
1150 Hub Projects	4,116.58	256.83	4,373.41
1155 Cont VH Car Park	0.00	0.00	0.00
1160 DCC / DCF Funding	0.00	0.00	0.00

1165	YC Recharge	0.00	0.00	0.00
1170	Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
1180	FLOS	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000	S137 Funding	0.00	0.00	0.00
2010	Other Grants	282.25	56.45	338.70
9999	VAT Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Council Total		63,219.56	3,668.11	66,887.67
Total Payments		63,219.56	3,668.11	66,887.67

Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£282,223.00
	£282,223.00
Total	£282,223.00

24/98.3 Clerk's Action List

RESOLVED that the Council received and noted the Clerk's action list.

24/99 Reports from the Chairman, East Devon District Councillors and Devon County Councillors

District Cllr Jung read his report:

Good evening.
Hope you had a good Summer!
*Regarding the summer (which has not been brilliant) I would like to just bring you update with the problems experienced with us having to advice "**no bathing**" on many of our beaches especially Exmouth.*
*This has been the result of pollution incidents caused by **South West Water**.*
I can assure you we as a council are doing everything possible to persuade SWW to bring their £28m investment forward, but as this is happening elsewhere in the South West, and OFWAT have not yet agreed to the increase in customer fees to cover for these investments, I do not imagine its going to be a quick fix! Nor do I expect the engineering costs to stay the same.
*To protect the Exmouth sewage works area (which Lympstone is included) any planning application that may increase the capacity for sewage will have an attachment to their planning permission restricting the start of construction or occupation of the property until SWW have provided assurances that the infrastructure is sufficiently improved for the projected increased capacity. These are known as **"Grampian Orders".***
However, the downside could reduce the housebuilding numbers.
*This again has been a hot topic with the new **Government's proposed changes to the NPPF** and the so-called 'standard method' for calculating housing numbers, will be uplifted by an extra 28% in East Devon.*
However, EDDC has a cunning plan as there is short window of opportunity for East Devon to move forward with its current draft plan using the 'old' housing numbers – provided we are able to publish a completed draft within one month of the new NPPF being published.
They plan to publish the new policy before the end of the year but could be anytime from late October. Our intended schedule for some time has been to publish the plan in early December, and we are confident this is still achievable.
Its going to be tight but both Officers and Councillors are up to the challenge.

Cllr Culhane asked when a Grampian Order was issued to SWW, how much time was allocated to adhere to it. Cllr Jung explained that SWW would set the time frame. Cllr Atkins felt an embargo should be in place for no future development until issues were resolved.

District Cllr Ingham raised two issues:

1. EDDC planning committee met on the 20th August to discuss a planning development at Meeting Lane/Strawberry Hill site. He felt the decision made by the Council to refuse was the correct one, but he was upset by the conduct of both Officers and Cllrs and he was following this up. He felt a couple of Cllrs had tried to affect how the decision was controlled and recorded. He added that a clear message had been delivered by LPC that if the site was to be developed then improvements to the design should be made. He felt more effort should have been made to support the Cllrs. He felt embarrassed by the behaviour and incompetence displayed by some members.
2. EDDC Strategic Planning committee was being held on the 3rd Sept. There was a lot of agreement to move forward by Cllrs and he hoped Officers would be more supportive. He added that it was important that any speakers registered must only speak on the selected site raised at that time.

County Cllr Trail explained that regarding the recent sewage works, David Reed MP had met with SWW and an independent assessor and in a few weeks a report would be released. He added that SWW should be working with both District Councils and the Government altogether. Cllr Trail explained that he had met with local businesses who all wanted works to be renewed with new pipes and not repairs to save our town and provide good quality water. Cllr Trail reported that A376 works would begin this week in preparation for the Dinan Way link road. He asked that all correspondence regarding the work was copied to both him and County Cllr Scott. There was a stop on all planned work on surrounding external roads, so these remained clear for diversions (except for any emergency work). Cllr Minter asked if any traffic calming schemes would be in place on the diversions along minor roads. Cllr Trail explained that all this would be considered once diversions were in place. A member of the public asked if this information had been published to let residents know. County Cllr Scott explained that once processes were completed and disruption was assessed and agreed then dates and information were published. Cllr Culhane raised the flooding concerns regarding the Dinan way link road. Cllr Scott explained that the appropriate regulations had been followed and put in place.

The Chair read her report:

Welcome to the return of the council meetings at the end of the summer break, although I know a few of our Councillors have not had any time off.

Thank you to Cllr Linfoot and Cllr Francis for their hard work towards our planning responses to EDDC.

Thank you to Cllr Minter for his hard work in helping the PC through the summer and his dedication to get the Beating of the Bounds reinstated for this Saturday.

And to all Cllrs that have continued to contribute towards all things Lympstone through the summer, your commitment has been appreciated.

We now have a painted Hub building and the phone Library on Gibraltar Road nearly completed, thank you to Cllr Linfoot for continuing to liaise with the payback scheme throughout the summer, it's been appreciated.

The Station volunteers have been busy, the bank along Station Hill is looking awesome, such a great welcome for arrivals into Lympstone, thank you to Lynn and the team.

The Furry dance was a great success, a change of route brought villagers out to enjoy this community day, thank you to the team who worked to get this together.

To the annual garden show volunteers, so much local produce for display and the amazing art competition that so many including the school got involved with, thank you.

This village has proved what a great community it is, pulling together, joining together and working together, so thank you all.

24/100 Land to the south of Hulham Road - EDDC Ref: Lymp_14

Simon Collier, the agent from Eagle Investments (SW) and Nick Yeo of 3 West were both present. Simon explained that the current landowners of this site were working with 3 West on an outline planning application. He handed out maps for all present to view with a brief synopsis of the outline planning for the site. He explained that he wanted the PCs involved in early discussions and run an online consultation. He wanted to hear all suggestions and questions. He explained that there would be approx. a maximum of 80 properties proposed and access/exit would be through the new Goodmores estate. He explained that Goodmores development was providing facilities and amenities to the Parish on site. This outline plan would be an addition to the existing development. He added that the new site would be recommended as a site suitable for development and meet housing needs for the area and East Devon. Contributions would be made to EDDC as necessary. He added if there were any additional needs required then to let him know.

Cllr Minter asked what types of houses would be built as there was a need for the retired and for young families. He felt this area was quite isolated from Lympstone and Exmouth town centres. Nick Yeo explained that they were in talks with EDDC and LFC for a sports pitch, employment opportunities and community amenities within the Goodmores development. Nick would update the PC with the Goodmores amenities. Approx 50-70% of the houses would be a mix of affordable and social rent, first homes and shared ownership. All would be policy compliant. Simon added that any affordable houses would remain affordable in perpetuity. A resident explained that the current proposed recreation facility included car parking but no changing facilities. The new play area proposed was a long way from the properties and could be an area for disruption. Nick explained that the play area would be in control of the management committee and the pitches would not host a changing facility. He added that the timings of pitch use would also be under the management committee's control. Simon also explained that the increased vehicle use through Goodmores development would be properly assessed. Nick explained that the surface water and drainage issues would be assessed and dealt with accordingly.

The Chair asked all present that if there were any further queries then to email the Clerk to pass on to Simon and Nick.

24/101 Planning applications

The following item (23/1514/VAR) was brought forward:

24/101.3 24/1514/VAR - Variation of condition 2 (plans condition) of application 20/0993/MRES (Reserved matters application (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 14/0330/MOUT for 300 residential units including 16 affordable units, associated roads, open space (formal and informal) and an attenuation basin; the provision of serviced land for mixed-use employment/commercial uses and land for the provision of a primary school) to allow for layout and appearance amendments to approved plots 1-40 (inclusive) at Goodmores Farm.

Cllr Minter asked Nick Yeo of 3 West to send LPC a brief outline to explain the alterations in layman's terms. Nick agreed he would send this information to the Clerk.

24/101.1 24/1233/FUL - Removal of existing conservatory, replace with single storey rear extension. Formation of two roof dormers on west elevation, addition of timber cladding at Basses Longmeadow Road.

Cllr Francis gave a brief outline of the application design. Cllr Staddon proposed to support the application. Cllr Atkins seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the Clerk send the recommendation of support from LPC to EDDC.

24/101.2 24/1472/FUL - Proposed loft conversion including rear dormer and hip to gable enlargement at 9 Glebelands.

Cllr Atkins proposed to support the application. Cllr Francis seconded. Unan. Cllr Staddon declared a personal interest.

RESOLVED that the Clerk send the recommendation of support from LPC to EDDC.

24/102 Planning decisions

RESOLVED that the EDDC decisions were noted.

24/103 Reports of Committees

24/103.1 Community committee

Cllr Francis reported on her meeting with the webmasters 22nd Aug 2024:

Changes on Lympstone.org since last meeting:

- *The major upgrade has been very successful and the site is now operating more efficiently. Both Webmasters are able to access it easily now which is far less frustrating and time consuming for them. (As both are volunteers this is very important.)*
- *The new design and layout look good and is hopefully easier to navigate. Especially positive is that the whole site works better on tablets/mobile phones now.*
- *LFRG now have their own dedicated section/pages on the site. This is very positive and useful for information to the community. This seems to be working well and the group seem pleased with the addition. If they desired and if there was someone of sufficient skill to administer it they could be given access to their own area and update it themselves.*
- *Lympstone Village social media site has 1617 followers a reach of 6.15% and engagement of 5%.*

Ongoing work/issues/minus points

- *The Website Front Page requires a user input to view any information – this was done by the consultant to simplify the page and reduce issues with carousels*
- *The webmasters miss having the flexibility to readily display important/upcoming news/events on the homepage and are investigating the possibility of using the banner image to convey this eg Furry Dance image with caption of the date*
- *Ongoing work will be an update of the Website Manual documenting the changes and operational changes the upgrade has necessitated.*
- *The Webmasters are sad that all the galleries from the old format have been lost during the transition to the new system. The Webmasters are revising and working on this. Some very old different sized format pictures have been lost and some are now blank. There is still work to be done but it is hoped some galleries can be recovered.*
- *Recently some out of date information on the site was brought to the attention of The Webmasters. This has now been updated. It is very difficult for the Webmasters to spot all the changes that are needed – they try their best and do rely on the PC/public to let them know if they have overlooked something.*

Discussion about PC possibly transitioning to a gov.uk domain address.

- *This was triggered by a question from the Clerk after the auditor's recommendation. The summary from this part of the meeting will be documented separately.*

Cllr Francis thanked the Webmasters for their many hours of work on our and the Communities behalf.

Meeting closed 11:05

Cllr Payne reported on the Hub rebuild planning application. She explained that the public comments had now closed, there had been six support and four object comments online. The objections all focused on no parking for the facility. She explained that the facility was for villagers only so parking would not be provided and there was no café proposed. The new building would be simply replacing the current building to upgrade it and not to increase footfall.

24/103.2 Environmental Committee

Cllr Culhane read out a statement from LWQG:

The Lympstone Water Quality Group will continue as a community-led partnership project team (as intended from the start), and not a working group of the Parish Council. We value the Parish Council's involvement as a key partner, and your support is very much appreciated. As you know, Cllr Susie Culhane will be attending project meetings, when she can, to help the flow of communications between us, and she recently joined us at a meeting on 27 August.

The project aim is simple - to assess, protect and improve the water quality in the Wotton Brook and Exe Estuary. The issue of increasing water pollution in our natural watercourses in England is now widely recognised, and we are in contact with several other communities in Devon (River Sid, Dart, Yealm, Avon, etc.) who are experiencing similar problems and challenges – increasing pressure from agricultural runoff, road and urban runoff, and sewage releases (exacerbated by development and climate change). Declining water quality is not only a serious environmental issue - it has major implications for the local economy and human health and wellbeing. It is also closely interrelated with flooding and biodiversity – hence the importance of the links between the Lympstone Water Quality Group, Lympstone Flood Resilience Group, and Wild About Lympstone.

Since early 2024, we have made considerable progress in establishing the catchment-based project in Lympstone (summarised further below). Our next steps are to:

• Organise a catchment workshop (for late November) - working closely with Nick Paling at SWW, and involving representatives of all stakeholders groups.

• Investigate nature-based solutions and other opportunities to improve the water quality in the Brook and Estuary (working closely with the relevant stakeholders).

• Work with the key stakeholders to develop a catchment action plan.

• Develop and implement a plan to raise the awareness and involvement of the wider Lympstone community.

• Continue with the regular water monitoring, but also conduct more investigation monitoring and review the overall monitoring programme for the longer term.

• Continue to strive to minimise the threats to the water quality - e.g., not just making comments on planning applications, the Local Plan, and the Lympstone Neighbourhood plan (as we have been doing), but also working to raise awareness, influence decision-makers at the early stages of planning, and to support the local and national debate on these critical issues.

Our key achievements to date have been:

• Establishing a water quality monitoring programme for the Wotton Brook - with the support of the Westcountry Rivers Trust and Riverfly Partnership who have provided training, equipment, and guidance.

• Recruiting an additional 15 community volunteers to support the monitoring programme, observe the Brook and Estuary, and help raise awareness among the wider community.

• Securing the support of the Environment Agency, SWW, the Woodland Trust, and other community group/organisations in Lympstone.

• Gaining a good understanding of the sources and pathways of pollution in the catchment, and the threats to the water quality.

• Highlighting the improvements needed in the planned Dinan Way Extension drainage systems (and securing some improvement), and submitting comments on other key planning applications, the Local Plan, and Neighbourhood Plan.

• Sharing experience with, and learning from, other communities in Devon (e.g., the River Sid and Yealm).

Thank you for your continuing support.
Lympstone Water Quality Group

Cllr Culhane explained that she was happy to continue working with LWQG.
Cllr Minter added that he felt this was the best decision for the group as they had become more of a political pressure group. He felt there needed to be a clear definition between LWQG, WAL and LFRG and ensure their respective objectives and work were kept separate and not conflated; all were started for diverse and different reasons. He also explained that Cllr Culhane would have to make sure she had no conflict of interest when working with them and the PC.

Cllr Staddon reported that the EA baseline for the Biodiversity Net Gain project in the Parish had surveyed Front Meadow and felt this was not a viable option. She suggested that possible alternate areas to consider would be Candy's Field and a field in the Mill area.

24/103.3 Planning and Transport committee

Cllr Francis reported on the EDDC workshop held on 26th July. She explained that the meeting had been held under Chatham House rules. All the points made from LPC had been agreed by the PC at the Part B meeting and the final decisions on each site would be made tomorrow at EDDC strategic planning meeting.
Cllr Francis reported on the EDDC planning meeting held on 20th August:

Goodness me, the whole experience of the planning meeting to consider this application was quite stressful – it was a knife edge decision as you will see in the following but eventually after over two hours 23/1269/MFUL land south of Meeting Lane was refused.
Our sincere thanks to the objectors Caroline Linfoot, Mark and Jane Moffat, John Brewer for LFRG, Susie Culhane for Sophie Cocks (WAL) plus District Councillors Jung and Ingham who all spoke so well on why the plan should not be accepted. Also, thanks to Woodbury Parish Council for support in voicing their concerns about the proposed plans. Lastly, unending gratitude to Cllr Linfoot who co-ordinated all our efforts to ensure all our objection points were covered and led our team.
Perhaps it is just cynicism on our part but The East Devon Planning Team Officers had recommended to Committee the approval of the planning application and seemed to us to do all they could to pass it especially when the Committee had doubts to press for it to go forward. We were also very disappointed that some of the committee did not appear to listen to our submissions scrolling down through their screens while we were speaking or maybe it was just because they were looking for policy points to support our arguments!
The first proposal was a vote for approval of the plan with additional conditions for grey water management but it struggled to find a seconder and was subsequently not carried. We thought this equated to a refusal but the system doesn't work like that – concrete reasons for refusal have to be made and voted on.
Upper most in some members of the Committee's minds was the recent experiences in Exmouth of the infrastructure being unable to cope with sewage, the resulting spills and SWW's seeming inability to properly fix the problem. This seems obvious to us that lack of adequate infrastructure can be used to as a good reason for a proposal not to progress but seemingly in planning terms it isn't enough. Discussion went round and round with a virtual impasse on what could be cited as strong reasons for a refusal. The cost of any resulting appeal to The Planning Inspectorate if the applicants decided to do so was almost used as a reason not to support a refusal motion.
Eventually after quite an embarrassing trawl on the committee's part for 'strong' reasons a motion for refusal was put forward and carried. The developer was gently criticised for not engaging sufficiently and listening to us. It was important we think that the committee

recognised in principle the PC were not against development but that if development took place, then our arguments for infrastructure, safety, character and layout of developments had to considered and form part of their decision-making process.
Our teamwork paid off in this instance and we are delighted but unfortunately the outline planning application for the same site and same development is still in the system and they have the option to appeal this decision. Round 1 to the Village but the ball is now in the developer's court, and we have to wait and see what happens next.

The Chair explained that there had been some debate over the PC response to GH/ED/73 EDDC site which would be read tomorrow and wanted to ensure all Cllrs were content with it. Cllr Francis raised a point of order where the response had been agreed by a resolution by Council at their Part B in July and could not be changed within six months or without six Cllr signatories to rescind the decision. The Chair read the response. Cllr Culhane felt it did not reflect the public consultation's view from June. District Cllr Jung explained that development would provide CIL funding to assist infrastructure improvements and S106 funding for facilities. A Grampian order would also be implemented. Cllr Payne added that the PC was being forced to accept something, had drafted a response for the best of the Parish and had been voted on. Cllr Francis reminded all that the response had been drafted from responses received from members of the public and the PC Part B meeting. Cllr Payne and Cllr Gale-Hasleham made minor amendments to the language used. Cllr Staddon proposed the minor changes. Cllr Gale-Hasleham seconded. Cllr Francis, Minter and Payne also supported. Cllr Culhane abstained. Cllr Atkins declared a pecuniary interest.

RESOLVED that the minor changes to LPCs response GH/ED/73 for EDDC strategic planning meeting was agreed to be read out.

The Clerk asked District Cllr Jung to report back to EDDC the unnecessary pressure put on Parish Councils and their members during the summer recess regarding sites for development. EDDC sent out their agendas with the five days statutory notice which meant parish councils did not have enough statutory time to call their own meeting for the PC, PC committees and members of the public to gather their responses.

24/104 Items for the next Agenda

Report from the Assets and Amenities committee meeting on 16th Sept.
Update on the Hub building.
Update from DALC Cllr training.

Meeting closed: **9.20pm**

Chairman: Date: