MINUTES OF AN ASSETS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 6.30PM ON THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2025.

PRESENT:	
Councillors	D Atkins (DGA) (Lead Cllr), S Culhane (SC), S Francis (SF), R Gale-Hasleham (RGH), K Hill (KH) and L Staddon (LS) (LPC Chair)
Clerk	Miss L Tyrrell
County Councillors	None
District Councillors	None
Public	None

Public session

DGA as lead Cllr for Assets and Amenities chaired the meeting.
No members of the public were present to speak.

AAC 25/1 Apologies

Cllr Payne due to other commitments.

RESOLVED that the apologies were accepted.
LS proposed. RGH seconded. Unan.

AAC 25/02 To receive any Declarations of Interest

LS declared a personal interest with item 25/04c as a member of Lympstone football club.

AAC 25/03 Candys Field:

a) Picnic benches
DGA reported that the PC contractor would be installing concrete plinths for the picnic benches to be secured to in Candys Field. Two would be situated outside the play area and one in the small space off the footpath and next to the preschool. It was agreed that for safety reasons, this work needed to be completed by end of May.

b) ROSPA safety report
DGA explained he had the report and had asked the PC contractor to complete the necessary maintenance and repairs to be completed by end of May. It was agreed that the Clerk would give the PC contractor a list of the work to be completed.
ACTION that the Clerk would compile a list of outstanding work for the PC contractor to refer to.

c) Loose stones and rubble
DGA suggested that the community payback scheme was asked to clear and collect the rubble from the area. He would arrange removal of the rubble.

d) Dead Ash trees
Noted this was referring to dead Elm trees not Ash.
DGA explained these were trees along the footpath from the field to Trafalgar Road. It was unknown who this strip of land belonged to so it was agreed that no action would be taken at this time.

LS proposed that LFC was asked to remove their plastic goal posts behind the preschool as they had fallen apart and needed taking away. Unan agreed.
ACTION that LPC write to LFC to remove the plastic goal posts.

SC highlighted a concern of preschool spraying weed killer around the perimeter and on the PCs land of their outside play area. LS explained that a preschool trustee had been asked to find out exactly what work had been completed which was unknown to the PC. SC proposed that if the explanation was not adequate then the preschool should be written to highlight the concern and prevent it happening again. Unan agreed.
ACTION that LPC write to preschool regarding the use of weed killer if an initial response was not adequate.

e) Garden waste from neighbouring properties
DGA explained that two neighbouring properties had dumped garden waste over their hedge and into the field. He proposed LPC write to the tenants and the housing association to politely ask that it was not repeated. Unan agreed.
ACTION that LPC write to the tenants and housing association regarding dumped garden waste.

AAC 25/04 Cliff Field:

a) Mound of soil
DGA agreed that the mound of soil needed pulling back from the cliff edge. He felt that LFC had placed the soil in the wrong position and should rectify it. LS explained that LFC believed they had put the soil it in the right place.

RESOLVED that the soil would be spread evenly across the field, so no mound was left.
LS proposed. SF 2nd. Unan.

b) Correspondence with NT
DGA had met with members of the NT to discuss the cliff edge, tree safety management, kissing gate and parcel of land off the Avenue. The NT explained that anything that eroded away from the Cliff edge was the responsibility of the landowner of the foreshore.

d) Kissing gate
DGA explained that the kissing gate had cost over £3,000 to be made and installed. He felt it was not viable due to drainage infrastructure and the cliff edge to move the gate. LS suggested just removing the swing gate inside the cage to allow easier access to the field. The Clerk explained that the PC had received two or three complaints about the limited access and the same number had written a positive response about replacing and keeping the historic gate.

RESOLVED that the gate would remain as it was.
DGA proposed. RGH seconded. KH supported.
LS, SF and SC objected.
DGA supported the resolution with a casting vote.

c) LFC container and goal posts
LS suggested that LFC removed a pair of unused goal posts. Unan agreed.
ACTION that LPC would write to LFC to remove one set of goal posts.

DGA suggested the remaining pile of soil be scattered evenly across the area. The other pair of goal posts must be locked to a steel hoop to prevent use from members of the public. KH suggested a deadline of end of August for the old container to be removed and replaced with new. SC suggested that the action was diarised and reviewed at the PCs Sept agenda.

AAC 25/06

1) **Avenue Field**

a) Repaint gates
DGA explained that the gates had been repainted last summer, but the paint was already peeling off. It needed repainting and varnishing to seal from the sea air. SC highlighted the fact that the current paint would need sanding off before re-painting. RGH suggested the community pay back scheme completed this work. Unan agreed.
ACTION that the repaint would be added to the community payback scheme list of work.

SC asked if the rotting large hay bale be removed at the entrance to the field. DGA to action.

2) **Parcel of Land off The Avenue**

a) Action for area
LS proposed the area was used as a quiet space. SF suggested a quiet reflective area with scented sensory plants. KH suggested planting a couple of fruit trees. SC suggested no dogs allowed in the area.

b) Working party formation
LS explained that a working party could be easily formed with volunteers to clear and develop the area. She suggested aiding the group with a map of the area and SC suggested providing the group with guidelines from the PC of how the area should be developed. RGH explained that the area could be initially cleared by the community payback scheme. He would meet with DGA to view and delineate the area.

c) Plan for clearance of area
DGA suggested a mini skip be used to clear all rubbish from the area. KH suggested that once cleared a fence should be erected. It was agreed to wait for a fence discussion until the area was cleared.

d) Fencing and gate
DGA explained that the hanging gate post was still fit for purpose but the small fence alongside was rotten. He suggested that the PC contractor replace this fence once the area was cleared.

AAC 25/07 Cemetery

a) Levelling graves
b) Straightening headstones

DGA reported that to straighten the leaning headstones and level the graves would cost in the region of £20,000 to complete all the necessary work. CIL money could be used for this. Cllrs felt this was a lot of money to spend on this work. The Clerk highlighted the fact that leaning headstones were a health and safety concern if they wobbled and prone to falling over. LS suggested that Cllrs viewed the area and came back to Council with their thoughts.

DGA raised a concern of one of the trees in the cemetery was leaning and possibly dying. SC suggested that she ask Mr Andy Lewis for his professional opinion on the tree and report back to Council.

AAC 25/08 Other areas of concern

1) Volunteers for Front Meadow
   RGH explained that the community payback scheme had started strimming along the edges of the footpaths and spot weeding the paths. They would continue to tidy the area.
   Cllrs shared concerns of the amount of dock plants growing tall and strong in the wild meadow area. The area was looking very untidy and unkept. SC explained that a wild meadow should have been better maintained in the beginning and was now out of control.

   RESOLVED that the 'wild meadow' would be mowed to 4" to top the tall weeds and remove all trimmings.
   LS proposed. DGA seconded. Unan.

2) Volunteer to plant The Green
   KH explained that the current volunteer was giving up the planting. He believed that the station bank volunteers had agreed to take over. LS would speak with the group to confirm.
3) Weeds along School Hill
   DGA explained that cut vegetation from the church yard had fallen through the railings and weed growth was apparent along the bottom of the Church wall. RGH explained that this weeding could be added to the community pay back scheme work. Unan agreed.
   ACTION that the weeding along the base of the church wall, on School Hill, would be added to the community payback scheme list of work.

4) Parking along Meeting Lane, Trafalgar and Gibraltar Road
   ACTION as agreed in the PC meeting 7th April 2025:
   RESOLVED that the PC would write to the commandant of CTCRM to express concerns and request a meeting with EDDC and Highways after the May elections.

5) Community noticeboard at Trafalgar Road
   DGA explained that the PCs contractor would be replacing the rotten wooden post of the community board by end of June.

RGH raised the issue of passing bays being used by parked cars. He also queried how long it took for yellow lines to be implemented once DCC had actioned. The Clerk explained it was a highways issue and due to current Purdah regulations would raise this with DCC Cllrs after the 1st May elections.

LS asked all Cllrs if they were happy with the Clerk using her initiative to ask certain professionals for advice to report back to Cllrs if it did not breach confidentiality. Unan agreed.
ACTION that the Clerk was able to research and ask for appropriate advice from a range of professionals to benefit the Parish Council.

AAC 25/09 Items for the next Agenda

Levelling graves and straightening headstones.

Meeting closed: **8.33pm**

Chairman: Date: