

Minutes of the Yealmpton Parish Annual meeting

Held on April 11th, 2022 in the YCA Community Room at 7.30 pm

In the absence of Councillor Thomas, Councillors invited Cllr Baldry to take the chair.

In attendance: 6 Councillors and 1 member of the public.

1. The minutes of the 2021 meeting were approved by Council on June 21st, 2021.
2. Annual Report from Cllr Thomas, Chairman. (Read in his absence)

As always, the last 12 months have been eventful ones for Yealmpton Parish Council. In-person meetings resumed in June last year to mixed support, but certainly to be able to welcome meaningful public participation has been very positive.

I would like to mention the following projects during 2021/22, some of which are ongoing:

- Yealmpton Environment Group, a sub-committee of the Council, has worked proactively around the village to find a happy balance between pretty and nature friendly. The tree planting and verge cutting schedules are to be applauded.
- Fibre To The Premises. Started by the Council, this attempt to provide faster broadband to those parishioners south of the river is now being led by Colin McCormick and Jamie Dyer, who have assumed the role of our Community Champions.
- Footpath 19: Cllr Barton continues to lead a small sub-group who are aiming to establish a circular extension of FP19 to incorporate the riverbank. Kitley Estates have agreed a small section of Permissive Path in principle. At the time of writing, documents are shortly to be delivered to DCC for consideration.
- As well as the usual ongoing maintenance to benches and noticeboards, Council has this year repainted the railings at the bottom of Footpath 30 and added a handrail up the pavement adjacent to Torr Hill to assist villagers.
- Village Survey – this has now been delivered to every house in the Parish and will be used by the PC to establish community desire on a number of relevant issues. It is the first for 15 years and we very much hope for a good level of response.
- Precept – due to sound financial management, the Council has made no increase to the Precept for the forthcoming year, being our share of the council tax (which pays for all works carried out by the Council).
- Yealmpton Press – we have now seen a full year's worth of free Yealmpton Press, using a proportionate of the precept to ensure that every home in the village (and almost all in the Parish) is delivered a gratis copy. I sincerely hope that this model will continue for years to come. As I hand over the role of Chairman to another Councillor, this decision above all others over the last 5 years is the one of which I am most proud. (Though of course it was, like all the good decisions I make, originally suggested to me by my wife).

A busy Council is only possible when its members are equally busy. To that end, I would like to thank all those who have served over this last year, and indeed over all 5 years that I have been in the Chair. We are equally blessed with a hard-working and prudent Clerk, who must take almost all of the credit for there being no precept rise this year. Finally, I would like to remember my good friend Cllr Alan Cooper, whose wise counsel and good humour I miss a great deal.

3. Joint Annual report from District Councillors, Thomas and Baldry (presented by Cllr Baldry)

During this year we made a successful recommendation from the Sustainable Locality Fund for payments to Yealmpton Allotment and Gardeners for a storage container, Yealmpton Girl Guides and Brownies and for 2 computers at Yealmpton Primary School. Our allocation for 2021-22 was fully spent, but we expect to receive a further allocation this financial year.

The South Hams share of Council Tax agreed for 2022-23 will be increased by £5 pa for a band D property. The South Hams share of Council tax is less than 10% of the total Council tax bill. The main elements are County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner.

In March 2021 revised arrangements for refuse collection were introduced by FCC, the Council's contractor. It is fair to say that some of the new rounds did not work well. Garden waste collection was suspended from August 2021 until the end of last month. Some areas are still not receiving the full recycling collection as required in the contract. This includes a separate food waste collection. Legal pressure is being applied to FCC.

4. Annual report from County Councillor, Dan Thomas. (read in his absence)

- Covid – clearly, the last year has been very difficult for us all. It is great to be meeting in person again and I look forward to supporting the Parish, where possible, in ensuring it remains connected and resilient – one of the principal heads of the new County Corporate Strategy.
- Vaccination Programme - I must praise the NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group for their sterling work, disseminating information on Covid vaccines as well as the excellent publicity campaigns that they ran. It is gratifying that so many arms were vaccinated and boosted in Devon as a direct result of their efforts. This month's message around Spring Boosters is indicative of their keenness to keep the message going.
- Finance. This year's budget sees a significant amount of money pumped into adult care and health, with an extra investment of £29.6million. Children's Services are also well supported with an extra £17.1million investment. It is unfortunate that this money will have to be paid primarily out of County reserves, as the money supplied by central government dwindles still further. As a direct result, the Council has had no alternative other than to raise Council Tax by 2.99% (£45.18 for a Band D property) towards meeting the shortfall.
- Locality Budgets. I was very happy to support Yealmpton Parish with £400 towards the railings at the bottom of FP30, £500 to YAGA for their new store and £375 to FYVS for computer equipment (totalling £1275). It is regrettable that Councillor budgets are being reduced next year from £10 000 to £8 000 as part of the Council's drive to cut costs. I will be able to support the Parish again next year, but clearly money will be tighter.
- 20mph limits – much of my time as a County Councillor has been frustrating when it has come to requests for speeding reductions. I was therefore very happy to learn that the Newton Abbot trial had been dropped. County have now decided that Parishes can apply to be considered for 20mph zones and I was happy to support an application from this Parish.
- Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education. As well as my County responsibilities on the Public Rights of Way Committee and Dartmoor National Park Authority, I also sit on SACRE. I have attended a number of meetings this year where we have examined, amongst other topics, the Devon Agreed Syllabus and mechanisms for supporting teachers in the delivery of faiths other than Christianity.
- Highways. As a local team, Nick Colton and I continue to respond to complaints and requests for help from individual parishioners regarding the state of the highway. We are very lucky to have Nick in this division and I am both grateful for, and salute, his proactivity.
- Finally, I would say that I am always happy to be contacted via phone or email if I can assist in any way – I am enormously grateful to the people of Yealmpton for their ongoing support.

5. Presentation on 'Dementia Villages around the Yealm'.

Postponed until the May council meeting.

6. Short presentation by Councillor Craddock on the activities of 'Yealmpton & Brixton Community Friendship' and 'Men's Shed'.

- These two Community Groups both address the social problems of loneliness and isolation.
- They are run separately and funded separately.
- Men's Shed basically runs itself through volunteers and attendees as a friendship group with common interests in various craft activities but mainly woodworking.
- Y&B Community Friendship has a new coordinator, Anna Malone. Anna will talk to YPC in May. After 6 months without a coordinator, Anna has plenty of catching-up to achieve.
- Y&B Community Friendship runs on a 1-1 friendship befriending principle.
- Y&B coffee mornings are on Friday's with about 20 ladies attending.
- Y&B costs about £7,000 p.a. to run and needs more funding.

Cllr Craddock requested an opportunity to make a further presentation when Anna is available to meet council.

7. Any other business.

None.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.