

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE
YCA COMMUNITY ROOM ON NOVEMBER 14th 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present:

		Cllr. Baldry	*
Cllr. Craddock	*	Cllr Mackay	@
Cllr. Endicott	*	Cllr. Tucker	*
Cllr Thomas	*	Cllr. Barton	*
Cllr. Durman	@	Cllr Hopkins	*

* Denotes attendance

@ Denotes absence

Also attending:

Members of the public
3
County Councillor
1
Police
1

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from Cllr Durman

2. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR THOMAS

Grave budget warning from Devon County Council leader

Deep cuts to Devon's vital local services are inevitable unless the Government provides more support, county council leader John Hart warned today.

Mr Hart said he fully agreed with new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that the country faced a "profound economic crisis".

But he urged Mr Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt to use the extra time they now have to produce their economic recovery plan to ensure the balance between tax rises and spending cuts was fair and equitable. And that local government is not singled out for cuts.

"I have been a county councillor for more than 30 years and leader of Devon County Council for nearly 14 years during which time we have been through the austerity years and the pandemic," said Mr Hart.

"But our financial situation has never been so bleak as it is now.

"Before the summer we revealed a black hole in our finances for this year due to surging demand for help and support for vulnerable children and adults, the continuing costs of the pandemic and the dramatic rise in costs and inflation.

"We have been working hard to find savings in this current financial year but it's like filling the bath with the plug out as demand for our services and our costs keep escalating.

"On top of that we now calculate that - as things stand - we face a £75

million shortfall in our budget for next year."

Mr Hart said a report from the National Audit Office had revealed a 53.7 per cent cut in Government funding for local councils between 2010 and 2020. Devon's core funding from the Government had reduced by 72 per cent in real terms in the 11 years up to 2021/22.

"Despite that, this council has maintained help and support for the young, the old and the vulnerable by becoming more effective and efficient," he said.

"When other councils were closing libraries to save money, we kept all ours open. We maintained a youth service in every district. We've seen a steadily reducing number of potholes on our roads. We've ensured communities weren't cut off by subsidising bus services. We maintained our farms estate to give aspiring young farmers a chance to begin a career in farming.

"And we've helped to drive economic growth by overseeing infrastructure improvements on the A380 in South Devon and the North Devon link road, re-opening the Okehampton railway line and other stations and investing in improving high-tech skills through developments like the new training centre at Exeter Airport and support for work hubs for start-up businesses and small companies across the county.

"We've done all that without large-scale staff redundancies and we've kept council tax as low as possible. And we've done it all while committing to be net zero carbon by 2030.

"I am proud of that legacy. But all of the work we do will be under threat if we have to make drastic cuts across all our services to balance the books as we are required to do by law. However that will be the reality if the Government doesn't act to protect local government."

Mr Hart said Devon was not just calling for financial support and doing nothing to help itself.

The council had already put a freeze on staff recruitment in non-frontline areas, delayed planned investment in IT and infrastructure projects, cut its heating and lighting bills, squeezed all external contracts, stopped some routine road maintenance and reduced winter gritting routes as well as reviewing its school transport contracts and public transport subsidies.

Devon MPs were being briefed so they could champion the county's case at Westminster and the authority was working with the County Councils' Network and the Local Government Association on national lobbying.

"We are here to do the very best for local people and to protect and support the most vulnerable and those in real need" he said.

"We will do everything in our power to continue to do this and find new ways to do things better and more sustainably.

“But, quite obviously, a bankrupt council can do none of these things and we have no choice now but to make savings that will inevitably hurt some people.”

3. REPORT FROM DISTRICT CLLRS BALDRY & THOMAS

- a) Community Composting – SHDC has 200K but no applications for grants have been received. Cllr Baldry will investigate SW Composting at Brixton.
- b) Waste & recycling has been back in house since 3 October, bins have been emptied with very few missed. Management and supervisors have sorted out collections. The subscription service starts in March, initial uptake has been good. Unwanted brown bins are being collected.
- c) Cllr Baldry is in contact with Tim Yonge about creating a footpath to Butts Park.
- d) Cllr Thomas is meeting to discuss the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan. Looking at electric vehicle infrastructure for villages such as provision of charging points.

4. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Tucker declared an interest in Agenda Item 9

5. MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Baldry that the minutes of the October 10th, 2022 Council Meeting be signed as a true record. Carried.

6.COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Works.** 1. Work on Hern Lane has been carried out. Resetting step on FP25 (Yealmbury Hill to Bowden Hill) delayed due to Covid.
- b) **Footpaths.** 1. FPs 10 (A379 to Dunstone Road and FP48 (Torr Bridge to Torr Bridge Park have been strimmed. 2. Claim through former Shire Horse Centre Fields - Cllr Barton has sent clarification requested by Emily Spurway, PROW Officer – Definitive Map. 3. Numbering of footpath posts – Cllr Barton will ask volunteers to check posts during the Annual Survey. 4. FP18 (Ford Road to Torr Farm) – safety signs still to do. 5. Bank work on FP20 (Stray Park to Puslinch Bridge) – Cllr Tucker will undertake this in March / April. 6. Cllr Tucker raised the problem of debris accumulating on the riverbanks preventing flow. The Clerk to contact the Environment Agency and riparian landowners for a solution to this. 7. FP30 (Fore Street to Bowden Hill) – mossy surface making it slippery – a discussion ensued as whether to spray with algicide / spread grit / scrape the surface, Cllr Craddock will ask the contractor, Jason to scrape it.
- c) **Roads / Pavements.** Problems with verge vegetation / overhanging hedges. Cllr Thomas will repeat request in Yealmlton Press for homeowners to cut back hedges. The Clerk will write to Cllr Baldry to request the road sweeper to visit after leaves have dropped.
- d) **Environment 1– Yealmlton Environment Group (YEG) -** Cllr Durman sent a report before the meeting:
Yealmlton Environment Group Nov 2022

YEG met on 20th October and Linda Durman was elected as chairman.

Trees.

Yealm Estuary to Moor (YEM) is working with Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), South Devon Community Forest and Veterans Outdoors to establish of a local tree nursery Lodge Gate field west of Ben's Farm Shop. The field is owned by Kitley Estate and the project has their agreement. Veterans Outdoors is a charity that offers short courses to aid recovery, or longer courses in forestry for those wanting to retrain. Up to 170 veterans are expected to use the training scheme initially. We have had two people interested in becoming a Tree Warden in Yealmpton.

Composting.

Linda has visited Brixton Community Composting facility and attended a Community Composting Gathering in South Brent. Newton and Noss, Holbeton and Ermington may wish to join in setting something up but we are at a very early stage at the moment and we have not yet identified a site. I will be discussing possible ways forward with members of the Five Parish Alliance and will report any plans to Parish Council.

Water

22 test kits that are now in use along the Yealm for the Westcountry Rivers Trust **Citizen Science** Initiative. Since training in July 2022 there have been over 65 reports validated from 25 sites along the Yealm. A community event for citizen scientists is planned for spring 2023. Tony Hawkins will aggregate data and compile reports approximately every six months.

Test kits for *E. Coli* will allow us to monitor levels in the Yealm. Historical *E. coli* data archived by the Environment Agency indicates that levels within the river have regularly exceeded safe bathing levels for over 20 years. Systematic monitoring and recording of pollution levels is a first step towards leveraging bathing status in the estuary and the river. A volunteer (who is professional microbiologist) has kindly offered to undertake all measurements; this ensures a standardised protocol and associated health and safety measures.

YEM has purchased continuous water and telemetry equipment and delivery is expected by the end of November 2022. It will be located at the EA Gauging Station and will enable monitoring of water temperature, water level, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and turbidity so that we will have detailed information on pollution events in real time and be able to use resulting data to bring pressure to bear on relevant bodies towards improving water quality. The Environment Agency has asked for access to all data from the probe on line in real time.

River Yealm Water Quality Group has compiled a document titled "Planning Guidance re Water Quality for the Riparian Parishes of the River Yealm", and this is available for use by Wembury, Brixton, Yealmpton, Newton & Noss, Ermington, Cornwood and Sparkwell Parish Councils in considering planning applications for any new development and extensions where the issue of the safe and sustainable disposal of surface water on site is part of the application.

YEG has submitted an application for funds to South Hams District Council to pay for a river fly survey along the length of River Yealm in 2023.

Domestic Heating.

South Dartmoor Community Energy are preparing an article for Yealmpton Press to explain how to access their service for people experiencing fuel poverty. This includes £200 grant for people using their service.

In addition SDCE have offered an evening in January advising on changing to more environmentally sustainable domestic heating systems. Five Parish Alliance (Brixton, Yealmpton, Wembury, Newton and Noss and Holbeton) have been invited to participate.

Active travel

Public footpaths - the proposal for a built up bank along footpath 20 to be extended to reduce damage by flooding from the Yealm. This is somewhat controversial but we agreed necessary as this is one of the few level footpaths accessible by people with limited mobility. Application for a public footpath through Shire Horse field has been submitted but progress now delayed by revision of Definitive Map at Devon County.

Bridleway

The eastern extension to Silverbridge Way is being explored as the access along the narrow pavement east from Ben's Farm Shop is dangerous for both cyclists and pedestrians. We hope to have a meeting with the Devon County Council Public Rights of Way - Parish Paths Liaison Officer - by the end of November. We met with two Plymouth Councillors to draw attention to the danger using Dawes Lane as the only pedestrian and cycle route linking Plymouth and South Hams. Resolution is said to have been estimated to cost £300,000 but no money tree has been allocated.

Community Composting

When planning a new facility, consider:

1. Management team to set up and manage (volunteers)
2. Site - accessibility if the public will be bringing material for composting

SHDC shredder will need access and turning circle – 30 square metres stacking area for materials that will need to be shredded
Bins for the shreds and other compostable materials to be layered (each to be turned into a neighbouring bin to speed composting up to 8 times a year)

Security to prevent fly tips

Hard standing if to be used throughout winter months cover and toilet for volunteers

Note: one existing site is 50 metres x 12 metres and only just enough.

3. Planning consent for change of use. Cost may reduce if application is by Parish Council. T23

4. Environment Agency permit – do not ask for a licence (needs

Barton

holding number for the field)

5. Costed business plan to include

- information on local demand (include info from Matt Crimp)
- policy on whether to charge for accepting compostable

material

- whether to apply for recycling credit scheme (I think government funded but administered by County and value of credit constantly reducing)

- disposal of finished compost (I don't think you can charge if you accept the part funding from SHDC for set up costs but you can ask for donations; number of bags collected is acceptable as proxy for output in Ashprington community compost site – small schemes don't seem to need to record weights of finished product)

whether part time job will be supported, as many schemes falter as volunteers age and withdraw.

Environment 2. Cllr Hopkins - 1. BeeWild working with the Church and Devon Living Churchyard Project have planted bulbs in the churchyard. 2. Cllr Hopkins has applied to the Environment Biodiversity Fund. Bee Wild supports the tree seed nursery project located behind Ben's Farm Shop.

e) Emergency. No report.

f) Communications. Cllr Barton will investigate sending and receiving from @yealmpton-pc.gov.uk addresses. Cllrs are encouraged to populate their folders in Dropbox.

g) Speed signs. No report

7.LOCAL ISSUES

a) Clerk recruitment. Interviews will take place early December. Panel to comprise Cllrs Craddock, Durman, Endicott and the Clerk.

b) Councillor recruitment. It was mentioned that we are no longer required to fill the Casual Vacancy but it would be better to appoint a Councillor for the rest of this term of the Parish council.

c) Police Report – Ryan Canning:

I have reviewed Calls and Crime Reports for the period 01/09/22.

Since 1st September there have been 29 Calls for service within the Parish. Some of these reports originate from incidents that have happened within the home environment so it would not be appropriate to comment on those.

There were however, other incidents such as;

5 X Road Traffic Collisions within the Parish. 2 were recorded as Damage only, 2 were classed as Slight Injury and of course, the event of Yealmbury Hill which resulted in loss of life.

Other incidents reported on the A379 inc a report of a Bull standing on the verge – 3 Sheep in the live lane – a female walking towards Modbury, again, in the live lane – a broken down vehicle blocking a live lane - a fallen telegraph pole across the A379 and a report of 'Erratic Driving'.

Officers were also called to assist Ambulance with what was initially reported as 3 heavily intoxicated 13-year-olds – upon the arrival of Ambulance (prior to Police) one youth was found to be unconscious. They had apparently raided a parents drinks cabinet.

We also received a report of two males going door-to-door offering some sort of car valeting service. An officer did locate the pair and no offences

were disclosed however, our advice would be to never engage in this type of approach and by all means, report to the police through 1010 / 999 as appropriate if you have concerns around criminality.

During the same period, there were 8 Crimes recorded within the Parish. Two of which were as follows;

One of the RTCs resulted in an arrest for Drink-Drive and there was of course, the damage reported at St Bartholomew's Church.

Kind regards

Sgt 5352 Ryan Canning, Ivybridge Police Station.

Tel Int 306410. Office – 01752 487010. Mob – 07525617856

d) Policies & Procedures 2022 for approval: This incorporates 22 documents and has been circulated and commented on. Comments were accepted and approval was proposed by Cllr Baldry and seconded by Cllr Thomas, all voted in favour.

8.PLANNING MATTERS

- 3264/22/HHO (105 Speculation, Underhay) - structure for photovoltaic array - **No** Objection.
- 3083/22/HHO (7 Hillside Drive, Yealmpton) - extension & alteration - **No** Objection.
- 3433/22/HHO (Yealmbridge Forge, Yealmbridge) - Loft extension - Objection.
- 3604/22/HHO (Battlehayes, Dunstone) - single storey extension - **No** Objection

9.FINANCIAL MATTERS

Total expenditure of £10,010.42 was approved after correction of total sum.

10.CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Jackie Esbacher had been received proposing a one-way system from Gala Cross to Lolesbury Cross then turning right past Gnaton to return to the Newton Ferrers Road. Council agreed that the proposal was worthy of consideration and the Clerk to forward this to Nick Colton.

11.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Precept meeting is on Monday, December 12th 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Yealmpton Community Centre. This is a "closed" meeting and is not open to the public.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.04 pm.

Sheila Barton

November 15th 2022

Open Forum.

Note: These notes do not form any part of the Council minutes.

A discussion was held with Brian Rowe who, with others, had attended a meeting organised by Cllr Thomas to discuss a strategy for the 20 is Plenty campaign – it was suggested that they consult other 20 is Plenty groups in addition to the Parish Council. It was noted that traffic is particularly fast entering the village near the garage, Brian Rowe commented that a recent speedwatch survey detected 40 vehicles travelling above the 30mph limit even when they could see speedwatch volunteers in high-vis monitoring the traffic. 'Cllr Craddock responded that the detection limit is 35mph and it is possible that vehicles were recorded before they reached the limit sign. We still seem to have a similar problem with both of our speed monitors on the A379 which may be the cause of them no longer operating due to excessive drain on battery life.'

The dangers to pedestrians walking along the narrow pavement to Yealm Bridge was discussed, Cllr Tucker said this was due to the hedge having slumped and this needed looking at.

Rob Pike attended from the police and problems in the village were raised: vandalism in the cricket field, the park, the church, Bakery Square. Rob Pike suggested that this was largely under-reported, there are few police officers covering a large geographical area and areas where reporting of problems is high does get the most attention. Cllr Craddock thanked him for attending and asked if someone from the police could attend every few months.