

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY January 9th 2023 at 7.30 pm**

Present:	Cllr Craddock (Chair)	*	Cllr Durman	*
	Cllr Endicott	*	Cllr Hopkins	*
	Cllr Thomas	*	Cllr Tucker	*
	Cllr Baldry	*	Cllr Barton	*
	Cllr Mackay	@		

* Denotes attendance @ Denotes absence

Also attending:	Members of the public: 2
	Police:
	1
	External Presentations:
	4

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Mackay

2. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Following the Christmas & New Year period Cllr Thomas advised the meeting there was nothing major to report.

Cllr Thomas informed the meeting that a wall had partially collapsed adjoining the A379, which he had forthwith raised with DCC and emergency works will be required.

Cllr Thomas also referred to the sterling service given to the Parish by the former Parish clerk and in recognition he suggested a plaque to record this be affixed to the Toll hut at Yealmbridge, as a gesture of appreciation from the Parish.

This met with approval and Cllr Thomas agreed to revert back with more detailed proposals.

3. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Baldry had nothing to report.

Cllr Thomas advised he would be reviewing budget proposals with the Council Executive.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Craddock recorded an interest as a trustee of Yealmpton Community Association

5. MINUTES OF THE MARCH COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr Baldry proposed and Cllr Endicott seconded "that the minutes of the November 14th council meeting be approved as an accurate record". Passed.

6.REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

a) WORKS:

Craddock

Cllr Craddock had been in contact with the contractor and following absence due to illness the contractor will be back to work this week and will be contacting Cllr Craddock to review his contractual requirements

Craddock

Cllr Barton advised the 3 steps on FP 25 (Bowden Hill to Yealmbuty Hill) are loose and require fixing, Cllr Craddock to ask our contractor to carry out the work.

Clerk

The Parish Christmas tree has now been taken down and formal thanks to be given those who kindly organised the installation of the tree.

Clerk

Payment with thanks to be made to Riverside Gardening.

b) FOOTPATHS:

Cllr Barton advised that the survey for P3 was nearly complete, thanks to the footpath volunteers who have reported on their paths.

There are issues with FP19 being that to the Shire Horse Centre, where the stiles either end would be better replaced with kissing gates but it's not appropriate at the present time to expend monies thereon until the claim for a public footpath along the river has been determined. It is thought the process of DCC considering this will happen when the PROW Officer dealing with the Definitive Map looks at Yealmpton.

The rock to climb over the stile at the Riverside end is slippery and a short-term solution would be to replace the rock with a step to improve accessibility.

The DCC Warden has not been replaced and this hence means the Parish must fund future maintenance itself. There are currently various issues such as broken and loose footpath posts.

c) ROADS & PAVEMENTS

Cllr Tucker referred to the recent inclement weather and in particular ice, rain and flooding. He added nothing had been undertaken by DCC to alleviate these issues.

Tucker

Cllr Tucker had himself undertaken remedial works in Yeo Park and at Yealmbridge. Cllr Endicott expressed his gratitude to Cllr Tucker as did Cllr Thomas. Cllr Craddock added Cllr Tucker should be remunerated for all his much appreciated work for the Parish and requested Cllr Tucker let the Parish have details for the works undertaken and the related costs.

Cllr Barton commented on the large number of potholes in the roads serving the Parish; the view of the meeting was to always report potholes to DCC.

d) ENVIRONMENT:

Cllr Durman is leading the Parish's response to the River Yealm pollution incident of 5th December 2022. A detailed report of the incident has been circulated prior to the meeting. There has been repeated incidents of clay being discharged into the river over a substantial period of time and this has fuelled public feeling in response to this latest serious incident.

The meeting assumed the Environment Agency has established the nature, source and ecological impact of that pollution and would take appropriate action to prosecute as may be appropriate, taking into account the necessary remedial steps to ensure that such pollution cannot recur.

**Durman
Craddock**

Cllr Craddock as Chair, in conjunction with Cllr Durman, will write to the Environmental Agency expressing the Parish's concern and requiring them to inform the Parish of the steps they are taking to sanction the defaulting organisation.

Cllr Thomas referred to an email to himself and the clerk, from a member of the Parish who had attended a meeting at Holbeton PC to discuss pollution in the river Erme and the role of SWW. There was a discussion of the related issue of combination foul and surface water drain. Government policy is long term, being the separation foul and surface drains by 2050. However, Aveton Gifford being in North Huish PC, has had the relevant drainage separation works undertaken and it was proposed that the Clerk contact the Clerk to North Huish to discuss how this was achieved.

Clerk

The clerk was asked to give thanks to the organisers of the Kitley Woodland Tree Planting Project.

YEG

The meeting discussed the provision of EV Charge Points in the village. It was suggested YEG prepare a short report for discussion and also undertake a discussion with the relevant SHDC officer. Cllr Thomas added possibly there are not enough car parking spaces in the village to free one up as a charging point.

e) EMERGENCY:

**Next Directory
Update**

Cllr Tucker had distributed 40 bags of 25 Kilo salt for use by the Parish. The salt had been widely used by the village with volunteers helping keep pavements ice free. The meeting agreed that the points where salt will be stored and available for distribution should be included in the Directory.

f) COMMUNICATION

The clerk now has an email address; there was a brief discussion in respect of whether Dropbox satisfied GDPR; Cllr Craddock commented that Dropbox does hold itself out as being compliant.

h) SPEED ISSUES

Mackay

There appears to be an issue of the detectors registering approaching vehicles before they actually reach the 30 mph zones and thereby "picking up" faster vehicle speeds; this also reduces the battery life of the detectors. Cllr Mackay to review the detectors.

7. LOCAL ISSUES

a) INCOME FROM S106 SOLAR FARMS: The income from the 2 solar farms is £3,921 pa of which the larger proportion is from Creacombe. The meeting considered whether these funds should be earmarked for environmental projects/ use or be unrestricted and thereby available towards general, unspecific use. It was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Tucker that the solar farm monies be restricted for environmental use with the proviso that if any of the annually received solar farm monies are not used within a 12 month window then the amount not used would no longer be ring fenced and available for general use. All allocations from the ring-fenced monies to be approved by the Council when project plans are available.

b) SILVERBRIDGE WAY: The meeting agreed to ratify the agreement produced by Brixton Parish Council, that Brixton and Yealmpton Parish Councils share equally the cost of the maintenance of Silverbridge Way. Cllr Craddock commented that the agreement reflected the status quo that both parishes contribute equally to the cost of maintenance.

c) GRANTS TO BEE- WILD AND YEG: Each SHDC councillor has a budget of £3,000 to help organisations to deliver community projects that benefit their Ward; projects must meet one of the objectives in the South Hams Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. Bee-wild and YEG had applied to Cllrs Baldry and Thomas for grants but there were shortfalls. The meeting considered the Parish covering the shortfalls from this year's budget, being £500 for Bee Wild and £700 for YEG.

Proposed YEG payments having first been outlined in a suitable project plan and approved by the Council.

This was proposed by Cllr Baldry and seconded by Cllr Thomas and unanimously agreed.

The shortfall payment to Bee Wild to be made now but that to YEG does not fall due at this point.

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

Cllr Endicott reported the following SHDC planning decisions:

3359/22/TPO (Bowden Farm Bowden Hill Yealmpton PL8 2JX) TPO: Refusal

3689/22/TCA (The Retreat Church Lane Yealmpton PL8 2HG) TPA: No objection

3604/22/HHO (Battlehayes Dunstone Yealmpton PL8 2EL): Single storey rear extension, Conditional Approval

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Monthly Expenditure: Approved, being proposed by Cllr Baldry and seconded by Cllr Baldry.

b) **Precept:** The precept of £57,000 was approved for 2023-2024, being proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Baldry. Cllr Craddock reported this was an increase of 5.2% on last year's precept.

c) **Devon Air Ambulance:** In principle the meeting was willing to approve the payment of the DAA equipment costs of £3,492.63 subject to full review of the further detail of the project and the DAA Memorandum of Understanding.

10. CORRESPONDENCE.

Cllr Durman to write to the Parishioner who had written in respect of the pollution incident.

11. Date of next meeting.

February 13th 2023 in the YCA Community Room at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Open Forum Notes- these do not form part of the Minutes

Presentation by Amanda Pennington, the Community Liaison Representative of Wildanet and one of their technical operatives.

Wildanet, an internet service provider based in Liskeard, will be shortly be starting construction work in Yealmpton to install a fibre-optic network. Wildanet has undertaken fibre-optic network installation in locations in Cornwall and is now expanding to locations in Devon.

Fibre optic systems are being installed nationally following Government policy that from 2025, the existing copper wire telephone network is going to be discontinued. Accordingly, Wildanet will be starting to replace the existing copper wire network in Yealmpton from February of this year with a new ultra-fast fibre-optic network.

Wildanet will offer broadband, with a speed range from 100Mb/second to 1Gb per second depending on the user's requirements. Unlike copper wire technology these speeds are not dependent on the location of the user relative to the site of the Exchange.

As a gesture to the Parish, Wildanet also will be looking for a public building that is in the Parish to offer a free, ultra-fast, internet connection to help address digital empowerment.

Cabling commences on February 6th 2023. There will from time to time be road closures and Amanda Pennington assured the meeting Wildanet would notify the clerk every week of installation works and any relevant road closure.

The commercial aim of Wildanet is that Yealmpton residents sign up for broadband triggering the availability of government grants, but from a commercial perspective Wildanet pays for the installation of the fibre-optic itself without any guarantee of resident participation. This is hence their commercial risk.

Cllr Craddock thanked Amanda.

Presentation by PC Rob Pike

PC Pike referred to 2/3 incidents of disorder recently other than which the Police's perception is that things have been "fairly quiet" in the Parish. There does not appear to be any difference in reported trends between summer and winter months.

Cllr Thomas indicated to PC Pike that a suitable location to drive past would be Bakery Square and the bus shelters.

The theme remains- notify the Police of any incidents, so these can be logged and the Police can thereby develop a fuller understanding of issues in the Parish-“if they don’t know, they can’t do anything”.

PC Pike was thanked by the meeting.

Devon Air Ambulance

Toby Russell the projects manager of Air Devon Air Ambulance addressed the meeting being joined by a colleague.

Background

The background is Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) operates until 2am every day although landing in towns and villages during the ‘hours of darkness’ is different to how they operate during daylight. To support night operations, DAA are working with communities to create a network of Community Landing Sites which are open spaces with either existing or newly installed floodlighting which DAA can operate remotely. Using sites like this when it’s dark means they can land in a community and reach patients much quicker and safer than if they had to land in ‘dark field’.

The development of these sites is part-funded and managed by local communities, with full support provided by DAA operations staff. There are currently 194 operational Community Landing Sites in towns and villages throughout Devon.

What makes a good night landing site?

A landing site needs to be a flat area of at least 55m x 55m, to provide maximum operational benefit and safety, have pedestrian and vehicle access nearby and could be on grass, tarmac or concrete. A nearby power source for lighting is useful although not essential. Whilst tall trees or power lines within the site might be a hazard, if they are on the periphery they may not cause a problem.

Floodlighting is an essential component of a community landing site as it illuminates the site during landing and take-off as well as helping the safe carry and loading of a patient into the helicopter. Where there are no existing lights in place or infrastructure to support new lighting, DAA are asking communities to install new lighting in the form of single column and two 150-watt LED lights.

All lighting systems need to incorporate a GSM control switch, operated using a mobile phone SIM card, which will enable the lights to be turned on/off remotely in an emergency meaning no-one needs to be on hand when the Air Ambulance arrives and takes-off.

Proposal to establish a community landing site at Yealmpton Sports & Recreation Association

Several years ago, DAA was in communication with the Parish Council with the intention of looking at possible sites in/near the village that might be suitable as a night landing site. Although COVID-19 put a halt to that work, DAA is keen to revive this work and assess if a suitable site could be identified.

DAA has reviewed several sites in the village and that work showed the playing field was the only site which was large enough and free from livestock/farming activities. The site does also benefit from good access onto the A379, with a large parking and vehicle turning area. Following an initial scoping exercise, DAA has now looked at the playing field in detail to see where a night landing area could be established. Although far larger than the 55m x 55m required, due to the fencing, stakes and rope around the cricketsquare and the potential hazard these create the safest area for DAA night operations would be on the football pitch in the southern part of the site.

The main requirement for the football pitch to be used as a community landing site for Devon Air Ambulance at night is new lighting, and in this type of location the standard system in operation is a 10m steel lighting column with two 140-watt LED floodlights positioned at the top of the column, directed downwards to illuminate the landing area. The need for a (single) 10m high column is that, during trials, we assessed lighting columns at 6, 8 and 10m high. Only at 10m high DAA are able to achieve a large enough and yet 'tight' pool of light which would not cause glare for the helicopter pilots and crew as they land / take-off.

Having fully reviewed the site layout, the best location for the lighting column would be in the southern part of the site (off the football pitch). In this location the lighting will a) effectively illuminate the landing area in the western part of the football pitch, b) not create glare for the crew when landing/taking off under predominant wind conditions from the SW, c) not create an inconvenient obstacle in the area and d) would blend into the surroundings (especially if painted a dark green colour).

As part of the lighting installation, a GSM remote control switch would be located at the distribution board in the pavilion, so that the lights can be remotely activated in an emergency. A supply - taken through an armoured cable - would run from the distribution board, through the building and into a 450mm deep trench which would follow the hedge to the location of the lighting column (i.e. no wiring is exposed).

Project costs: Based on an exercise to gather information on the electrical set up at the site, an Exeter-based contractor MAT Electrics have provided a quote for the lighting required at the site **The total project costs are £7,011.89, of which DAA will be able to offer a grant of £3,519.26) to cover the labour costs involved, the equipment costs of £3,492.63 would need to be funded by the Parish Council.**

Planning permission: The lighting column will require planning permission. The most cost effective solution would be for the Parish Council to submit that application (as the Council receives a 50% fee reduction) although DAA staff will help draft the application and provide drawings etc. The planning application costs are c£150.00.

Project development & community involvement:

DAA help throughout the project lifecycle. This may involve communicating the project to local people (i.e. especially those living near the recreation ground), providing advice/guidance on raising funds and generally helping move the project forward through what is a well-defined process.

Installing the lighting: Usually takes 1- 2 days and would be delivered at a time convenient with Yealmpton Sports & Recreation Association. Once the lighting is installed and commissioned it takes around 48 hours for the site to become operational.

Next steps:

1. DAA Memorandum of Understanding
2. Run through the lighting set up, costs, grant process and community costs to ensure all parties are happy with what's involved, typical process etc.
3. Communicate project aims, community engagement and local fundraising.
4. A planning application for the lighting column is submitted (taking 2-3 months)
5. Once funds have been secured and planning permission is in place, the lighting works can be planned and delivered (taking 1 -2 days to complete) and the site goes live for DAA night operations.

This is rough overview although there may well be more/different steps in relation to establishing a night landing site in the parish.