

MINUTES OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13th 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	*	Cllr Guy-Fierens	*

* Denotes attendance

@ Denotes absence

Also attending:

Members of the public: 1

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr Barton

7.b Councillor vacancy

With the Council's agreement, Cllr Craddock brought forward this item to welcome Thomas Guy-Fierens .

Cllr Endicott proposed and Cllr Durman seconded, that Mr Guy-Fierens join the Council; this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Guy-Fierens took his place as Councillor

2. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Thomas reported:

Ofsted has published its latest monitoring report on Children's Services. Insufficient progress has been made in key areas since their inspection and some serious issues remain, but there are some positives, highlighted in the report. Levelling up funding announced for projects in Devon: 100 projects receiving a share of £2.1 billion through the Government's latest round of Levelling Up funding. Support for families as food poverty rises: the number of households in Devon unable to access or afford the food that they need to ensure that they and their families stay healthy has increased by 70 per cent in 18 months. More than a third of households say that that they plan to switch off their heating altogether this winter to help make ends meet.

There are dedicated Cost of Living webpages at www.devon.gov.uk/cost-of-living/.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Baldry reported he was hopeful that progress could be made to create a footpath from Yealmpton to Collaton, the soundings from the relevant landowners being encouraging. Cllr Baldry who will continue to pursue this, added that that any community funding to be derived from Collaton development scheme s106 agreement would not be sufficient to fund the creation of the footpath. Suitable funds would hence need to be obtained.

Garden waste stickers for the garden waste bins will be provided by SHDC in the early part of March 2023. The SHDC waste removal vehicles will have the systems to identify everyone who has paid to be part of the garden waste scheme.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Craddock recorded an interest as a trustee of Yealmpton Community Association and Cllr Tucker in respect of Finance.

4. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr Durman proposed and Cllr Tucker seconded "that the minutes of the January 13th Council meeting be approved as an accurate record". Passed.

5. REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

a) WORKS:

Cllr Craddock had been in contact with the contractor and following absence due to illness the contractor has been back to work and has undertaken:

a) Bus Stop farm shop: cleared and dug a trench around the base wall to divert storm water including laying blocks to the existing wall to prevent water going onto the standing area.

b) Bus Stop Yealm Park: Repaired and replaced lower end panel and new trims after vandalism; painted both exterior ends of the bus stop.

c) Footpath between Bowden Hill and Yealmbury Hill: Removed, cleaned, and reset 2 large paving slabs. Repointed top slab.

Cllr Craddock reported that Community Payback has been re-absorbed into the Probation Service and in his discussions with a representative of the Probation Service he was informed that those working under the scheme cannot do so within 2ft of an adopted road. This largely restricts the clearing of footpaths and raises the question again of finding Chapter 8 Regulation/ Codes of practice operatives with suitably authorisation. This is an ongoing difficulty. Cllr Craddock suggested he have a discussion with the Council's contractor as to the practicality of the contractor obtaining Chapter 8 qualification.

Craddock

The meeting discussed the clearing / sweeping of the full width of the pavement and the gutter running along the A379, at both ends of the village and the clerk was instructed to write to Cllr Baldry to request this be undertaken and also for Ford Road and Yealmbury Hill.

Clerk

b) FOOTPATHS

P3 Financial Grant application to DCC has been made by Clerk/ Cllr Barton. The application includes the access to the Riverside end of FP19 being improved.

Faded signs: Cllr Barton awaits stick on signs from Ros Davies of DCC.

Hole in footbridge at Pimple Rock: Cllr Barton advised in her written report that DCC have confirmed they are investigating the matter. Cllr Baldry reminded the meeting of the importance of reporting matters such as this through the proper channel being to report to the clerk- simply to raise such items on social media is totally unsuitable. Report to the clerk!

Cllr Barton wishes to provide numbering for the posts and Cllr Craddock offered to follow this up.

Also, Cllr Barton had been asked to derive wording for signs for the south end of FP18 -the Karst hole problem ; Cllr Barton suggested if we obtain 2 signs saying "Warning of subsidence

Craddock on footpath and stream" or some other such wording. Cllr Craddock offered to follow up on this.

c) ROADS & PAVEMENT

Cllr Tucker commented on the recent upgrade to the drainage at Oakhill Farm which was to be welcomed albeit the time frame for the works to be undertaken had been lengthy.

Cllr Tucker added his concern that the bus shelter at Yealm Park had been constructed over a drain gully which was a significant contributing factor to the drainage issues.

Clerk Cllr Tucker raised again the issue of householders who have failed to trim/ maintain their hedges abutting public paths and roads - despite this having been publicised in the Parish Magazine. The meeting agreed to follow the procedure of writing to householders to ask them to clear offending foliage with 30 days and to advise that we will otherwise request Devon County Council to do the work. DCC have the power to recover costs from householders.

Tucker Cllr Tucker to advise the clerk of those properties whose boundary hedges encroach the public highway/path to enable the clerk write to the owners/occupiers.

d) ENVIRONMENT

River Yealm: Cllr Craddock in association with other parishes has written to the Environment Agency in respect of the River Yealm's serious pollution incident of 5th December 2022. This was reported on the Environmental Agency hot line (Incident numbers 2116678, 2117267 and 2118535). A detailed report of this incident was enclosed in the letter.

The Parish's catchment has suffered from repeated releases of china clay for more than 50 years and this has fuelled the strength of public feeling in response to this latest incident, which appears the worst to date.

In addition to the Parish all the riparian Parishes have also written to the Environment Agency, as has the Leader of DCC. At the time of the meeting the Parish has not heard from the Environmental Agency by way of reply.

The CSI data on water quality: This has been collected in the past months, will be collated by mid-February 23 and a report produced.

- A Continuous water monitor was deployed on 13 Jan23 with training from the supplier.

- Part funding of the River Fly project has been confirmed by South Hams District Council Sustainability fund. This will fund a baseline survey of aquatic invertebrate diversity throughout the length of river as a direct measure of ecological health which will then be mapped against pollutant concentrations and habitat status,

- A University of Plymouth Master of Research student is studying the link between historic pollution and ecological consequences through River Yealm catchment.

Trees

11-14 January; 3000 trees were planted at Lodge Gate Field (west of Ben's Farm Shop)

7 February Managing Natural and Historic Features on your Farm event run by Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) for YEM/YEG at Ashcombe Farm. FWAG expects around 20 farmers to attend.

11/12 February Volunteer Tree Planting in Yealmpton at Torr Farm just south of the village. 600 trees and shrubs will be planted. Contact info@yemcorridor.com if you would like to take part.

18/19 February New Kitley Woodland event to spread wood chip around 1,000 trees.

28 February Catchment Sensitive Farming & Farming Rules for Water event organised by FWAG for YEM / YEG. Landowners will hear about recent ELMS/DEFRA announcements. Venue and timing to be confirmed. FWAG expects around 30-40 farmers from the catchment to attend.

Planning is underway for a Worston River Corridor Woodland project to plant 2,000 trees with the Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest initiative, scheduled for next planting season. And there are ongoing discussions regarding the creation of a Yealmpton Community orchard.

Light pollution/ Star Count

YEG has prepared a report on light pollution and encouraged local people to take part in the annual star count hosted by CPRE 17-24 February; see CPRE website:

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/star-count-2023/>

EV point in the village

A YEG report had been circulated to councillors. This recommends the following steps:

- assess demand - how many potential users are there in Yealmpton?
- assess number of existing EV owners who would consider sharing their charging facility at cost
- ask other organisations whether they plan to install a public charge point.

With this information we could make an informed decision on whether to install a Council EV charge point and where we might find a parking space and find a suitable electricity supply.

South Hams' new EV policy is welcomed

<https://mg.swdevon.gov.uk/documents/s29661/Draft%20EV%20Strategy.pdf>

The meeting endorsed Cllr Durman's recommendation that demand be assessed as a key starting point for the Parish to derive an EV strategy. It would be very helpful to know how many villagers have EV cars and how many aspire to owning an EV car. Likewise what proportion of visitors to the village/ "those passing through" have EV cars and in turn would wish to use an EV point.

Durman

The meeting discussed the role of the Council encouraging local business to become more EV aware and look to provide EV charging for themselves/staff/ customers.

The meeting agreed a starting point would be to undertake an informal survey via say the Yealmpton Press/Facebook. Cllr Durman confirmed she would review the EV scenario with a view to exploring how the Parish might conduct an informal survey and not least assess demand.

Active travel - We await information on District LCWIPs. South Hams has commissioned a consultancy to prepare their LCWIP and no funding is likely to be released for active travel routes until this report has been adopted.

Bee wild

Cllr Hopkins advised the meeting that Bee Wild is looking to create an orchard of some 15-20 trees in Stray Park meadow.

e) EMERGENCY

Cllr Durman reported as follows:

Domestic Heating/fuel poverty

A South Dartmoor Community Energy advice session for householders on changing to more environmentally sustainable domestic heating systems has been arranged for Saturday 18th February 10am - 12 noon at the Community Centre. People from neighbouring villages have been invited to participate.

Warm spaces are being provided for at least one session a week in Yealmpton (Rose and Crown, Monday mornings), Brixton, Newton and Noss, Wembury and Down Thomas.

Emergency Plan

The annual revision is underway to check that contact details and access information for public buildings are still correct. The updated plan will replace the 2021 version in councillors' Dropbox when complete (following Teams meeting 25th February) and a redacted version will replace the 2021 Plan on the Parish Council website. Full plan will be sent to the Devon Community Resilience Forum.

The Cascade system for spreading information in the event of an emergency or serious incident affecting the village, is also being updated.

There are no First Aiders listed at present so Cllr Durman will request volunteers before replacing the 2021 version of the Plan in the council Dropbox. Consideration is being given to replacing the forms that are used in the event of an emergency situation in which people are displaced from their homes and use our emergency shelters, with digital versions on Dropbox.

Councillors are reminded that the Plan contains personal information (emails and phone numbers) and that we only have permission for these to be used if an emergency is declared. Information that is not in the redacted version of the Emergency Plan, should not be shared.

The list of people holding road salt for use in icy weather is being updated and volunteers asked whether they consent to having their address in an article in the Yealmpton Press so that neighbours can access road salt. The article will be offered to Yealmpton Press for the September issue, to include information on:

- preparing for bad weather
- addresses for road salt locations
- request for more volunteers to hold road salt to fill the gaps.

Barton

Clerk/Barton This will enable us to assess how many people require a supply of salt preferably for delivery in late.

f) COMMUNICATION

Cllr Barton will review what is in DropBox in the next month. As far as she can tell it is GDPR compliant

The meeting discussed DropBox and GDPR and the suggestion was that the NALC be approached to assess whether they consider DropBox compliant- The clerk to discuss with Cllr Barton.

h) SPEED ISSUES

Cllr Mackay reported that Speed Watch has temporarily been suspended because there are issues with Devon & Cornwall Police insurance; hopefully the issues can be resolved shortly.

Cllr Mackay added he proposed to liaise with the Speed Watch team for a better understanding of how they operate and the frequency of the monitoring sessions.

Cllr Mackay reminded the meeting that Speed Signs act as a deterrent and to collect traffic statistics whereas Speed Watch is primarily a deterrent with some 8 volunteers.

A new Speed Watch co-ordinator will be required, and Cllr Mackay offered to fill this role. Cllr Craddock to forward Coordinator application form.

Mackay

Cllr Mackay informed the meeting that all the signs are currently off their mountings having been taken down but will be re-fitted. The average time between charging the signs is some 3 weeks and in addition there may in the past have been issues of defect/ low voltage issue. Cllr Mackay added that it would be beneficial to invest in spare batteries to ensure the signs are constantly charged and in use.

Cllr Mackay will investigate the cost of spare batteries and the most cost effective way forward.

7 LOCAL ISSUES

a) Celebration for the King's Coronation

The clerk has made an application to DCC for a Temporary Traffic Restriction for the closure of Market Street to celebrate the Coronation on Sunday, May 7th 2023, being the day after the King's Coronation, from 12 noon to 8 pm, the location being from the cross roads by Luscombe Maye to the Red, Listed, Post Box. This will ensure the Ros and Crown continues to have full vehicular access.

Cllr Thomas reminded the meeting that in view of the Road Closure being of an "A" road, it is uncertain if this will be approved by Devon Highways, but hopefully will be. If the Road Closure is approved Cllr Thomas envisaged a village party of the like we have not seen for some time, and every endeavour will be made to include the whole village community, the 2 Churches, the WI, the School, and relevant stakeholders and bodies in the village and of course the pubs and the café.

Cllr Thomas proposed if the Road Closure can go ahead that a Coronation Committee be set up and all relevant bodies be invited to join in.

Cllr Guy-Fierens added that the village sports clubs should also be involved to enhance the occasion and a full village participation.

Cllr Thomas concluded this is wonderful opportunity for a truly unique event and occasion in the village's life.

c) Review of Parish Room charges

Letting of our Parish room is managed by the YCA and YCA reviewed its hire charges recently.

See <http://yealmpton.org/yca-room-hire/>

Cllr Craddock proposed the Council add the Parish room into the YCA tariff and take the opportunity to review the charges. If we use the same periods and 25% reduction for Yealmpton organisations and regular hirers, we could use the same figures as the Office Meeting Room which is roughly the same size.

The meeting considered reviewing the hire charges for the Parish Room and simplify the booking arrangements by adding it into the list of rooms available from the YCA. This unifies and consolidates the booking system.

It was proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Endicott that the Parish Room being comparable in size to the YCA Office, the same charges are adopted being :

Hourly Rate	Up to 4 hours	Up to 8 hours
£11	£29	£46

This represents only a modest increase and the same 25% discount for Yealmpton based organisations and regular hirers will apply. Unanimously approved.

d) Future access to Multi Use Games Area:

The YCA wishes to relinquish its management responsibilities of the MUGA as it has proved to be a costly overhead difficult to justify with very low usage and it has, so far, been impossible to arrange any discussion with the Primary School.

Cllr Thomas felt this would be a very regrettable loss of access to a valuable recreational village facility and suggested a meaningful discussion with the School Headmaster. He added that he appreciated that the management of the facility was an issue for YCA but felt the benefit to the community should outweigh the administrative issues. Cllr Thomas stressed he very much appreciated the sterling effort by YCA managing the facility and very much wished this to continue. Only by such management can the quality of the MUGA be maintained.

Clerk

The meeting reflected on the MUGA being a "crown jewel" and in the discussion a suggestion was made of considering obtaining planning permission for the installation of lighting to enable greater use be made of the facility.

The meeting agreed that the Clerk write to the School Headmaster to set up a meeting and a meaningful dialogue and the School's co-operation going forward.

e) Devon Air Ambulance- Clubhouse meeting of February 20th 2023.

DAA have been able to confirm with Yealmpton Sports & Rec Assoc, that the Clubhouse at the playing field will be available for them to hold a PR event on Monday 20th February from 4pm - 5:30pm.

The plan for this that DAA representatives will be available in the clubhouse for anyone in the community to have a chat with us and ask question should they wish to - they don't plan on a formal presentation!

Clerk The clerk will attend the presentation and prepare a piece for the Yealmpton press.

f) Wildanet- selection of a building to benefit from free optic fibre connection.

The Parochial Church Council has made representation that the provision of optic fibre to the Church would have the considerable benefit of enabling the Church provide services by Zoom to those unable to attend and the ability to take cashless payments for weddings and other functions.

Cllr Endicott reminded the meeting Wildanet are offering free connection and not free wifi.

The meeting also discussed the provision of fibre optics for the Community Centre.

Clerk It was agreed that the clerk ask Wildanet to provide free connection for both the Community Centre and St. Bartholomew's church.

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

The following new application was noted:

0418/23/ARC

Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 5 (Carbon Reduction), 7 (Materials) and 10 (Lighting) of planning consent 0663/21/FUL (APP/K1128/W/21/328

Application within land at Sx 5820 50520 Yealmpton PL8 2HS

The following planning guidance decisions were ratified by the meeting:

a) 0015/23/HHO

Householder application for first floor side extension and replacement porch

10 Ploughman Way Yealmpton PL8 2JE

YPC-PG decision: No objection.

b) 0018/23/HHO

Householder application for single storey side extension, replacement of bay windows & some

internal re-arrangement

The Firs Bowden Hill Yealmpton PL8 2JX

YPC-PG decision: No objection.

c) 3433/22/HHO

Householder application for loft extension

Yealmbridge Forge, Yealmbridge, PL8 2QE

YPC-PG decision: objection

Comment: - Following a request from SHDC to further review this application following proper drawings being submitted we stand by our original objection and support for the planners' decision taken in 2595/21/HHO.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

b) Increase into the Yealmpton Press 2023-2024 financial budget by £500. Approved, proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Durman.

c) It was agreed there be an item on the Agenda for the March Council meeting for a discussion of the responsibility for the works between the Parish and the County.

10. CORRESPONDENCE.

A parishioner's comments in respect of Twenty's Plenty were noted.

11. Date of next meeting.

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

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm

