

**MINUTES OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:**

|                       |   |                  |   |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|---|
| Cllr Craddock (Chair) | * | Cllr Durman      | * |
| Cllr Endicott         | * | Cllr Hopkins     | @ |
| Cllr Thomas           | * | Cllr Tucker      | * |
| Cllr Baldry           | * | Cllr Barton      | * |
| Cllr Mc kay           | * | Cllr Guy-Fierens | * |

\* Denotes attendance

@ Denotes absence

Also attending:

Members of the public: 3

**1. APOLOGIES:** Cllr Hopkins

**2. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Thomas reported:

Devon County Council's new Chief Executive, Donna Manson has set out her first impressions of the County and the Council, and her focus on engagement in a message: "I firmly believe that the people in our Council and our communities are our greatest asset."

Councillors recently agreed a budget that will see increases in spending on services that support vulnerable children, young people and adults, in response to rising demand for those services. DCC will be spending 18.5 per cent more on children's services, and 8.8 per cent more on adult social care services. Overall, the Council is budgeting to spend 10.5 per cent more on services than last year. To help pay for it, the average B and D householder will see the County's proportion of their council tax bill increase by £1.49 a week.

The council tax rise, plus funding received from the Government, will not balance the budget book. Spending this much on priority services to meet growing demand without national support means having to make savings in the region of £47.5 million from elsewhere in order to balance the books.

Cllr Thomas added, that there appears to be no rush from County to support communities with 20mph limits, nor indeed is general support of communities a priority as locality budgets are slashed again, now down to £5000 per councillor. Likewise the spending allocated on highways will mean that capital projects will be few and pot hole repairs will be a constant challenge. Opposition amendments to the budget to spend a modest amount of reserves

to rectify these important issues were defeated by the ruling Conservative majority.

Parents delivered DCC a strong message last month in protest over failings within services that support children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Members of the Devon SEND Parents and Carers for Change (DSPCC) group shared their experiences, and delivered a letter.

"We feel increasingly frustrated by the continual and relentless institutional failings evident within Devon County Council's Children's Services," they wrote. "We all have individually raised our concerns, whether that was to a professional, a SEND caseworker, or by making a formal complaint to Devon County Council."

### **3. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Baldry reminded the Meeting that photo ID was required as a prerequisite for voting in the May elections and all councillors should publicise this to ensure the community is aware of the requirement.

Cllr Baldry had organised on 2 occasions the SHDC larger and smaller mechanised roads sweeper to operate throughout the village and parishioners and councillors alike had commented on what an excellent job had been done and Cllr Baldry was thanked accordingly.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

### **5. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting of February 13<sup>th</sup> were approved unanimously, proposed Cllr Baldry and seconded Cllr Tucker

### **6.REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

#### **a) WORKS:**

Cllr Craddock reported that he was pleased with the works undertaken by the contractor and in particular the works undertaken to the bench in Bowden Hill.

#### **b) FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Barton informed the meeting she still awaited footpath signs to replace those which were faded and would follow this up.

The hole in the footbridge at Pimple Rock has not been remedied; Cllr Thomas advised the Meeting he had reported this to DCC and during the meeting itself he undertook a “chaser email”.

There had been issues in respect of the styles at Footpath 19 arising from the landowner undertaking stock proofing works which considerably restricted access, in particular to those for whom mobility is an issue. Cllr Barton had noted the concerns of various parishioners in respect of the restricted access, including a letter from a parishioner very thoughtfully setting out the issues of one who is disabled. The clerk had contacted DCC, adding that the variance in the gradient and the proximity of a large “slippery stone” made access difficult; this was expeditiously followed up by DCC who arranged for temporary remedial works to be undertaken. The preferred way forward is for DCC to undertake a dialogue with the landowner and for “kissing gates” to be installed at both ends of the footpath.

### **c) ROADS & PAVEMENT**

Cllr Tucker referred to Wildanet’s contractors undertaking works to instal fibre optic cables in Stray Park. The Meeting recognised that although the community will experience inconvenience, there is the right at law for the works to be undertaken but Cllr Thomas will monitor matters closely in conjunction with DCC.

Clerk Cllr McKay advised the meeting of distortion/ displacement on the northern side of the bridge at Yealmbridge which appears to be worsening; it was agreed the clerk contact Cllr Thomas to request the DCC bridge inspection team be notified.

Clerk Parishioners have expressed concern that the frequency of commercial vehicles accessing the Stray Park sewerage works has substantially increased. Cllr Thomas reminded the meeting of the right at law for licensed commercial vehicles to use the public highway but the clerk should contact him and he would monitor the scenario.

### **d) ENVIRONMENT**

Cllr Durman reported as follows:

#### **River Yealm**

The first 6 months’ CSI results have been collated and sent to CSI volunteers prior to a review meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> February. Additional training has taken place for alert team of 10 CSI volunteers, so that they can take standard samples and photographs when alerted to problems by the continuous monitor.

Westcountry Rivers Trust is working with the YEG to trial passive sampling for trace organic pollutants (hormones) and heavy metals.

#### **River Fly project**

Volunteers for the River Fly project will be recruited and trained in the spring.

River flies, along with other freshwater invertebrates, are at the heart of the freshwater ecosystem and are a vital link in the aquatic food chain. Their common characteristics of limited mobility, relatively long life cycle, presence throughout the year and specific tolerances to changes in environmental conditions make them good biotic indicators of water quality and useful indicators of change in local environmental conditions.

Changes in water quality affect river wildlife. Nationwide, river fly surveys are helping to assess and protect the health of local rivers. The results of surveys give objective evidence if there is degradation of a river environment. This evidence can then be used to inform remedial action locally and the scale of response required nationally. However, taking and analysing samples must be done in a standardised way, if the results are to be taken seriously and the resulting information beyond challenge.

Wildfish is a national organisation and runs a “Smart Rivers” programme collecting river fly data nationwide and training for volunteers (£1,950). In addition YEG will need to secure funds for some one-off costs (equipment £841.50) and recurring costs to pay for standardised analysis of samples (£2,400) in their laboratory for the first year of the project.

Once trained to undertake standardised collection and analysis of samples, YEG expect volunteers will be able to take over the analysis and then annual costs would be much reduced in subsequent years.

Wildfish will continue to undertake quality control in subsequent years by requesting one sample from each six monthly batch to be couriered to them for analysis in their laboratory (at no cost to YEG) to ensure that we are all working to the same standard. All results will be recorded on their central database alongside those from all other sites in the scheme.

Funding has previously agreed funding for the RiverFly project being £300 from SHDC and £700 from the Parish Council for the cost of training 10 volunteers.

YEG knew that the total cost for training would be £1,950, and assumed that it could pay half now for training in September/October 2023, giving YEG time to raise £950 for the second batch of training in April/May 2024. However, YEG have learnt that they need to guarantee their ability to pay for the total cost of training (£1950) before any training can start.

Cllr Durman asked the meeting to consider whether it would be possible for the parish to provide this guarantee and also earmark Creacombe/Marlands s106 funds as the source for the balance of £950. This was unanimously approved by the meeting having been proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Baldry.

Durman        Cllr Durman will “firm up” on the basis of the guarantee.

## **Trees**

A site for a community orchard in Stray Park adjacent to the wildflower meadow is being considered and community consultation will take place when this has been firmed up.

Farmers and landowners had a successful meeting at Ashcombe Farm organised by FWAG. Environmental and Land Management funding system has been announced by DEFRA <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-update-how-government-will-pay-for-land-based-environment-and-climate-goods-and-services/environmental-land-management-elm-update-how-government-will-pay-for-land-based-environment-and-climate-goods-and-services>  
Local micro nursery is going ahead in the newly planted Kitley Woodland, in partnership with Volunteers Outdoors.

## **EV point in the village**

The survey agreed by Parish Council at February meeting is underway  
The link for this and for South Hams' parallel survey have been posted on the Yealmpton Village Facebook page and there will be a supporting article in April Yealmpton Press.

<https://www.climatechange.southhams.gov.uk/ev-strategy>



## **Active travel routes**

South Hams has commissioned consultants to draft their LCWIP – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Scope and timescale not known.

## **e) EMERGENCY**

Cllr Durman informed the meeting there was nothing to report.

## **f) COMMUNICATION**

The clerk's had communicated with DALC in respect of DropBox. The meeting accepted DALC's view that DropBox does meet GDPR requirements.

## **h) SPEED ISSUES**

Cllr McKay informed the meeting there were various options in respect of the maximising the use and operation of speed signs and thereby reducing the periods when the system is not operative. In particular Cllr McKay is undertaking a cost analysis

of the options of both solar panel based systems and in the alternative of increasing the number and availability of batteries.

Cllr Mc Kay will in due course document the relative merits of the cost analysis ,but by way of a brief overview, the Parish could invest in extra batteries being 2 sets of 2 batteries at a cost of £480 or a solar panel system the cost of which is £840 per unit. That said it is not as simple as this in that in only one of the 3 locations, being that on the A379 approximating to the Milizac Close turn off lends itself to solar power; in the alternative the monitor whose location approximates to the garage is largely in the shadow of the garage canopy.

A possibility may be that the “Milizac Close System” be powered by solar and the batteries for this system be transferred to “the garage site”.

In short new and further batteries are required to minimise system downtime.

Craddock The meeting took note that Brixton PC have used solar powered systems in the past which they are no longer using. Cllr Craddock will make contact with BPC to discuss the solar systems they had operated and why they had discontinued them and also if appropriate acquiring the systems from BPC.

Cllr Mc kay will review both solar and non-solar and in particular the manufacturer’s specifications/ warranty and will prepare a cost analysis.

Cllr Endicott expressed concerns about what he felt would be the limitations on the systems being “fit for purpose”.

The meeting considered agreeing a budget for the acquisition of a preferred battery system pending Cllr Mc Kay cost analysis and a cost budget of £900 was agreed, proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Durman.

Cllr Mc Kay confirmed he has downloaded 15 files form MessageMaker which he will forward to the parishioner representing “20s Plenty”.

Cllr Mc Kay has responded to enquiries from parishioners living at Yealmbridge in respect of both vehicles speeding and access along the pavements at Yealmbridge.

The maximum vehicle speed at Yealmbridge is 40 mph and as much as the meeting recognises the concerns of parishioners in respect of speeding in 40 mph areas, this is a matter from DCC and the criteria for speed limits to be reduced is very restrictive.

Clerk The double set of rumble strips approaching Yealmbridge from the Modbury and quadruple set in the approach to the village again from the Modbury direction are weathering and the clerk was asked to refer this to Cllr Thomas.

## **7 LOCAL ISSUES**

### **a)County, District and Parish responsibilities.**

The meeting recognised that increasingly PCCs are taking on responsibilities which in the past we exercised by County and District Councils. The challenge for Parishes this presents is both of cost and also the availability of suitable contractors.

Cllr Thomas reminded the meeting that where the Parish does take on responsibility over and beyond that which is provided by DCC or SHDC, it does so to improve the ambience of the village and the community and is an integral part of the Parish's role, provided always that funds are available to do so. A pragmatic view is required in conjunction with acting proactively.

### **b)Combination drains**

The clerk referred to his correspondence with the clerk of Averton Gifford PC in respect of the circumstances of AGPC having derived funding to effect separation of combination drains; this followed their having encountered serious sewerage pollution and the funding then available very much reflecting their particular adverse circumstances. Realistically as much as separating the drainage systems would be preferable, in practical terms funding is very unlikely to be available unless overtly adverse criteria arises.

## **8. PLANNING MATTERS.**

### **8. Planning**

**The following SHDC planning decisions were noted:**

#### **a) 3433/22/HHO**

Householder application for loft extension (Resubmission of 2595/21/HHO)

Conditional Approval

Yealmbridge Forge Yealmbridge Yealmpton PL8 2EQ

#### **b) 4202/22/HHO**

Householder application for installation of domestic air source heat pump

Conditional Approval

29 Torr Bridge Park Yealmpton PL8 2JF

**The following new application was noted:**

0680/23/ARC

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 8 (Hard and Soft Landscape)

of planning consent 0663/21/FUL (APP/K1128/W/21/3285450)

Development Site at Sx 582 502 Yealmpton

**The following planning guidance decisions were ratified by the meeting:**

a)0531/23/FUL

Demolition of existing barn & construction of two new dwellings following approvals 0360/19/PDM, 3716/19/PDM & 1567/19/FUL & associated landscaping  
West Pitten Barns West Pitten PL7 5BB

YPC-PG decision: Objection

Proposed by Cllr Mc Kay and seconded by Cllr Craddock  
District and County Councillors abstained.

b) 0253/23/HHO

Householder application for single storey detached garage  
Application under consideration by Officer  
Battlehayes Dunstone Yealmpton PL8 2EL

YPC-PG decision: Objection

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Durman  
District and County Councillors abstained.

c) 4436/22/FUL

Extension of residential garden, new garage, fenestration improvements & external alterations to dwelling

Waye Farmhouse Ermington PL21 9NU

YPC-PG decision: No objection

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Mc Kay  
District and County Councillors abstained.

d) 0354/23/VAR

Application for variation of conditions 4 (Stables) and 6 (Lighting) of planning consent (0732/22/FUL)

Oakhill Farm Worston Yealmpton PL8 2LN

YPC-PG decision: No objection

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Endicott  
District and County Councillors abstained.

**9. Finance**

**The Monthly Financial Statement** was approved.

The clerk informed the meeting that from April, being in the new financial year, in the monthly financial summaries there will be a resume of funds held together with breakdown of funds expended for the period in question, in each case for (1) the S106 Creacombe/ Marlands funds and (2) P3.

In conjunction with this it was agreed that the Parish's 3<sup>rd</sup> Lloyds Bank account being solely for P3 was no longer required and sensibly could be closed, not least as inter account transfer is very cumbersome.

clerk

The clerk will review the past usage of Creacombe/ Marlands S106 monies, so far as this can be readily derived from past accounts.

### **Sponsorship of Yealmpton Press**

The meeting agreed the Sponsorship of the Press in the sum of £216, proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Durman.

## **10. Correspondence**

**Speeding at Yealmbridge** and **access issues at Footpath 19** had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

The meeting considered the **Councillor Advocate System** and the opportunities it presents for Councillors to raise issues. The meeting recognised Cllr Durman's contribution in this context and that if she would kindly continue this it would be greatly appreciated; Cllr Baldry was happy to be the parish representative on occasions when Cllr Durman was not available.

A parishioner referred to the meeting, the roundabout at **Kitterford Cross** being just beyond Ugborough lacks a sign to Yealmpton, which will create confusion for the visitor influx. The parishioner commented this is probably the most used, and certainly the safest and most desirable route and only permissible for large vehicles to Yealmpton from the A38 westbound from the East.

Taking the slip road just after South Brent signed to Yealmpton the motorist rises up to the "T" junction and turns left (clearly marked "Yealmpton") and then takes the much improved road to the new roundabout. However, the visitor is left guessing which road to take to Yealmpton as it is not marked either immediately before or more importantly on the roundabout. It is some 100 metres or so before "Yealmpton" appears on the unchanged distance board. There was previously a "Yealmpton" sign prominently on the crossroads.

The meeting agreed this should be rectified as a matter of urgency, failing which vehicles will encircle the roundabout, or probably head down to Kingsbridge and have to retrace at some point.

clerk

The clerk to contact Cllr Thomas accordingly

### **11. Date of next meeting.**

April 10th 2023 in the YCA Community Room at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm

### ***Open Forum, Note- this do not form part of the minutes***

a) A parishioner informed the Meeting of an intention to make a planning application to SHDC for the removal of an Agricultural tie; Cllr Craddock as Chair thanked the application for the courtesy of notifying the Parish Council and added the parishioner was welcome to address the Meeting as and when the detail of the proposed application was available.

b) A supporter of "20s Plenty" informed the Meeting of concerns that from time to time some of the speed monitors are not functioning and of the time frame for refitting monitors.

Cllr Mc Kay updated the parishioner that 2 of the signs are working well and although it was recognised there are issues with the sign at Ford Road this was being caused by LED issues. Cllr Mc Kay had arranged for this monitor to be repositioned and had supervised re-angling of all 3 monitors to improve both range and distance.

Cllr McKay was also in process of obtaining quotes for batteries/solar power systems to address issues and reduce "down time" but there were no simple solutions for all 3 sites but the goal is very much to mitigate "downtime".

Cllr Mc Kay added he had downloaded 15 data files of information.

Clerk

c) A third Parishioner drew the Meeting's attention to trees, including a large ash tree in Stray Park which have fallen into the river and threatens a potential blockage. The parishioner was thanked by the Meeting for this very helpful notification and the clerk was instructed to contact the landowner(s) accordingly.

