

**MINUTES OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON MAY 15TH AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL, FORD
ROAD, YEALMPTON.**

PRESENT: Cllr Craddock, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Baldry, Cllr Barton, Cllr Tucker, Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Guy-Fierens

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: 2

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Craddock welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Endicott.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Craddock confirmed he was willing to stand as Chairman, which appointment was unanimously approved, Proposed by Cllr Tucker and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Baldry confirmed was willing to stand as Vice Chairman, which appointment was unanimously approved, Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

4. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES

Cllr Craddock proposed that councillors consider which areas of responsibility they would wish to adopt and contact himself/ the clerk accordingly for consideration and ratification by the meeting in June.

Cllr Thomas informed the meeting of his wish to discontinue being a member of the Planning Sub- Committee.

5. RECRUITMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO FILL VACANCIES

The Clerk reported that The SHDC Electoral Services manager had advised If there are insufficient candidates to fill all vacancies, the Representation of the People Act 1985 Section 21 allows the elected members to co-opt members to fill the remaining vacancies.

In contrast, any vacancies that arise from now due to a councillor leaving who had submitted a valid nomination for 04 May, is classed as a casual vacancy, with the requirement of publishing the appropriate Casual Vacancy Notice.

Accordingly, the 2 vacancies which arise following the election are not casual vacancies and the Casual Vacancy Notice procedure is not required – a simple form of advert will suffice.

Action required by Cllr Hopkins: To insert the advert in the Yealmpton Press

Action by Cllr Barton: To publicise the advert on the website and social media.

6. ELECTION OF AUDITOR: The appointment of Michael Cosby was proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Baldry and unanimously approved. The meeting expressed its thanks to Mr Cosby.

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Thomas reported:

Devon County Council's recent Cost of Living Spotlight Review looks at the scope for improving its offer to communities that are struggling with increasing costs. The review highlights the financial pressures facing community and voluntary organisations that provide support to vulnerable people. For many of these organisations, grant funding can be a lifeline.

Devon Funding News is published by the Economy, Enterprise & Skills team to provide information about grants, loans and other financial support that organisations in Devon can apply for. By way of example, this might be a £500,000 research grant for a business partnership or £500 to help a local voluntary group.

Devon Funding News can be searched for live funding opportunities and subscribe to the site for regular updates straight to your inbox. The service is free of charge and available to anyone in Devon who wants to keep up to date with the latest funding news. Find out more at www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews

There is a grant search service, Grantfinder with a database of over 7,000 funding opportunities. We can search the database to find grants suitable for all kinds of projects across Devon. Please get in touch if you are looking for funding for a business, charity or community group in your area. Contact funding@devon.gov.uk

Cllr Thomas added that the Coronation Community Event had been a great success and expressed his thanks to the community steering group and all who had been involved in making the day a success.

8. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Thomas referred to a previous report which he had given to the Annual Parish Meeting on May 10th, the essence of which was as follows:

During the past year successful recommendations have been made from the Sustainable Locality Fund for payment to various community projects and if asked there would be the wish to support the Parish in 2023/24.

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 November 2022, after nearly 18 months of constant demands from opposition parties, the administration SHDC brought the waste and recycling collection service back in house. As a direct result, collection rates have improved hugely, with a tiny proportion of collections reported as missed. Although many are still on the old service, and some are receiving a co-mingled collection but things are very much better than they were under privatisation. Garden waste is now being collected from residents who have opted in to the £49 per year subscription, which is working well.

The recent elections have seen the Liberal Democrats now take outright control of the District Council for the first time since its creation in 1974. There will be an Annual Meeting on 25th May where roles and responsibilities will be formally ratified.

Cllr Baldry has been replaced as one of our ward members by Cllr Tom Edie who looks forward to meeting us.

The meeting expressed concern that another commercial organisation was indicating it would be providing wifi to the community, with the prospect of more disruption and possible road works. This led to a recognition by the meeting of the frustration of parishioners in respect of road works, disruption and notified timeframes overrunning. Cllr Baldry indicated to the meeting he intended to write to Sir Gary Streeter in respect of this scenario, which the meeting endorsed and expressing the wish to be associated.

Cllr Baldry confirmed he would prepare a draft letter for discussion with Cllr Craddock.

Cllr Thomas referred to Joint Cllr Planning Training in conjunction with Newton & Noss PC. The Clerk was asked to establish avenue availability in Yealmpton on Thursday June 15th and 22nd respectively.

To be Actioned by Clerk

9. COUNCILLORS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST: MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO DECLARE ANY PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF SUCH INTERESTS, THAT THEY MAY HAVE IN ANY ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING.

There were no declarations of interest.

10. TO AGREE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON APRIL 10TH 2023.

The Minutes of the Meeting of April 10th were approved unanimously, proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

11. Report from Councillors/clerk in respect of responsibilities/ actions arising from previous meetings:

a)Councillor Thomas & Mr Rod McKay: Taking of photographs of the distortion to northern side of the bridge at Yealmbridge and liaising with DCC bridge monitoring team.

The clerk reported he had discussed this with Mr McKay who had indicated he had taken photographs but as yet these have not been passed to Cllr Thomas.

The clerk was asked to follow this up with Mr McKay.

To be Actioned by Clerk

b) Clerk: Monitoring the frequency of commercial vehicles accessing Stray Park sewerage works-clerk to undertake a dialogue with South West Water.

Cllr Thomas to let the clerk have a contact at SWW.

To be Actioned by Clerk/Cllr Thomas

c) Mr Rod McKay/ Clerk: Acquisition of Solar panel unit. The clerk confirmed the solar panel unit had been acquired, received and had been passed to Mr McKay.

d) Clerk to liaise with Wildanet in respect of the Parish's choice of preferred location for fibre optic installation: Clerk confirmed he had liaised accordingly with Wildanet and the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council.

e) Clerk: Public liability insurance for the MUGA . The clerk notified the meeting that he was in process of renewing the Parish insurance for the period June 2023-May 2024. There was no reference in the Parish's current insurance policy to effecting insurance of the MUGA.

Cllr Craddock confirmed the YCA policy currently insured the MUGA for out of school time, under its Village Halls Insurance Policy operating on an "event basis".

Cllr Baldry held the view that the letting of the MUGA for out of school activity fell within the ambit of YCA, and thereby in turn its responsibility for insurance.

Cllr Craddock referred back to the YCA concerns that the MUGA created an administrative burden with little compensating income, and that the YCA was considering discontinuing responsibility for managing the MUGA.

It was suggested a sub-committee of the YCA review the whole ambit of its management and the use by the community of the MUGA. Cllr Baldry added he felt a central issue was that the MUGA was not promoted and many villagers were not aware of its existence or benefits.

The clerk was accordingly not required to look to include the MUGA in the ambit of renewing the Parish's insurance.

f) Clerk to write to Councillor Thomas in respect of drainage issues at Waye Farm & Butland Cllr Thomas confirmed this was in hand and he would be liaising with the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

g) Councillor Craddock to obtain quotes for the creation of a direct access to the MUGA: Cllr Craddock confirmed this was in hand.

12 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, WHERE MATTERS ARISE.

a) Works, Cllr Craddock

Cllr Craddock had been liaising with the Parish's nominated contractor who had undertaken work to the bus shelter opposite the Volunteer Inn, in Fore Street. The contractor had also cleared mud and leaves from the bridge over the river from the Borough, cleared leaves and weeds from the bridge, and had top coated the gates in the Memorial Garden.

b) Public Rights of Way, Cllr Barton

Cllr Barton advised the tree trunk blocking Footpath 19 remains in situ. Cllr Thomas confirmed he would liaise with the SHDC Localities Officer, this being SHDC land

To be Actioned by Cllr Thomas

Cllr Barton further informed the meeting that her team of some 25 volunteers were now undertaking maintenance to the parish footpaths of a scale and scope they could readily manage as individuals.

c) Roads and pavements, Cllr Tucker

Cllr Tucker reported that joins in the tarmac at Yealm Park were breaking up and Cllr Thomas confirmed he would raise with the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer.

To be Actioned by Cllr Thomas

d) Environment

The meeting thanked Dr Durman for her YEG May report being as follows:

River Yealm

Data: In 2019 the huge reduction in statutory water quality monitoring by the Environment Agency (EA*) became a serious concern and led to the Rivers Trusts setting up a Citizen Science Investigation of locally managed catchment based systems for collecting samples using national standards for data analysis. When this data was made available there was public outcry about the pollution of our rivers and seas to the extent that it has gained political attention and may lead to change. Yealmpton CSI is part of West Country Rivers Trust. A summary of their Annual Conference in April is available.

Yealm E coli level tests.

Location	Date	Drinking Water	Bathing Water
Mill Bridge & Wisdome Mill	31 March	High Risk/Probably Unsafe	Excellent
	19 April	Unsafe	Excellent
Stert Bridge	31 March	Unsafe	Unable to determine
	19 April	Unsafe	Poor
Puslinch	31 March	Unsafe	Unable to determine
	19 April	Unsafe	Poor

There are 31 sewage outflows into the Yealm (inc. tributaries)! There are interactive maps online showing bathing water status.

Trees

Community Orchard – BeeWild is funding the cost of the fruit trees.
Community consultation is under way (Facebook and Y Press) during May.

Worston Wood project; FWAG is working with Plymouth and South Devon Community Forests who are providing free tree shelters.

Full information on projects with costs will be circulated in advance of June Parish Council meeting.

EV Charging Point Survey

The aim of the survey was to establish the number of actual and potential EV charge point users living in or staying in the parish, to inform a decision about whether we should have a public EV charge point in the village.

There were 45 responses, 10 of those were from people who own an electric vehicle and many of them would consider allowing another person to share use of their home charge point.

Almost all written responses indicate that any installation of a public charge point should be for rapid charge.

Businesses in the village that have parking space(s), were also asked whether they were considering installing a charge point. One owner stated they had

considered this and had decided that current installation costs were too high and unlikely to be recovered. The owners of 2 other businesses were in process of giving this consideration.

The meeting agreed this small survey provides an interesting snapshot of the present situation and Dr Durman was thanked for undertaking this interesting initiative.

Light pollution

Letter to Dartmoor National Park Authority re dark skies – very positive response circulated with agenda inviting us to stay in touch and possibly take part in the initiative.

Applications for Section 106 funds/ Creacombe & Marlands solar panel farms

Application process.

Recommended format for applications will be:

- description of project (what it is; why it is needed, aims)
- how community will be involved and informed of results
- costs and date payments due
- who will provide funds/proportion requested from Yealmpton PC S106
- who will report on progress
- community gains.

First tranche of applications will be submitted to June council meeting.

Solar powered speed sign. Council to advise YEG who will report on benefits of this expenditure and when, bearing in mind that 40% of the UK's electricity in 2022 was made up of solar, wind, biomass and hydropower.

*EA has had 70% budget cut since privatisation. 15 years ago EA instigated 200 prosecutions/enforcement actions a year. 2022 EA instigated 3 prosecutions.

e) Emergency, Dr Linda Durman

Dr Durman kindly confirmed she would update the Emergency Plan with the details of the Chair and Vice Chair which she would forward to Cllr Barton for uploading to Dropbox.

Dr Durman will also print out new plans for the emergency boxes and “walk the new lead through them”.

Dr Durman was thanked by the meeting.

f) Comms & Data Management, Cllr Barton

The clerk had encountered issues of emails to Gmail accounts “bouncing back” and suggested he report to Cllr Barton if ongoing issues are primarily in connection with groups emails or if individual account emails are affected too.

g) Speed issues, Mr Rod McKay

The clerk advised he was aware Mr McKay was working to progress the systems and would liaise with Mr McKay accordingly.

Clerk to Action

13. Planning Matters

Cllr Endicott was thanked for providing a comprehensive report from his sub-committee

The following planning guidance decisions were ratified by the meeting:

1430/23/HHO

Householder application for single storey detached garage (resubmission of 0253/23/HHO)

Battlehayes Dunstone Yealmpton PL8 2EL

YPC-PG decision: no objection

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and Seconded by Cllr Tucker

Note: Cllr Thomas as District Councillor would abstain but on this occasion had had to leave the meeting early.

0550/23/FUL

Installation of 160 photovoltaic solar panels

Field At Sx 256 515 Yealmpton

YPC-PG decision: objection. The Planning Sub Committee was mindful that had there been suitable screening then it might have considered approval.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and Seconded by Cllr Tucker

Note: Cllr Thomas as District Councillor would abstain but on this occasion had had to leave the meeting early.

1358/23/LBC

Listed building consent for proposed extension

House Barton Dunstone Yealmpton PL8 2EL

1357/23/HHO

Householder application for proposed extension (resubmission of 2440/22/HHO)

House Barton Dunstone Yealmpton PL8 2EL

YPC-PG decision: no objection

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and Seconded by Cllr Tucker

Note: Cllr Thomas as District Councillor would abstain but on this occasion had had to leave the meeting early

1285/23/FUL

Proposed Improvements and reconstruction of farm shop entrance

Riverford Farm Shop Yealmpton PL8 2LT

YPC-PG decision: no objection

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and Seconded by Cllr Tucker

Note: Cllr Thomas as District Councillor would abstain but on this occasion had had to leave the meeting early

1355/23/VAR

Application for variation of condition 4 (use restrictions) of planning consent
0732/22/FUL

(resubmission of 0354/23/VAR)

Oakhill Farm Worston Yealmpton PL8 2LN

YPC-PG decision: objection.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and Seconded by Cllr Tucker

Note: Cllr Thomas as District Councillor would abstain but on this occasion had had to leave the meeting early.

1113/23/HHO

Householder application for first floor side extension, replacement porch & siting of an outbuilding

(retrospective) (resubmission of 0015/23/HHO)

10 Ploughman Way Yealmpton PL8 2JE

YPC-PG decision: no objection

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and Seconded by Cllr Tucker

Note: Cllr Thomas as District Councillor would abstain but on this occasion had had to leave the meeting early

1228/23/FUL

Provision of agricultural building & improved replacement agricultural access
(part retrospective)

Land At Sx 587 510 Two Crosses To Dunstone Torr Yealmpton

YPC-PG decision: no objection, with the proviso of agricultural use only and the access requires moderating.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and Seconded by Cllr Tucker

Note: Cllr Thomas as District Councillor would abstain but on this occasion had had to leave the meeting early

The following SHDC planning decisions were noted:

0353/23/HHO

Householder application for proposed additional storey to existing dwelling

Conditional Approval

16 Church Way Yealmpton PL8 2LA

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

Refusal

West Pitten Barns West Pitten Plympton PL7 5BB

14. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) The monthly expenditure was approved, Proposed by Cllr Baldry and Seconded by Cllr Barton
- b) The clerk reported closure of the Lloyds Bank P3 bank account
- c) VAT reclaim had been undertaken and monies received.
- d) The meeting received the Internal Audit Report
- e) The Meeting received and approved the Audit, Section1-Annual Governance Statement 2022/23
- f) The Meeting received and approved the Audit, Section2-Accounting Statement 2022/23

15. Correspondence

- a. The parishioner who has been looking after the **village flagpole** in Bakery Square for the most of the past 20 years. informed the meeting that following illness, he is now unable to continue. This gentleman added this coincides with

damage to the flagpole hoisting arrangements due to what appears as vandalism which has rendered it unusable. He had advised Cllr Thomas of this in February.

The parishioner holds the key to the flagpole and certain flags.

Cllr Craddock confirmed he would liaise with the parishioner accordingly.

Action by Cllr Craddock

b. Police Report for April 23: There were 12 Calls for service across the Parish via 101 / 999 which were discussed by the Meeting.

16. Date of next meeting: June 12th 2023

The meeting closed at 9.20pm