

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL 12th JUNE 2023

Present: Cllr Craddock (Chair) Cllr Guy-Fierens
 Cllr Endicott Cllr Hopkins
 Cllr Thomas Cllr Tucker
 Cllr Baldry Cllr Barton
 Also attending: Members of the public: 3

1. **Apologies:** Tom Edie South Hams District Council (SHDC)
2. **Election of councillors to committees based as far as possible on stated preferences - Yealmpton Parish Council – Allocated Responsibilities**

Item	Subjects	People (<u>Lead</u> underlined)
Admin and Organisation Clerk's employment	Councillors' duties	Cllr Craddock Cllr Baldry
Press liaison		Cllr Hopkins
Finance	Responsible Finance Officer Finance policy, Internal audit	<u>Clerk</u> (Cllr Craddock when vacancy for Clerk) Mr Michael Cosby
Communications	Parish Website, Yealmpton Press, Facebook etc.	<u>Cllr Barton</u> Cllr Guy-Fierens
Planning sub-committee	Planning applications	<u>Cllr Endicott</u> Cllr Baldry Cllr Tucker Cllr Craddock
Christmas décor	Trees, lights	Cllr Thomas
Roads, pavements and safety		Cllr Tucker
Speed Signs	Management of 3 signs & data	Cllr Guy-Fierens
Environment sub-committee		<u>Cllr Hopkins</u> Cllr Barton Cllr Guy-Fierens
Emergency Plan		<u>Cllr Guy-Fierens</u> Cllr Baldry
Grass cutting	SHDC liaison	<u>Cllr Hopkins</u> Cllr Guy-Fierens
Works	Maintenance of assets	<u>Cllr Craddock</u> Cllr Tucker
Public footpaths	P3 Co-ordination	Cllr Barton
Flagpole & flags		Cllr Baldry
Outside bodies		

Yealm Estuary management	Liaison	Cllr Endicott
Speedwatch	Liaison with Co-ordinator	Cllr Baldry
Demential Friendly Parishes		Cllr Hopkins
Yealmpton Community Association	YCA Committee	<u>Cllr Hopkins</u> Cllr Barton
Elize Heal & John Lanyon Trust		Cllr Endicott
Yealm Harbour Authority		Cllr Endicott
Five Parish Alliance		Cllr Hopkins
Police		Cllr Thomas
SW Ambulance Trust	Defib reporting	Cllr Craddock

3. Recruitment of councillors to fill vacancies.

There has been some interest. Advertise notice boards / Yealmpton Press / Facebook

4. Report from County Councillor – Cllr Thomas

From a County perspective:

You will recall my referring to significant problems with Children's Services at DCC. Here are the key points from the latest OFSTED inspection

Monitoring visit to Devon children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Devon children's services on 18 and 19 April 2023. This was the fifth monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate in January 2020. His Majesty's Inspectors for this visit were Steve Lowe and Sarah Canto.

Areas covered by the visit Inspectors reviewed the progress made in the quality and impact of services for children in care, with a particular focus on the following areas of concern identified at the last inspection:

- Permanence planning for children.*
- The quality and timeliness of life-story work.*
- The assessment of children looked after placed with parents.*
- Strategic oversight and grip on areas for improvement and oversight by senior leaders, including case audits and supervision.*

*This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. Headline findings The quality of social work practice across Devon **remains inconsistent**. Most children in care experience delays in securing permanent homes. This is for a variety of reasons but is mostly due to social workers lacking the confidence, professional curiosity and guidance required to understand children's needs and plan for their futures. Weak management oversight through supervision, insufficient challenge by independent reviewing officers, gaps in recording and poor care planning are often the root cause of these delays. Quality assurance through auditing still lacks sufficient impact in driving improvements in practice and has required a significant restart.*

Foster Care Fortnight - fostering communities

Foster Care Fortnight™ is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and demonstrate how foster care can transform the lives of everyone it touches. It is a national campaign supported by fostering services, like Fostering Devon, up and down the country. This year it's taking place from Monday 15 May to Sunday 28 May.

The goal of Foster Care Fortnight (www.fosteringdevon.org.uk/fostering-a-child/foster-care-fortnight/) is to support fostering services to highlight the need for more foster carers of all backgrounds and life experiences. We also use it as an opportunity to highlight the fantastic work of our current foster carers and use it as a platform for them to share an insight into their experiences. The theme for this year is Fostering Communities.

Please do get involved this year by sharing stories of your fostering communities by using the hashtags #FosteringCommunities and #FCF23 on social media. Remember to tag **@fosteringdevon** on Instagram and Facebook!

5. District Councillors Report – Cllrs Thomas & Edie

New Executive appointed at Full Council

Cllr Julian Brazil has been appointed as Leader of the Council for the four-year term from 2023/24 to 2026/27 and, with effect from May 25, he has made the following appointments to the Executive:

- Cllr Dan Thomas (Deputy Leader, with specific responsibility for Planning; Corporate Performance Oversight; Organisational; and Community Development);
- Cllr John McKay (Lead Executive Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity);
- Cllr John Birch (Lead Executive Member for Economic Development; Commercial Strategy; and Governance);
- Cllr Denise O'Callaghan (Lead Executive Member for Housing; Environmental Health; and Licensing);
- Cllr Victor Abbott (Lead Executive Member for Community Services; Operations and Leisure);
- Cllr Jacqi Hodgson (Lead Executive Member for Waste and Community Composting (working with the Leader)); and
- Cllr Nicky Hopwood (Lead Executive Member for Customer Service; Improvement; IT; and Digital Services (working with the Deputy Leader)).

Community Ownership Fund Round 3

The Government have recently announced the launch of Round 3 of the Community Ownership Fund. The window for applications opened on 31 May and will close on 12 July.

The Community Ownership Fund provides capital and revenue grants to support community groups take ownership of community assets and amenities at risk of being lost such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings.

This round of funding has also made changes to make it easier for voluntary and community groups to apply for funding to acquire assets and run them for the benefit of the community. The changes include:

- Reducing the match funding requirements for capital funds
- Increasing the amount of funding available from £250,000 to £1m
- Allowing town and parish councils to bid for funds in the same way as community groups

More information can be found [at www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-to-rescue-community-assets-through-expanded-government-fund](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-to-rescue-community-assets-through-expanded-government-fund).

Planning Training

Pat Whymer (Head of Development Management at SHDC) has offered planning training on the night of Thursday 20th July. It will last approximately 2 hours and will cover (amongst other topics) reasons why you can object (and reasons why you shouldn't!) to an application, Construction Management Plans, Class Q applications and other Permitted Development. Councillors from 6 parishes have expressed interest so I am proposing we use the Community Centre as venue.

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

- Craddock**
- Cllr baldry congratulated Cllr Thomas on his appointment as Deputy Leader
 - The Community Centre or Great Hall will be booked for the planning training

6. Declarations of interest - none

7. Minutes of the May council meeting - agreed

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

- Endicott**
- a) Mr Rod McKay: Taking of photographs of the distortion to northern side of the bridge at Yealmbridge to enable Cllr Thomas to liaise with DCC bridge monitoring team – ***Cllr Endicott will send pictures to Cllr Thomas.***
 - b) Monitoring the frequency of commercial vehicles accessing Stray Park sewerage works-clerk to undertake a dialogue with South West Water – ***leave until winter.***
 - c) Joint Cllr Planning Training in conjunction with Newton & Noss and other Parishes – ***discussed, see earlier.***
- Craddock**
- d) MUGA: quote for creation of a direct access – ***Cllr Craddock seeking quotes.***

9. Reports on allocated areas of responsibility

a) Works:

Flagpole fixed. Weeding done. Replace missing timber on footbridge, in hand.

b) Footpaths:

FP 20 – needs upgrading to make accessible – Cllr Barton to arrange a site meeting

FP 32 – tree down – Cllr Guy-Fierens will sort it.

FP19 – accessibility, leave until the claim is resolved.

c) Roads & Pavements

Cllr Tucker to identify problem areas following Wildanet's work on the roads and pavements.

d) Environment

Projects proposed – see later

f) Communication

Email forwarding is working for all councillors

g) Speed Issues

The speed signs are working. Cllr Guy-Fierens will check whether there is police approval to move the sign in Ford Road

10. Local Issues

Yealmpton Parish Council Environment projects and funding

Project 1.	River Yealm Water Quality Laboratory Analysis Requested £300
Project 2	School Engagement -YEM & YEG Youth Strategy Requested £700
Project 3	Yealmpton Community & Environment Flagship Tree Nursery - Kitley Woodland Requested £3,175
Project 4	Flora and fauna baseline survey of Ruby's Wood Requested £3,000
Project 5	Wildflower & Hedgerow / Wildlife Corridor Projects Requested £1,800
Project 6	Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) farm visits Requested £2,400
Project 7	5 Parish Alliance stand at Yealmpton show Requested £186
Project 8	Queen's tree & King's tree Requested £350
Project 9	Wildflower verges and Living Churchyards Requested £2,900
Project 10	Summer holiday community nature events Requested £700

Some payments are spread monthly or quarterly but approval needs to cover total commitments.

- Project 10 – a Bee-wild project was removed from the list as Bee-wild is a Yealmpton Community Association (YCA) project.
- Project 9 was also removed from the list as it can be dealt with under our 'Grass Cutting by SHDC' budget.
- The amounts requested for the projects are startup costs additional funding will be sought as the projects progress. YEG and YEM are not charities and are therefore liable for VAT whereas Yealmpton Parish Council (YPC) can claim VAT back. Careful bookkeeping will be required if YPC assumes any role in purchasing goods or services.
- After some discussion it was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Baldry that £6,000 is approved and allocated for the environmental projects this year and £6,000 next year, this was passed with 7 in favour and 1 against. How this funding will be applied to the various Projects 1 – 8 is to be decided by our environmental sub-committee (YEG) in liaison with YEM and other partners.

11. Planning Matters

- 1309/23/FUL Provision of agricultural livestock building - Object / YPC decision
- 1006/23/FUL (retrospective) Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian and retention of extension to field shelter - Agree / YPC decision

12. Financial Matters

The financial report was agreed. It was agreed to pay Mr Plant for 10 hours for the time spent on handing over.

13. Correspondence

Baldry,
Tucker

- a. A request for cutting back vegetation from The Villa to Yeo Park had been received – Cllr Baldry was asked to contact the landowner about this. Cllr Tucker was asked to make a list of areas where vegetation needs cutting back, so that we may follow the procedure of requesting owners to do the work; asking DCC to write to them; DCC to do the work which they have the power to charge to the owner.

Baldry

- b. Cllr Baldry had received an unsatisfactory reply from Sir Gary Streeter about allowing several companies to provide the same services. He will follow this up.

Baldry

- c. A letter from a parishioner had been received about litter following recycling collections, he will be directed to send it to SHDC.

14. Date of next meeting.

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

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm

Open Forum prior to the Council meeting

- A parishioner complained that MMB contractors working for Wildanet had damaged the road surface in Hillside Way leaving his property vulnerable to a risk of flooding. He had contacted various agencies without satisfaction. He requested that YPC supply him and neighbours with sandbags. ***Cllr Thomas suggested that he would contact DCC to make sure that the road surface is reinstated properly. Cllr Baldry suggested that he should contact Sir Gary Streeter (as Cllr Baldry has done).*** The parishioner said that recently he had contacted the area manager for Wildanet who said that he would get MMB to reinstate the road surface within 14 days.
- A parishioner representing 20's Plenty commented that Yealmpton's application to be a trial parish for 20mph restrictions had not been successful. Recently a Devon County Council (DCC) Councillor from Highways encouraged Parish Councils to apply for 20mph restrictions with possible part funding. ***Cllr Craddock asked how much YPC's contribution would be. Cllr Thomas cited the scheme being implemented in Ugborough would likely cost circa £20,000 but pointed out the differences between Ugborough Parish and Yealmpton. Cllr Craddock said that at this time YPC has no budget provision to support the project but could look at it in December when the budget is set.***
- A parishioner representing Yealmpton Environment Group (YEG) and Yealm Estuary to Moor (YEM) raised the projects proposed to improve the environment and the costs involved. This was discussed in the agenda (see earlier)