

Minutes of Yealmpton Parish Council

11th September 2023 at 7.30pm in Yealmpton Community Centre

Present: Cllr Craddock (Chair), Cllr Endicott, Cllr Tucker, Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Thomas and Cllr Guy-Fierens

In attendance: District Councillor Tom Edie and Sasha Walton-Jackman (Clerk)

Members of the public: 2

Open Forum (these do not form part of the official minutes) issues raised;

Two representatives from Totnes Rural Area Youth engagement project attended the meeting and informed the Council that they would be starting a Youth Club in October 2023 in Yealmpton. The Club will run weekly on Mondays 6.30pm- 8pm, alternating between a venue in Yealmpton one week and a venue in Holbeton the following week. The club will be for 8yrs – early teens. Admission will be free, with an optional donation. Free drinks and snacks will be provided. Each week the club will discuss a different topic, as well as offering activities and games. There is also the opportunity for older young people to receive training and lead sessions. More details will be in the Yealmpton Press and on Facebook.

1. Apologies

Cllr Baldry and Cllr Barton.

2. Recruitment of Councillors to fill Vacancies

Cllr Craddock reported that a prospective new Councillor had been interviewed and was willing to be co-opted on to the Council. They will be informed of the next date of the next council meeting and if they are still willing to attend will be co-opted on to the Council. Cllr Craddock will also contact another member of the public who had previously expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor and ascertain whether they still wish to be co-opted on to the Council.

It is agreed that an article will be placed in the Yealmpton Press introducing new members of the Parish Council and reminding the public of the work that the Council does.

3. Report from County Councillor – Cllr Thomas

Cllr Thomas attended a meeting last week where the Council resolved to write to the government seeking the reversal of the cuts to ticket offices at railway stations.

Cllr Thomas informed Council that an article had appeared in a national newspaper naming Devon County Council as one of the councils that was at risk of bankruptcy. Devon County Council has been seeking to reassure the public. Cllr Thomas reported that it was trying times at present there was a significant deficit and he would keep the Parish Council updated.

Cllr Tucker sought clarification from Cllr Thomas as to whether remedial works to road surfaces in the area were being funded by DCC or by the Contractors. Cllr Thomas is seeking clarification about specific sites but assured the Council that where warranties were still in place the Contractors were repairing the road surface at no further cost to the tax payer.

4. Report from District Councillor – Cllr Thomas and Cllr Edie

Cllr Edie provided a written report. This is to be circulated to Councillor by the Clerk.

Attention is drawn to the proposed planning reforms and in particular the changes around permitted development enabling some commercial premises to be converted into residential premises without the need for planning applications. There is concern that due process is being “done away with”, with little consideration to the impact on rural communities and future generations.

District Council is sending a strong response that they are not in support of these proposals. Council is very concerned about these proposals which risk less provision of local shops, businesses and farming. It was agreed that a letter will be sent to Sir Gary Streeter from the Parish Council stating our opposition to this proposal. Cllrs Craddock and Cllr Endicott to consider the proposals and produce a response to be sent by Council.

Cllr Hopkins raised that the damage to the village car park wall has not yet been repaired by SHDC. It is agreed that the Clerk will follow up this report and submit a request for it to be repaired.

5. Councillors’ Declaration of Interest

None.

6. Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Approved. Cllr Craddock signed the minutes.

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

- a. Yealmbridge: Bridge Strengthening update – Cllr Tucker reporting that this work had been completed satisfactorily save that debris had been left at the sides of the bridge. Cllr Thomas to assess the debris and report this to Nick Colton as appropriate.
- b. MUGA: access. Cllr Craddock had not heard anything further and would follow this up.
- c. FP20: resurfacing update. This work has been completed.
- d. Yeo Lane to Yealmbridge pavement update. Cllr Tucker reported that the hedge had been cut but the pavement remained narrow. Cllr Tucker stated that this would require future work in relation to clearing back the slumping hedge. Cllr Tucker and Cllr Craddock suggesting that provision should be made in next financial year’s budget for this project.
- e. Footpath through Shire Horse Centre Land update. Cllr Thomas reported that Cllr Barton had taken all necessary steps at this stage in relation to the claim and it would be a case of waiting for the claim to be assessed. This could be 12-18 months.
- f. Data Management Plan – Cllr Barton has updated the Data Management Plan and all Councillors are asked to review ahead of next month’s meeting. The Clerk to ensure that it is circulated to all Councillors.

8. Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise.

- a. Works - Cllr Craddock reporting that O J Maintenance has not been spending the time they are contracted for. Cllr Craddock to address this with him. Cllr Thomas to seek information about the availability of the road sweeper to clear village gullies.
- b. Public Rights of Way – Cllr Barton reported that a path had been cleared along FP28 to enable the footpath to be walked.

A Parishioner had contacted Cllr Barton to request a path be created from the Toll House to the Bus Shelter. Cllr Barton had provided photographs to Cllr Tucker and Cllr Craddock. A path is required to be dug and surfaced, rather than just strimming a pathway through the grass. This will need to be considered in the budget for next year.

Cllr Barton has received a request that the path for FP11 is marked as it might become obscured by the new crop. Cllr Tucker and Cllr Barton to let Cllr Craddock have details of signage is required and it will be ordered.

- c. Roads and pavements – Cllr Guy-Fierens requesting that the road signs are cleaned. Cllr Craddock to liaise with the relevant contractor.
- d. Environment – Cllr Hopkins had nothing to add to Linda Durman's Report below but to thank the Council for their funding and report that work is ongoing.

YEG report September 2023 – Linda Durman Chair YEG

River Yealm

The Riverfly Project goes live in October when WildFish undertakes the baseline/benchmarking survey as part of the Smart Rivers programme. The second such survey will take place in April alongside training to ensure that our volunteers who will carry out sampling twice a year at five chosen sites on the river, are doing so at the standard required for us to contribute data to the Smart Rivers Programme.

WildFish <https://wildfish.org/about/>

The Citizen Science Initiative (CSI) continues with volunteers taking regular readings measuring Yealm water quality. A full report on collated information from CSI will be prepared for presentation at a meeting in December. The continuous water monitor regularly records pollution day and night during dry weather.

The University of Plymouth in partnership with the YEM group are developing accessible and user-friendly maps and data sets for all environmental information covering the river Yealm, its catchment and estuary as part of the Data Accessibility for River Catchment Environmental Enhancement (DARCEE) Project.

Local volunteers participated in the first workshops brainstorming the potential uses and sources of the various data sets. The second follow up workshop will take place on 13 September at the University of Plymouth.

YEG is preparing an article to encourage people not to put bleach into the waste water/sewage system.

Trees

Proposals are in hand for Tree Seed Sunday on 8th October. The trees planted at Lodge Gate Field have survived well. The few that failed will be replaced at no cost to us. During the planting season this coming winter, several planting projects in the parish will see more than 5,000 additional trees planted. The trees are being supplied at no cost to the Parish Council and work will be done (hopefully) by volunteers.

Yealmpton parish falls within the area for which The Woodland Trust has secured funding for the identification and preservation of ancient and veteran trees:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/search/?q=ancient+and+veteran+trees&Submit=search=&p=1>

A local volunteer will train this month as a 'verifier'.

Despite Dutch Elm Disease, 600 elms have been identified in the parish. One large elm came down recently at Gorlofen and cuttings were taken for research at Kew.

Biodiversity

Connection has been made with South Brent 'birders' in the hope that a local group can be set up in Yealmpton to monitor the variety and quantity of local species.

Active travel

Our claim for a circular path in the former Shire Horse Centre fields will not be reviewed by the Definitive Map team for another 12 months.

Yealmpton Show

There was significant success recruiting additional non-farming land owners to YEM schemes to improve river quality.

Water Butts

It has come to our notice that several people have water butts but are unsure how to connect them to their downpipe. We have a free water butt (given by SWW) and aim to get this connected in Bakery Square for use by the volunteers who look after the planted flowers there. Mens' Shed will be asked to help with an event – to be advertised.

END

Cllr Tucker reported that two trees had blown down across the river. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the relevant landowners and ask them to clear the trees to prevent them causing blockages in the river. Cllr Tucker to advise addresses.

- e. Emergency - Cllr Guy-Fierens is reviewing the plan and checking the emergency boxes situated around the village. Flooding is the major risk and it is important that both sides of the river have resilience.
- f. Comms & Data Management – The Data Management Plan to be considered at the next meeting.
- g. Speed issues – Cllr Guy-Fierens has no updates. Cllr Craddock to check the status of the co-ordinator role

9. Parish Room

a) Council resolved to remove the entry at the Land Registry recording the now terminated lease in favour of YCA. Clerk to undertake necessary steps.

b) It was resolved to offer an extension to the agreement with the Men's Shed. An extension of 4 years from the date of the expiry of the previous agreement will be offered. Cllr Craddock to draft a suitable letter.

c) It was resolved to invoice YCA for apportioned charges. Clerk to prepare an invoice.

10. Donation to YCA

A £50 donation to Yealmpton and Brixton Befriending was agreed in recognition of a printer donated by a parishioner for the Clerk's use.

11. Planning matters

- 2625/23/HHO - Householder application for single storey rear extension, Battlehayes, Dunstone, PL8 2EL (Support)
- 2497/23/VAR - Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 3094/21/HHO, 3 Ploughman Way, PL8 2JE (Support)
- 2679/23/HHO - Householder application for proposed garage, utility and gym extension, The Orchard, Hern Lane, PL8 2HJ (Support)
- 2695/23/HHO - Householder application for installation of gates to a maximum height of 1.85m in line with existing dropped kerb, 23 Stray Park, PL8 2HF (Support)
- 2654/23/FUL - Application to regularise engineering works to access, track and the provision of an agricultural livestock building with landscaping (part retrospective), Land at SX588511 (Object)

12. Financial Matters

- a) Council resolved to approve the updated Financial Regulations.
- b) Cllr Craddock reporting that the external audit had concluded and we have been issued with Certificate of Completion of the Audit.
- c) Payments to made in September were read out and agreed.

13. Correspondence

- a) A Parishioner asked that the Police be invited to our next meeting to discuss the vandalism in village. Clerk confirmed that they have been invited. Clerk to contact Stray Park Action Group and inform them that the police have been invited to the next meeting.
- b) An update has been made in respect of the commemorative bench to go in Bakery Square. It is still hoped that it could be available around the end of September. Cllr Tucker will arrange to receive the bench and install it.
- c) Cllr Hopkins had emailed to inform the Clerk that she would be going on an extended period of leave. An agenda item will be made for next month's meeting for the Council to resolve whether to agree a leave of absence of up to 9 months.

- d) An update has been received from Devon Air Ambulance. We are waiting for them to provide the Memorandum of Understanding.
- e) Cllr Endicott drew the Council's attention to the proposed amendment to Brixton Parish's Neighbourhood Plan.

Date of next meeting: 9th October 2023.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

DRAFT