

Minutes of Yealmpton Parish Council

13th November 2023 at 7.35pm in Yealmpton Community Centre

Present: Cllr Craddock (Chair), Cllr Baldry, Cllr Barton, Cllr Guy-Fierens, Cllr McKay, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Tucker and Cllr Wilson.

In attendance: Sasha Walton-Jackman (Clerk)

Members of the public: 4 and two police officers.

Open Forum - The Police had responded to a request to attend the meeting to give advice to the Parish Council following vandalism around the village over previous months. Helpful advice was given; in relation to vandalism, the items/property targeted needs to be made more robust (target hardening) where possible and/or the individuals committing the vandalism need to be identified. Advice was given to increase visibility of the problems areas potentially with improved lighting and/or CCTV and trimming vegetation. The Police said they would go to the Stray Park play area over the next few days in the light and see whether there are any other measures they would recommend. It is felt that the antisocial behaviour is worse in the summer when the evenings are lighter, and the weather is better. The provision of Youth Clubs may help occupy bored youngsters. Members of the public have reported that the new bike track in the woods is being well used and has reduced tensions relating to mountain biking in Stray Park.

In relation to people driving in an antisocial way through the village, sometimes with modified engines causing a noise issue, the police recommended trying to get videos or photographs or noting number plates. If this information is passed to them, they will be able to speak to the individuals. They said that the public could report matters to them via 111, the online contact us facility or the Parish Council can provide a report. The more reports they are aware of the more they can do.

Council heard from a member of the local 20s Plenty Group seeking support for a new application to Devon Highways, Cllr Thomas would aim to have the costings available for the Precept meeting next month. Cllr Craddock said that a clear definition of the proposal is needed as well as a reasonable estimated of cost.

A member of the public spoke in relation to a planning matter.

No.	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies – Cllr Edie, Cllr Endicott and Cllr Hopkins in now on an approved period of leave for 9 months.	
2.	County Council Report – Cllr Thomas The clear up from Storm Ciaran is ongoing. Council is aware that there have been some problems with flooding at the bottom of Gypsy Hill at Yealmbridge. It has tried to be cleared but is requiring further work as there is a blockage in the drain. The Mobile Library Service has sadly been closed as it was found to be too expensive. Cllr Thomas asked the Parish Council to consider how the Parish Room might be used in some way to provide a library.	

	Cllr Thomas reporting that Ermington Village had secured agreement for a speed limit reduction on a stretch of the A3121, where the speed limit will be reduced from 40mph to 30mph. This is only on the basis that the Parish Council will fund the installation of clear visual indicators to alert motorists to the reduction in speed and these will need to be in place before the speed reduction is introduced. Ugborough Village are paying for the speed limit to be reduced from 30 to 20 on the village streets. It is costing £15,000 and is being paid for by the Parish Council. The roads in the village lend themselves to a speed reduction as they already meet the requirement of clear visual clues indicating that the appropriate speed is 20mph. Cllr Tucker raised that the parent and child road signage provision around Yeo Park needs to be reviewed. Cllr Thomas to contact Nick Colton of DCC and ask for this to be reviewed.	Cllr Thomas
3.	District Council Report – Cllr Edie’s Report had been circulated to Council. Recycling and food waste letters have now gone out to everyone. Cllr Thomas warning that there will be teething problems with the new system but that missed collections will be rectified within 48 hours. SHDC are also taking steps to support care leavers into adulthood through support with Council Tax discounts, employment support programmes and physical health and wellbeing programmes.	
4.	Declaration of Interests – none.	
5.	Minutes from 9th October 2023 – agreed and signed by Cllr Craddock.	
6.	Planning matters Cllr Craddock reporting on behalf of the planning sub-committee summarising some recent decisions relating to the parish. Applications requiring a response from the Parish Council; 3455/23//FUL – the Parish Council voting to “Support” the application with a comment stating support is subject to the condition that the new property should not be able to be an independent dwelling and flood risk is carefully considered.	Clerk to submit response.
7.	Environmental Update – November 2023 Report from YEG River Yealm <i>WildFish undertook the baseline/benchmarking survey for the Riverfly Project earlier in October. They surveyed six sites along the Yealm, all of which showed lower numbers of invertebrates than you would expect in a healthy river: a few mayflies and Caddis flies, one dragonfly, some elvers and 1 bullhead fish. We suppose that the chalky white pollution event noted 5th December 2022 continues to have a deleterious effect on invertebrate numbers, which is then reflected up the food chain. Ten volunteers will be trained in April 24 to continue sampling at the standard required for us to contribute data to the Smart Rivers Programme. WildFish https://wildfish.org/about/</i> <i>The Citizen Science Initiative (CSI) and continuous water monitor (CWM) now have 12 months’ verified data from regular readings measuring Yealm water quality. A full report will be available in December. We hope to be able to add evidence from cameras placed at strategic locations in the future. These could give us exact times when pollution is occurring.</i> <i>At present, South West Water along with other water companies, are refusing to share flow data for combined sewage overflows. River Yealm Water Quality</i>	

Group is working with other organisations to address this. This is with the support of the Information Commissioner.

Trees

Tree Seed Sunday on 8th October was a great success. The Rose & Crown provided their garden and volunteers were entertained by Morris Dancers and a band, with children enjoying face painting with the 'green man'. Some of the collected acorns have already started to sprout and so all have been planted in secure troughs in the new Yealmpton tree nursery in Lodge Gate Field. The Mens' Shed has agreed to make secure covers for troughs and other the planted areas in the nursery to keep vermin out.

The charity Moor Trees is advising on the Tree Nursery and one of their volunteers who lives in Yealmpton is coordinating the planting. The trees planted in the rest of Lodge Gate Field in February '23 continue to survive well. The few that failed are being replaced at no cost to us. The planting season in Yealmpton has shrunk to the months of November (after leaf fall) to February (when the buds sprout). The 5,000 trees for planting at several sites in the parish this winter 2023/4 have started to arrive. They are being supplied at no cost to the Parish Council and planting will be done by volunteers. YEM has given micro tree nurseries to local primary schools.

Schools engagement: a new 2 year Environmental Science A level began at Ivybridge CC this term. Many students are poorly served by entirely indoor classroom and home based learning but do engage and benefit from outdoor learning. An AQA A level research model is under development.

Biodiversity

Ruby's Wood Flora & Fauna Survey - ParkLife Southwest have carried out their initial baseline survey to record the trees and plants present in the wood and along the River Yealm. They are liaising with Ivybridge Community College to include the survey as part on the new Environment Sustainability 'A' Level (above), involving Six Formers in the data collection and analysis. The fauna survey includes the use of wildlife cameras and bird boxes and involves regular visits by specialist to record the wildlife.

Water Butts

The free water butt we were given by SW Water has been placed in Bakery Square to provide rainwater for volunteers who water the plants in containers there. Mens' Shed gave a public demonstration of how to connect a water butt to a Parish Room downpipe on 28th October.

Linda Durman Chair YEG

	8] Report from Councillors/clerk in respect of responsibilities/ actions arising from previous meetings: a) Report on the MUGA – Cllr Craddock reported that the YCA has given the go-ahead to the new business plan circulated last month. A new gate is being fitted, probably over the Christmas holiday, this will make permit access easier whilst preserving security for the school. b) Parish Room/Men’s Shed invoice report re utilities and providers – Clerk reported that the draft invoice had been completed and it was agreed that this would be sent to the YCA. c) Report from sub-committee concerning tidying the village- Cllr Craddock had prepared a draft poster to go in the Yealmpton Press. There will be a three pronged approach; i) Get the SHDC road Sweeper to attend the village more regularly. ii) Ask residents to clear around their own property. iii) Co-ordinate a volunteer group. d) Report regarding Permissive Path between Yealmpton and Collaton. Cllr Baldry to report at the next meeting. e) Report re footpath Yealmbridge- the Villa – Cllr Tucker. The hedge has been neatly trimmed back and therefore it is possible to see what needs to be done. Cllr Tucker and Cllr Thomas to arrange the necessary permits to commence work on improving the pavement. f) Report regarding state of the Salt Bins. Cllr Tucker had spoken with Nick Colton and they are going to be inspected and topped up by DCC. g) Report on investment options. Cllr Craddock had considered the investment options and had identified a 6 month fixed investment. He proposed that £52,0000 was placed in the higher interest account. It was agreed by majority 7/8. Cllr Craddock confirmed that the PWB loan on the Parish Room had been repaid. h) Summary of donations made last financial year – Clerk reported on last year’s donations. It was agreed unanimously that any donations provided for in the precept would be paid if they have not already been paid out.	Clerk Cllr Craddock – report January Cllr Baldry Cllrs Tucker and Thomas Cllr Craddock to arrange transfer Clerk – arrange transfers as appropriate
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9)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise. a) Works - Cllr Craddock and Cllr Baldry to meet with our existing contractor who is sadly still unable to work. Christmas Trees would be ordered when available. b) Public Rights of Way - Cllr Barton had received a report that the footpath between Bowden Hill and Glorofen had been closed for shooting. Cllr Barton will look into this and report at the next meeting. The surface of parts of footpath 20 washed away in the storm again. It is felt that more permanent options need to be considered. Clerk to write to landowner to see if they would consent to further areas on concrete being put down. P3 payment – Ros Davies is no longer the contact at DCC. We are waiting to hear about the new payment. Cllr Barton to report at the next meeting. YEG have requested that the £3,000 was allocated for this year towards the Silverbridge Way extension is carried forward to next year, this was agreed by Council. c) Roads and pavements - Cllr Guy-Fierens and the Clerk had met with SHDC and identified various locations around the village where the road sweeper was required urgently. Cllr Guy-Fierens and Clerk to send a map showing the most urgent locations in need of sweeping. d) Environment – See YEG report above. Cllr Barton will report on the Active Travel initiative in January’s meeting, this will become a standing item on the Agenda. e) Emergency - Cllr Guy-Fierens is updating the plan and is seeking further volunteers from the village to help. Cllr Guy-Fierens to order 1 tonnes of extra salt. f) Comms & Data Management Cllr Barton – all policies are up to date. g) Speed issues – Speed signs are functioning well. Cllr McKay has completed the Speedwatch online training. Now official co-ordinator. Data will need to be downloaded from the machines. Consideration will need to be given to whether to change the sign at the Petrol Station to a solar powered sign rather than a battery powered sign. Consider at the precept meeting.	Cllrs Craddock and Baldry Cllr Thomas Cllr Barton Clerk Cllr Barton Cllr Guy-Fierens and Clerk Cllr Barton Cllr Guy-Fierens All Cllrs
10)	Financial Matters - Invoices for payment totalling £2,006.47 approved by Council for payment.	Clerk – arrange transfers

11)	TRAYE report The first meeting was a huge success with 40 young people and their families attending. They will continue to meet every fortnight at the Cricket Pavilion. The commencement of the Youth Club was delayed and they have sought a pro-rated payment. It was agreed by Council that the £2,500 allocated to the Youth Club would be paid to boost their resources as it is proving popular. Cllr Guy-Fierens to enquire whether there could in the future be a weekly Youth Club. Clerk – to set up payment. TRAYE have sent an SLA for the next financial year seeking £3,500 and are also seeking a trustee to be appointed. This is to appear on the Agenda in January.	Cllr Guy-Fierens Clerk Clerk
12)	Grass Cutting – Cllr Guy-Fierens had met with SHDC and Bee Wild to agree a Grass Cutting Schedule. Signage will be put up in the Church Yard to inform people of the intentional reduction in grass cutting and the area for designated rewilding. SHDC may be able to support a community day by helping clear pavements etc and removing waste from the clear up but this would need to be a week day. Clerk to invoice DCC for reimbursement	Clerk
13)	Phone Box adoption scheme – Cllr Barton has applied to adopt the Phone Box and it is now in a consultation period. It is agreed that notices will be put up and an article is to go out in the Yealampton Press. Clerk and Cllr Barton to ensure extra notices are put up.	Cllr Barton and Clerk
14)	Correspondence Clerk had received a request from a child minder in the village for two of the four of the baby/toddler swings to be changed for junior swings in the under 8 play area. Clerk to liaise with SHDC and make this request. Clerk had also received reports that children had got their legs stuck in the goal in the park. Clerk to report this to SHDC and to see if the manufacturer can retrofit something to make it safer. Clerk had received some correspondence about areas of the village where vegetation is causing a problem for pedestrians and drivers. Clerk will clarify the locations on a couple and send appropriate letters to landowners. Clerk also had received a request to book Baker Square for the Annual Plant sale. Clerk to respond and book this and confirm. Cllr Craddock had received correspondence about NHS care volunteer responders and would put this up on the Community Resource Centre Notice Board. The Parish Council extends their thanks to the Volunteer for hosting tea, coffee and cake following the Remembrance Service and blessing of the new bench in Bakery Square.	Clerk Clerk Clerk

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Date of next Parish Council meeting: 8th January 2024

Closed precept meeting will be on 11th December 2023 at 7.30pm in the Community Room.