

MINUTES OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

8th January 2024 AT 7.30 pm at the COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Open Forum

Claire Puckey, Community Development Lead for Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm introduced herself and outlined some of the work that she is doing in the local community and thanked Yealmpton Parish Council for their donation. Their AGM is on Thursday 18th January 2.30pm at the Rose and Crown, Yealmpton.

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

In attendance: Sasha Walton-Jackman (Clerk)

Cllr Hopkins on approved period of leave.

Members of the public: 3

No.	Minute	Action
1)	Apologies – The Council has sadly received a letter of resignation from Rachel Wilson, she also sends her apologies for this evening's meeting. The Council thanks Rachel Wilson for her contribution to the Council's work. Cllr Edie sends apologies and has sent a written report which appears below.	Clerk – to write to accept resignation and inform SHDC.
2)	Report from County Council. Cllr Thomas. DCC has been responding to reports of flooding, unblocking drains to relieve the problem areas. The gully cleaner has been deployed to the Smithaleigh road to clear flooding. Short of major engineering on this road this is the only solution to deal with the periodic flooding of the road. Parishioners are encouraged to report areas of flooding to enable this to be dealt with. There are areas of upcoming road closures for resurfacing, which have been publicised on the local village Facebook pages.	Cllr Thomas is asked to look into what steps are taken to assess where the water is able to drain.
3)	Report from District Council. Cllr Edie. (written report) Growing the use of e-bikes We would appreciate your help in building a list of companies who hire bikes in our area, so we can talk to them about how we can support them and grow the use of e-bikes in our area. We are also planning to invite these local bike businesses to a workshop to discuss barriers early this year. Please can you get in touch with Gemma Bristow (01803 861383) if you know of any other companies not included in the list below: • Salcombe Bike Hire Co • South Hams E-bikes (Stokeley Farm Shop) • Bearland Bikes (East Portlemouth) • E-XploreDevon (Kingsbridge) • Brightham House – a B&B hiring bikes (Salcombe) • Evo Bike Hire (Stoke Fleming) Help residents save on their energy bills Lower income households could benefit from free energy efficiency upgrades to their homes this winter with our support.	

	We are working with partners South Dartmoor Community Energy to survey eligible homes across the District and provide energy efficiency measures, personalised to the needs of the property. Homes Upgrade Grants are available to homeowners with an annual income of less than £31k, who have heating that isn't mains gas with an EPC rating of D,E,F or G. Please spread the word and if you know of any residents who may be eligible for support, please ask them to apply online. Cllr Thomas reports that the new waste service is going well. There have been a small number of complaints but generally the response is positive. Thanks to the workers who have been working through challenging weather conditions recently.	
4)	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. None.	
5)	To agree and sign the minutes of the Council held on 13th November 2023. Approved and signed.	
6)	Planning matters Two planning matters required a formal YPC response. Reference: 3910/23/FUL Proposal: Regularise engineering works to access track & the provision of an agricultural livestock building with landscaping (part retrospective) Site Address: Land At Sx 588 511, Dunstone, Yealmpton YPC decision - Object Comment - Visual intrusion into the 'National Landscapes' (formerly AONB). No independent validation of the necessity for such a building adjacent to the existing 'new one' of the same style and size. Potential spring and field runoff into the lane/road doesn't appear to have been addressed. YPC are not able or expert enough to comment on other aspects of drainage suggested for the proposed structure. Reference: 4097/23/HHO Proposal: Householder application for alterations & rear extension Site Address: Tangle Lea, Yealmpton, PL8 2EQ YPC decision - Support Comment - No comment Cllr Thomas abstained from voting on planning matters as he may be involved as part of South Hams Planning Committee. Cllr Tucker abstained from voting in relation to 3910/23/FUL due to his agricultural links, otherwise all councillors agreed the above decisions.	Clerk – to file responses with SHDC planning department
7)	Approval of budget and level of precept for 2024/2025. The proposed total costs for YPC for the financial year 2024/2025 = £104,884. The budget as prepared and circulated to Councillors was approved unanimously by all Councillors present.	Clerk – to file the Precept return with South Hams District Council.

	An increase to the parish precept was proposed of 5.26%. The Band D parish rate will be £62.26 annually, this is an increase of £3.04 or 5.13%. The justification given is that the Council is seeking to significantly increase its Youth Club provision and is taking steps to tackle the untidy village, which has been a frequent source of complaint. This is being achieved, whilst reducing YPC's financial reserves to 4.5 months expenditure by the end of the financial year. This is within the recommended level of reserves of between three and twelve months' expenditure, as advised by NALC. Cllr Baldry opposed this increase to the precept, arguing that financial reserves should be reduced further, all other Councillors voted to approve the increase and proposal was approved by majority.	
8)	Environmental update Provided by Linda Durman, Chair of the Yealmpton Parish Council Environmental Sub-Committee. <i>Environment report January 2024</i> <i>1. Wild about Devon award.</i> <i>Yealmpton Parish Council has won a coveted Wild About Devon Award from the Devon Local Nature Partnership. There were four categories and three winners in each. Yealmpton won in the wildlife category for projects restoring habitats. The council's decision to use Section 106 funds to improve our environment has resulted in the success of much needed projects. It also means that we can point to success in this area when applying for grants to further our work. One such application has already been successful, securing £33,000 from the Environment Agency. Well done Yealmpton PC!</i> https://www.devonlnp.org.uk/get-involved/wild-about-devon/devon-wildlife-community-of-the-year-awards-2021-22/ <i>2. Devon County is drawing up a Nature Recovery Plan. We anticipate that this will encourage District and Parish Councils to undertake a similar exercise later in 2024.</i> <i>3. River Yealm</i> <i>A celebratory meeting was held at YCA on Sat 2 December. Results from the first 12 months' sampling were presented and discussed. The first annual "Dippers" report is planned for January 2024. RYWQG plans to purchase an outdoors wildlife camera.</i> <i>Efforts to use our data to get improvement in water quality continue via a number of meetings and workings with other groups such as the River Yealm Catchment Co-ordination Partnership (RYCCP), chaired by the Environment Agency, working with the Westcountry Rivers Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Natural England, Yealm Estuary Management Group, South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, South West Water, South Hams District Council and others.</i> <i>4. Trees</i> <i>The trees planted at Lodge Gate field in January 2023 have been assessed. There has been a 5% loss (within normal range).</i>	

	<i>Replacement whips have been supplied by Eforest at no cost and will be planted 10th January 2024. A longer term management plan is being drawn up and an 8 metre circle planted as a wildflower meadow.</i> <i>Another 1,500 trees from Plymouth and South Devon Community Forests are ready for planting along the Yealm at Worston.</i> <i>Joint research on disease resistant elms in the parish continue with academic support. Young trees will be planted in the Yealmpton tree nursery and nurtured.</i> <i>A bid for funding for a new project (YESS) has been successful. YESS funded</i> <i>5. Funding round for S106</i> <i>Our year end is 31st March 2024 so we plan to prepare a summary of how the 2023/4 funding has been spent for the April Parish Council meeting, based on the six projects approved at the June 2023 council meeting. At the same meeting we will propose a project plan for 2024/5, much of which will be continuing work on existing projects.</i> <i>6. Other</i> <i>We have new volunteers taking a lead on bat and bird surveys that will involve Yealmpton residents but need someone to take a lead on soil quality. All three topics have evoked public interest and we would benefit from having a volunteer to co-ordinate talks on these and other subjects.</i> <i>Linda Durman</i> <i>Chair YEG</i> Thanks is given to Linda Durman and YEG for the great environmental work they are undertaking in the area. YPC queried the reference to s.106 and this will be clarified with Dr Durman.	
9)	Active Travel update Yealmpton to Plymouth has been identified as one of the 29 priority routes in South Hams for cycling. YPC is a confirmed stakeholder, an online meeting for stakeholders will take place sometime in February/March, in order to give us a better understanding of the process.	Cllr Barton will attend the online meeting and report to Council in due course. Clerk to seek confirmation of the proposed route.
10)	Yealmpton Tidy Village Group Clerk reporting that 5 volunteers have come forward to be involved in the group. Clerk has also met with Brixton Parish Council Chair to discuss how their group operates. The use of weed killer was discussed and advice will be sought from experts as to which products are appropriate.	Cllrs Craddock, Guy-Fierens and Barton will hold a meeting with those who have come forward to progress the formation of the group.

11)	Report from Councillors/clerk in respect of responsibilities/ actions arising from previous meetings:	
a	Report regarding Permissive Path between Yealmpton and Collaton – Cllr Baldry next meeting, still waiting for Newton and Noss Parish Council to propose a meeting date.	
b	Report re footpath Yealmbridge- the Villa – Cllr Tucker reports that it is proposed that steps will be taken to pull the hedge back towards the field when the current crop has been harvested. This is likely to be in July or August 2024.	
c	Footpath Bowden Hill - Gorlofen – Cllr Barton had received a report of unlawfully closure for pheasant shooting. Any further reports will be referred to Devon County Council, Public Rights of Way for investigation.	
d	P3 - update from Cllr Barton. The scheme is not currently open for applications and we have been advised to await further correspondence from the P3 department. Some areas have been identified where grant funding will be sought. There have been some reports of works needing to be done in relation to tree/branch removal. YPC contractor will be instructed to undertake necessary works. Cllr Tucker reported a walker had strayed from the footpath on the Coast to Coast trail and their presence in the field had worried sheep. Cllr Barton will check signage is in place.	Cllr Barton to continue compiling data for P3 return and will review signage on Coast to Coast trail to see if further signage is required.
e	TRAYE – YPC has received a Memorandum of Understanding setting out YPC's commitment for the financial year 2024/2025, Cllr Craddock has not had the opportunity to review the document. It is noted that it does not provide for the weekly service that has been requested by YPC as the viability of this is still be considered by TRAYE. Council voted to accept the Memorandum of Understanding subject to Cllr Craddock's review of the document and if he is happy with it, it will be signed and returned to TRAYE. Cllr Guy-Fierens volunteered to join the Steering Group for TRAYE.	Cllr Craddock to review the Memorandum of Understanding.
f)	Phone box adoption scheme – Cllr Barton. The consultation period has ended and we are waiting to hear if there have been any objections. There is a small grant that is available for shelving and Cllr Barton will apply for a grant etc.	Cllr Barton to apply for grant
12)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise.	
a	Works - Cllr Thomas to arrange removal of Christmas trees. It is noted that the contractor and SHDC have undertaken works around the village and a few areas have been tidied. Unfortunately the small playground was damaged again during the Christmas holidays. The hedge of the playground has been cut back but not low enough to improve visibility as per the advice from the police. SHDC will be asked to cut it lower.	Cllr Thomas Clerk to contact SHDC Cllr Barton will send details of the damage to Cllr Craddock who will arrange the repair.
b	Public Rights of Way - Cllr Barton reporting that a few stiles are either too high or loose. Cllr Barton to contact Ros Davies and arrange for these to be reviewed.	Cllr Barton
c	Roads and pavements – Cllrs Baldry, Craddock and Tucker to meet with the developer of Collaton Cross to discuss a construction	Cllr Tucker to provide a map of

	traffic management plan to consider the construction traffic passing through the village. Cllr Tucker proposes an extension of the footpath between the bus shelter at Dunstone Cross to the edge of the road at the Toll House at Yealmbridge.	the proposed footpath and costings at the next meeting.
d	Environment – Cllr Barton will take over responsibility for this item until Cllr Hopkins is back from Japan.	
e	Emergency - Cllr Guy-Fierens will arrange some defibrillator training when he has suitable dates from YCA and South West Ambulance Service.	
f)	Comms & Data Management - Cllr Barton suggested standardising the email disclaimer.	Clerk to provide new email footer.
g	Speed issues - Cllr McKay had now downloaded a year's worth of data from the speed monitors. This data will be made available to the public shortly. During 2023, the A379 speed sign monitored the speeds of 642,000 vehicles, and the Ford Road Speed sign monitored nearly 117,000 vehicles. Early analysis shows that 15% of vehicles were travelling in excess of 35 mph, however this percentage is greater than that measured by SpeedWatch and is due, in part, to the monitors detecting traffic before it enters the 30mph zone. There will be some repositioning of the cameras to ensure the capture the most useful data. The solar panels appear to be working well and it is therefore worth switching to solar panels. Some cameras will also be able to record data from traffic travelling in each direction, even if the sign is only displaying for one way. An article will be put in the Yealmpton Press about the speed data, raising awareness for all road users. Cllrs Craddock, Baldry and Thomas reporting that they had recently met with Devon County Council and members of the 20sPlenty group to consider what measures can be taken in areas of the village that have been identified as areas that might be appropriate for either increased signage, new road structures or reduced speed limits/zones. YPC voted by majority to adopt the following position; <i>Yealmpton Parish Council supports the introduction of 20 mph speed limits on Ford Road and New Road in their entirety. We will be advised by professional traffic engineers about the need for, viability, affordability and cost-effectiveness of any proposed implementation.</i>	Cllr McKay to release data to the public, further consider the appropriate signs/cameras and the positions thereof. A piece will be put in the Yealmpton Press. Clerk and Cllr Craddock to look into suitable traffic/highway engineers to obtain a report.
13)	Financial Matters – The last two months' financial transaction were reviewed and forthcoming expenditure of £2,332.90 was approved.	
14)	Correspondence had been received from Newton and Noss Environmental Group sub-committee about local composting.	Cllr Baldry to meet with them to discuss this further.
	Meeting closed at 9.45pm Date of next meeting: 12th February 2024	