

MINUTES OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 11TH MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 PM AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

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

In attendance: Sasha Walton-Jackman (Clerk)

Cllr Hopkins on approved period of leave.

Members of the public: 5

Open Forum

A member of the public spoke, having noted from the minutes of the last meeting that Pillar Land Securities had proposed a self-imposed speed limit of 20mph for their contractors working on the Collaton Development. Their self-imposed restrictions are welcomed. It is noted that there are many smaller developments taking place in Newton and Noss which generate a lot of construction traffic on New Road and Ford Road. Any dangerous or anti-social commercial traffic should not immediately be assumed to be part of the Collaton development. Cllr Tucker recommended that the name of the contractor on the side of any such vehicle should be noted and a report, including the date and time, should be made to that company.

It was reported by a member of the public that the speed sensors in the village appear to be producing inaccurate speeds or are not working. Cllr McKay clarifying that the speed sensors are designed to get people to slow down and act as warning signs. It does pick up traffic before it enters the 30mph zone but that is part of its function as a warning sign to get drivers to reduce their speed by the time they enter the 30mph zone. Cllr McKay is confident that the signs are in working order. There is some "down-time" while the batteries are being charged, but this is well within the police recommended periods when the signs should be switched off.

Peter Sandover Chair of South Devon National Landscape provided a 15 minute talk on The South Devon National Landscape. See attached summary of presentation.

No.	Minute	Action
1)	Apologies: Cllr Guy-Fierens and Cllr Edie	
2)	Report from County Council. Cllr Thomas The budget for 2024/25 has been agreed, with another 4.99% rise in council tax. Bands are below:	

Key Table 2 – Precept & Council Tax

TOTAL SPENDING TO BE MET FROM COUNCIL TAX

	£
County Council Budget funded by District Councils' collection funds	529,198,103.08
Net Surplus on Council Tax collection in previous years	(5,223,838.10)
Total to be met from Council Tax Precepts in 2024/25	523,974,264.98

COUNTY COUNCIL TAX DUE FOR EACH PROPERTY VALUATION BAND

Valuation Band	Government Multiplier		Adult Social Care Precept	General Expenditure	2024/25 Council Tax Devon CC
	Ratio	% of Band D	£	£	£
A	6/9	66.7	165.06	978.72	1,143.78
B	7/9	77.8	192.57	1,141.84	1,334.41
C	8/9	88.9	220.08	1,304.96	1,525.04
D	1	100.0	247.59	1,468.08	1,715.67
E	11/9	122.2	302.61	1,794.32	2,096.93
F	13/9	144.4	357.63	2,120.56	2,478.19
G	15/9	166.7	412.65	2,446.80	2,859.45
H	18/9	200.0	495.18	2,936.16	3,431.34

The County Council Tax for Band D represents an increase of 4.99% on the 2023/24 amount.

The headline spending figures, with this year's figures shown on the left, are below:

2023/24 Adjusted Budget £'000		Changes £'000	2024/25 Budget £'000
340,245	Integrated Adult Social Care	20,501	360,746
206,278	Children and Young People's Futures	21,507	227,785
21,678	Public Health, Communities & Prosperity	(755)	20,923
49,755	Corporate Services	(1,310)	48,445
81,619	Climate Change, Environment & Transport	3,863	85,482

As you can see, the vast majority of spending continues to be on adult and children's services. There is just under 5% more for the whole department that covers highways, suggesting another tough year ahead.

A fully costed opposition amendment for an extra £2million on roads, split into £1.5m for potholes and £0.5m for road lining, was defeated on party lines.

The small piece of good news is that Locality Funding seems to have gone back up to £8k per Cllr.

Public asked to have their say on Devon and Torbay devolution deal

A six-week public consultation was launched on Monday 12 February, on the draft proposal to create a Combined County Authority (CCA) for Devon and Torbay to oversee new powers and funding transferred from Government.

People are being invited to have their say on how the CCA would work, the powers that it would have and the functions it would be responsible for. These include investment in local economic growth, delivering affordable housing, improving public transport, and meeting net zero ambitions.

Further information about our joint consultation with Torbay Council and details of how to respond are available at www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk

3) **Report from District Council.** Cllr Edie

	Consultation on designated bathing waters The Government have proposed 27 new bathing sites across the UK, including five locations across the South Hams. They are: • Coastguards Beach, River Erme • River Dart at Dittisham • River Dart at Steamer Quay, Totnes • River Dart at Stoke Gabriel • River Dart at Warfleet, Dartmouth Designation would mean water quality tests throughout the summer. You can have your say on the government's proposals online. Please encourage your communities to share their views. South Hams Community Awards Do you know people doing great things for the community? If the answer is yes, then you can showcase their hard work, by nominating them for a South Hams Community Award. The awards will recognise the individuals, groups and organisations who go above and beyond to support their local towns and parishes. Read more about the awards and watch the recent video from Cllr Pannell. The Chairman, Cllr Guy Pannell and his panel of judges are looking for nominations in three categories. - The Young Persons Award (for under 18s) - The Community Champion Award (for over 18s) - The Community Organisation Award Help us shine a spotlight on the people, groups and organisations who support our wonderful community by: • Watching and sharing our video message from the Chairman • Sharing our social media posts • Directing your communities to our online nomination form Nominations close on Sunday 31 March 2024.	
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 declared.	
5)	Minutes of the Council held on 12th February 2024 Approved and signed.	
6)	Planning matters An update was given in relation to applications relevant to the Parish.	

	The following planning applications were discussed and the YPC response were agreed unanimously, save for Cllr Thomas abstained. Application 0243/24/HHO - YPC decision – Object. Comment - YPC are objecting, as this proposal is within the National Landscape (AONB) and is adjacent to Yealmpton 'Conservation Area'. If SHDC were to approve this they must ensure there is a uniform appearance (however created) from all properties that form collectively the same boundary to Stray Park (part of the conservation area). Application 3866/23/FUL - YPC decision – Object. Comment - YPC are objecting to this proposal as it does not respond to any agricultural need and is not sympathetic to the Grade 11 listed buildings close by at Waye Farm. Application 4181/23/HHO - YPC decision – Support. Comment - YPC are supporting this application on the understanding the drainage for the proposed shower/wc room is engineered to the required planning standard. Application 0365/24/HHO - YPC decision – Support. Comment - YPC note there is no dropped kerb for this proposal. Application 0236/24/FUL - YPC decision – Support. Comment - Conceptually YPC support this applications but we have a few concerns:- • Whilst change of use to F2 status is sought this should preclude further change to residential use in the future. • Is this proposal regarded as permanent or 'long term' temporary? • With a Forest School adjacent the drainage of roof and foul water needs to be dealt with in the correct manner for health reasons. • Do 'Highways' regard this proposal as having safe access and egress from a 60mph limit road?	Clerk to update the Planning portal with responses.
7)	Environmental update - YEG Annual report 2023/4 Note that more detailed info on YEG activities have been reported regularly to Yealmpton Parish Council. Members meet as YEG every 2 months. We rely entirely on volunteers to design and set up projects, secure funding, manage the budget, recruit and train volunteers, undertake health and safety assessments, and prepare reports. There is a limited number of people in the parish with the skills and motivation to take a lead on projects. Project managers also liaise with neighbouring parishes and local and professional organisations to ensure that there is no duplication of effort, that there is a sound academic base for the project work and that work to improve the River Yealm water quality is consistent along the whole length of the river.	

Our programme of work to improve the environment was given a huge boost when the Parish Council voted funds to support our work in June 2023. This has already led to successful bids for future funding from various organisations, based on what we have been able to achieve already.

River Yealm water quality.

Results from the Citizen Science Initiative and Continuous Water monitor have given us a detailed picture of the health of our river for the first time (report to follow). These results are used to encourage the Environment Agency and others to take steps to improve quality and react quickly when there is a pollution incident, such as that reported in December 2022. To back up the relevance of quality monitoring, additional projects (co-ordinated by the River Yealm Water Quality Group) are being put in place to gain objective measures of invertebrates in the river and the quantities of some bacteria. This again will provide the objective evidence needed to enforce quality standards on South West Water. Much of the pollution of our river is due to run off from adjacent fields and roads and possibly from the significant number of older sewage treatment plants along its course.

Trees and hedges.

Project managers have secured donations of the thousands of small trees that were planted in the parish this year by volunteers. These include some orchard trees in Stray Park but most planting has been on private land; either in fields that will be accessible to the public or along the banks of the River Yealm to reduce pollution from fields and animals. Thanks to Parish funding, a large tree nursery has been established in the Kitley Woodland by Ben's Farm Shop. The tree seeds collected by the community on Tree Seed Sunday last October have already been planted in the nursery troughs, whilst others are still being processed for planting in the spring. The anti-vermin screens for the troughs are being constructed by the parish Men's Shed. Joint work with FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) has engendered significant interest in improving biodiversity, especially given new government requirements for biodiversity net gain. There are several streams of government funding available to farmers who wish to adopt these new practices. Within the parish there is also a significant amount of land owned by non-farming landowners (NFLs). We are working with 32 NFLs in the parish who want to improve wildlife and biodiversity, but for whom there is no government funding. The importance of hedges as a haven for wildlife is also addressed in our work.

Biodiversity.

Yealmpton was already doing well in relation to enhancing biodiversity in verges and the churchyard. This year we have begun a project at a local site that has not been used for any recreational or agricultural purpose for 40 years and so offers an unique opportunity to record wild plant and animal species native to the parish. It also provides the opportunity for comparison with the adjoining New England Quarry Nature Reserve managed, by the Devon Wildlife Trust. Knowing what is there will enable us to recommend interventions to improve biodiversity elsewhere in the parish.

There is more to do. Bird and bat walks have been popular, but sessions on water butts and heat pumps less so. Improvements to enable more active travel and light pollution have been pursued, but action is not within the power of the Parish Council. Work with schools and young people has been a huge success. We would welcome volunteers to take a lead on

- Relating soil type to agricultural practice and surface water drainage
- Mitigating adverse effects of road runoff and reviewing schemes to clean runoff before it enters our river.
- Soil quality and no dig gardening.

Linda Durman, Chair YEG - February 2024

	A Further update was provided in relation to the recent pollution incident. Pollution events, River Yealm The river Piall was observed to be running white ‘bank to bank’ on the morning of 18th February 2024. This was reported to the Environment Agency who are investigating (ref EA 02232669). The Environment Management team is still investigating this pollution incident. A similar incident on the Piall was reported on 2nd December 2023. The Environment Agency has advised that this is a licensed outflow ‘within accepted levels’. The serious Incident of 5 December 2022 is currently being pursued by the EA. The Tamar Management Catchment Co-ordinator has offered RYWQG a Teams meeting to discuss matters but we do not yet have a date for that. Linda Durman, Chair YEG - 4 March 2024 It was also observed that there appears to have been another incident of pollution on 11th March 2024.	
8)	River Yealm Water Quality Group Correspondence from the Chair of the RYWQG was considered and along with their funding request for the year 2024/2025; Annual running cost of £120.00 and River Fly Survey of £475.00. These funding requests were unanimously approved.	Clerk – to arrange payment to BPC
9)	Active Travel update Cllr Barton provided a report following a meeting on 28th February 2024. The meeting was an update on progress of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) commissioned by South Hams District Council (SHDC). This was a meeting to inform Y2P about the plan before going to public consultation 15 – 25 April. The plan has been commissioned identifying priority routes by analysing bicycle movement flows of people. The aims are to concentrate funding to the areas of need. It was noted that DCC get funding for development of routes but SHDC does not, the latter is reliant on S106 funding and SPF funding. The plan has identified 20KM routes by drawing lines from A to B on maps and then overlaying these on road networks and transport modelling to identify the most direct routes. The project led by Gemma Bristow (SHDC) concludes at the end of May. In the longer term the LCWIP could be embedded in future joint local plans to secure S106 funding to establish the routes. The route along Silverbridge Way as being the preferred route in the LCWIP, this would need extending to the Farm Shop as has been proposed, land owners permission has been granted but planning permission for change of use would be needed. It was commented that Silverbridge Way is very steep. From Brixton to Elburton the identified route is north of the A379. The consultants who have identified the routes would not now consider alternatives. The focus for the LCWIP is everyday cycling rather than travel to work. Gemma Bristow and the consultants will be available at drop in sessions in the 5 towns of the South Hams during the public consultation (between 15 – 25 April, dates to be confirmed).	
10)	Telephone Box Adoption Scheme	

	The agreement with BT has been signed and returned. Cllr Barton noted that it is quite damp in the phone box. When the adoption process is completed, Cllr Barton will assess the work required regarding racking/boxes etc. Cllr Barton had emailed the SHDC planning department to see whether they could advise as the phone box is listed. No response has been received to date. Cllr Thomas agreed to follow this up. A proposed village library in the Parish Room was discussed. Unfortunately, we had not been successful in a grant application as the funds had all been distributed. An application to Cllr Thomas' County Localities fund may be made after April. It is noted that St Bartholomew's may be forming a library in the church. Cllr Barton to liaise with the Church volunteers to see if there could be a joint enterprise.	Cllr Thomas to liaise with SHDC regarding Cllr Barton's email. Cllr Barton to liaise with St Bartholomew's volunteers and report back.
11)	Road Closures – to note upcoming Road closures; a) A379 - BRIXTON ROAD, BRIXTON 09.04.2024-13.04.2024 (inc) 09.30-15.30 b) A379 ORCHARD HILL TO WESTERN LODGE CROSS, YEALMPTON 27.03.2024-31.03.2024 (inc) 09.30-15.30 c) Wilburton Cross ZC199 TO A379, Ermington 03.07.24 (9.30-15.30)	
12)	Yealmpton Tidy Village Group update Cllr Craddock reporting that there has been an initial meeting of the group. There is concern that the process could be too bureaucratic and confused in terms of what it wants to achieve. Cllr Craddock had proposed some parameters that the group could work within and this had been circulated to YPC for review and discussion. Some members of the Council were concerned at the potential loss of biodiversity and the removal of vegetation. Some members of the Council were concerned that leaving vegetation growing on the pavement posed a trip hazard for vulnerable residents. It was agreed that Cllr Craddock would review the document he had produced following the discussions during the meeting and try to find a middle ground. This document would be circulated to volunteers. At this stage it is felt that Health and Safety/Road Safety training is not required for the group. A Litter Pick has been arranged for 24th March 2024. The proposed costs for Cllr Tucker to undertake a renewal of his Chapter 8 accreditation is considered. These are likely to be in the region of £150. It was agreed by Council that this	Cllr Craddock to review and circulate the document to volunteers. Cllr Tucker to undertake training.

	cost is appropriate and Cllr Tucker should undertake the training.	
13)	Anima – proposal to arrange a training session The Medical Centre have confirmed they can provide training. It is felt this should be organised and hosted by YCA. It should be advertised in the Yealmpton Press.	Cllr Craddock to ask YCA to arrange the training and advertise.
14)	Proposed new mowing schedule St Bartholomew's churchyard The Churchyard is the responsibility of the District Council. There is a proposal that the mowing schedule will be reduced from 8 cuts a year to 3. It is felt that this is too few and will leave the churchyard looking un-kempt for weddings/services and funerals. YPC consider that a reduction to 6 cuts a year would be acceptable.	Cllr Thomas to liaise with SHDC and see if 6 cuts a year can be scheduled.
15)	Report from Councillors/clerk in respect of responsibilities/actions arising from previous meetings: a) Report on any other Actions from last month's minutes. i) It is reported that one member of the public has come forward expressing an interest in community composting in Yealmpton and has also volunteered to be part of a volunteer group. Cllr Tucker reporting that due to conditions of the planning consent for the Brixton Community Composting they will not be able to take green waste from Yeampton as part of a community composting scheme. ii) Cllr Tucker to make enquiries regarding utility cables under the proposed new footpath at Yealmbridge/Dunstone verge. Cllr Endicott reporting that YPC has been advised that a planning application will be required for any new path. The land is currently un-registered and therefore an additional notice will be required as part of this process. iii) A draft P3 response has been agreed and will be submitted by the Clerk prior to the 15th March deadline. iv) Cllr McKay is still to arrange a speed watch session. Now that the weather is starting to improve a session should be arranged. v) Cllr Craddock reported that our Internal Auditor was satisfied with the existing regulations	Clerk – to email the resident to advise there is not enough interest in the scheme. Cllr Tucker to make enquiries re cables and report. Clerk – submit P3 grant application. Cllr McKay to arrange a Speed watch session.

	regarding Investment and has advised no new policies need to be prepared. vi) Traffic Engineer's Report is underway and a site meeting has taken place. Traffic Counters will be placed on the roads this week or next week. vii) All other Actions confirmed from previous meeting.	
16)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise a) Works – no report b) Public Rights of Way - Cllr Barton shortly to meet with Ros Davies of DCC to inspect some stiles that have been reported as faulty. c) Roads and pavements- Cllr Tucker raising concerns that the gully at Byeways is very damaged by the volume and type of traffic using it. The response from DCC had been discussed at the last meeting. Thanks given to Mr Wade for his efforts in unblocking the drain. It is noted that Torr Bridge is in need of repair. d) Emergency – no report e) Comms & Data Management – it is noted that Cllr Baldry does not receive emails from Cllr Endicott. Cllr Endicott and Cllr Baldry to check whether they have a rule applied in their email as to whether they cannot receive or send to each other. Cllr Barton to assist. f) Speed Issues – The costs of a new speed sign for Ford Road are discussed. It is proposed that one will be purchased and two mounting plates so that it can be used in two locations. Costs are within those that were approved as part of the budget for 2024/2025 for this renewal.	Clerk is asked to log a repair request with DCC. Cllr Endicott and Cllr Baldry. Cllr McKay to order the sign and copy in the Clerk to receive the invoice.
17)	Financial Matters Consideration of accounts to end February 2024. Consideration of proposed payments due totalling £5,088.22 are considered and approved. This includes the annual invoice from SHDC for Grass Cutting that has been delivered.	Clerk to arrange transfers.
18)	Correspondence The location of a proposed memorial bench is still being discussed. The former parishoner's representatives will be asked to propose another location. An email has been received praising the efforts of Cllr Tucker in resolving the flooding at Yeo Lane earlier this month. YPC thanks Cllr Tucker for his quick response.	Clerk to email.

	YPC have been offered a free portrait of the King for the venue that Council meetings take place.	Clerk to order the Portrait.
	Meeting closed at 9.40pm	
	Date of next meeting: 8th April 2024	

DRAFT