

MINUTES OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 8TH April 2024 AT 8.15 PM
following the Annual Parish Meeting 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: 1

No	Minute	Action
1)	Apologies received from Cllr Guy-Fierens and Cllr Edie	
2)	Approval and signing of minutes of 11 th March 2024.	
3)	Report from County Council. Cllr Thomas Cllr Thomas has various updates to give in relation to Agenda points and will be dealt with below. An annual report was given during the Annual Parish Meeting, earlier in the evening.	
4)	Report from District Council. Cllr Edie Cllr Edie wanted to draw people's attention to the grant opportunities available; <u>Big Bike Revival Summer 2024 - Devon Funding News</u> – Application deadline 25 th June 2024 <u>England Woodland Creation Offer - Devon Funding News</u> – All year round application but 30 th June 2024 to secure for planting <u>Footie for All - Devon Funding News</u> – Application deadline 30 th April 2024 <u>Community Ownership Fund: Final Round - Devon Funding News</u> – Applications all year round <u>Local School Nature Grants - Devon Funding News</u> - The closing dates for 2024 are: 26 April; 6 September; and 8 November <u>7Stars Foundation - Devon Funding News</u> - Applications are considered four times a year. The next deadline is 30 April 2024 <u>AXA Startup Angel 2024 - Devon Funding News</u> – Application deadline 2nd June 2024 <u>CAF: Venturesome Impact Fund - Devon Funding News</u> - Applications may be submitted at any time	
5)	Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Cllr Tucker declared an interest in his invoice for his work in clearing the pavements/trimming hedges and mowing verges for approval this month.	
6)	Planning matters An update was given in relation to applications relevant to the Parish and it was noted that some of the YPC comments have become conditions where planning permission has been approved. The following applications were discussed and the YPC responses were unanimously agreed, save for Cllr Thomas abstained. Application 0806/24/VAR – Object. Comment - The local visual amenity of the hedgerow (WSW boundary between 105 Speculation and Yealm Park) in question needs a mandate to stipulate that the hedge needs to be maintained as a suitable screen/hedgerow. How that is achieved and what time scale is involved we look to the planner to advise.	Clerk – to update the portal with YPC responses.

	Application 0995/24/HHO - Support - We support this application on the understanding all aspects of drainage must be agreed and fit for purpose within planning regulations and building materials must be sympathetic to existing style of property. Application 3866/23/FUL – Object - The proposed design / alterations will negatively impact the agricultural character and appearance of the site and surrounding area, including the setting of the nearby listed building. The proposed changes to the original Class Q to Class C3 agreed designation are further domesticating this site. It also doesn't support any current agricultural need. The site use will be totally dependent on private transport.	
7)	Environmental update – April 24 Biodiversity and Education Research by the University of Plymouth and the British Science Association has shown that 72% of pupils would welcome the opportunity for broader lessons about climate change in school, rather than simply learning facts and associated impacts. YEM school Engagement project associated with Ivybridge Community College (ICC) and Ruby's Wood biodiversity (funded by Yealmpton Parish Council) is meeting this need. The project provides an example of non-invasive methods for identifying natural habitats and validated methods for measuring biodiversity as part of students' AQA A Level course in Environmental Science. Students are energised by real 'in the field' research and tuition on research design and surveys as part of their course. So far they have made four visits to Ruby's Wood for their project work. Bird and bat surveys are planned during the months April to July. Tackling run-off from fields Plans are in process for non-farming landowners to be invited to a meeting on 8th May with three talks on: - species rich grassland - support for changing practices - grants available and help with applications. This is primarily aimed at non farming landowners with riparian fields to the Yealm so that run-off can be ameliorated. 30-40% of the Yealm catchment (land) is not farmed. There are many sources of advice and grant funding for farmed land and several government funded organisations providing farmers with advice on good practice and how to qualify for the grants available. In the South Hams there is a huge amount of interest in regenerative farming, with avenues to share information on best practice. Community orchards We now have two Community Orchards in Yealmpton, one near Stray Park. YEG members have given them their annual pruning. During March YEG planted another orchard on community owned land at the end of Tappers Lane, above the Kitley Place Estate. The sixteen native Devon Apple Trees from Adams Apples in Chudleigh were donated to YEM by Devon Wildlife Trust. In the Autumn plum, cherry and hedging will be added. In the longer term we can hope to arrange a Yealmpton Wassail event. This used to happen in Yealmpton in the orchards to the east of the village in the ancient orchard at Mill Leat (recently ripped up). The Yealmpton Cider Press is now in Cockington and is the centre of their annual Cider Fest, which happens each in October.	

River

The YEM website now has a report on the first set of results from our Citizen Science Initiative (also supported by the parish council) <https://yemcorridor.com/CSIRReport23.pdf>

The results of monitoring Yealm water are giving us better levers to pull for improving water quality, with regular incident reporting and conversation with the Environment Agency taking place. We were invited to a meeting on 07 March 2024 by Rob Price (EA Catchment Coordinator - Tamar Management Catchment) to discuss the River Piall following recent ongoing evidence of kaolin-like pollution there. The meeting was attended by representatives from YEG, the RYWQG, YEM and Snowbee International. We were advised that (i) recent incidents on the Piall have been within limits for discharge licences held by China clay workings; (ii) it can take several years to prepare for any prosecution by the EA, such that we need to be patient with regard to any possible action in response to the serious incident of December 2022; (iii) the EA are aware of enhanced phosphate, and will be paying requisite attention to possible sources in the near future; and (iv) the EA would welcome our help with more detailed monitoring of the Piall. Whilst EA local managers engage, action higher up is tortuous and tedious.

Tony Hawkins (Yealmpton lead on RYWQG) hosted a meeting with representatives from the River Exe on 10 February 2024 at which valuable experience was shared of projects mapping: (i) soil type, agricultural practice and surface water drainage throughout our catchment, towards targeted mitigation; and (ii) motorway road runoff throughout our catchment, towards mitigating schemes that will help cleanse that runoff before it enters our river. It was emphasised that groups are better able to take action on remediation where non-farming landowners are involved.

The first step towards a **Yealm catchment plan** took place at an open meeting on Saturday 16th March at YCA. This may lead to projects that:

- map soil type, agricultural practice and surface water drainage throughout our catchment, towards targeted mitigation; and
- map motorway road runoff throughout our catchment, towards mitigating schemes that will help cleanse that runoff before it enters our river.

Trees

300 seeds collected locally on Tree seed Sunday have started to put down roots in our tree nursery at Kitley woodland and 17 of the 50 elm tree cuttings have taken. Planning consent still awaited for Veterans Outdoors joint working but applications for funding are going ahead. Worston Mill and Gypsy Meadow planting of 1500 trees took place 20th March with Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest, Parklife and volunteers.

Hedgerow planting to improve screening from the sewage treatment plant from nearby tracks and footpaths will be accomplished (again with donated plants) during April. A request for volunteers has been made.

In Ewells Wood (two fields north of Pip's' Pick your own') we will be planting 5000 trees in the autumn, with Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest.

Invasive species

Himalayan Balsam growth along the river is a significant problem in some patches of land beside the river. It has been shown that this can be dealt with effectively by pulling the plants up by the roots in an organised and concerted manner. This begins 22nd April and will be repeated in September. Charles W-B and two experts plan to walk the length of the Yealm (12 miles) on 8, 9, and 10 April to map areas of concern for submission to a national database.

Linda Durman Chair, YEG, 31 March 24

8)	Active Travel update Gemma Bristow (Active Travel Officer, South Hams) met with the Yealmpton to Plymouth Active Travel Group (Y2P) during a Teams meeting so that she could explain the 29 priority cycling routes in South Hams routes proposed by the LCWIP consultants. Y2P subsequently submitted comments. A final proposal from the consultants will be subject to consultation in May/June (details to follow).	Clerk – to email Gemma Bristow and find out when the consultation will be.
9)	Road Closures – to note upcoming Road closures; A3121 – Owl Junction to Venn Cross- Road Widening Commencing 29th April until 30th June. This work is likely to require the full duration of the advertised closure. The road will be completely closed for the first 4 weeks and then the following 4 weeks, there will be traffic lights. A379 – Orchard Hill to Western Lodge Cross 21st April to 25th April 2024 This is booked for 5 days but it is likely to take 1 day during this period. No buses will be allowed through as the workers will be in the middle of the road. A379 – Red Lion Hill to Underhay 21st April to 25th April 2024 09.30-15.30 This is booked for 5 days but it is likely to take 1 day during this period. No buses will be allowed through as the workers will be in the middle of the road. Underhay to Puslinch Bridge Cross ZC145, Yealmpton 15th May 2024 09.30-15.30	
10)	Yealmpton Tidy Village Group update Litter picking has started. A group litter pick took place in March and another will take place on 27th April 2024. It was agreed that we would purchase 10 sets of gloves, hi-viz vests and shorter litter pickers to encourage children to come along with their families. At this stage, the existing equipment owned by the Clean Your Patch co-ordinator will continue to be used for litter picking. A team is still required to start pavement clearing. Equipment will need to be purchased. Cllr Tucker has agreed to store equipment on his property, which will negate the requirement to purchase a shed and install it at the Community Centre. A call will be put out for unused Brown bins to be donated. Cllr Tucker has agreed that he will remove these bins and South Hams Localities Team can collect the street sweepings from him. Portable road signs will need to be purchased indicated that people are working in the street – this purchase will wait until this part of the project is more advanced.	Clerk – to purchase equipment. Clerk – to put out a call for unwanted Brown bins on Facebook.

11)	Report following robbery/theft at Yealmpton Stores Cllr Baldry has met with the owners of the village shop. Some advice will be sought from our community police officer.	Clerk – to ask the community police officer to visit the shop.
12)	Churchyard mowing schedule - report following meeting with SHDC. Cllr Thomas has met with SHDC and agreed that there will be 5/6 cuts at the Churchyard each year, rather than 3. The area at the back of the churchyard will continue to be left as a nature habitat and only mown once a year. The Village works contractor has asked for a map showing the areas maintained by Beewild and areas of wildflowers.	Clerk – to liaise with Cllr Hopkins about wildflowers
13)	Gardening for Wildlife YPC has been approached by another local Parish Council about whether we would like to join in a larger print run of a wildlife booklet for every resident in the village. After discussion it would be agreed that we would seek permission to have a PDF copy on the website for people to view. It was felt that this would have the least negative environmental impact. Those who want to access it will be able to do so and there will be no wasted copies on those who do not it.	Clerk – to respond to correspondence and ask for a PDF version to be made available.
14)	Report on any other Actions from last month's minutes. Most actions have been completed. Still outstanding – Cllr Tucker needs to attend Chapter 8 refresher training. Village Library and Phone Box. YPC now owns the Phone Box. Cllr Barton will continue to make arrangements for racking. Cllr Barton has not heard from the Church about whether they are starting a library so will continue to advance the YPC library in the Parish Room. We will apply for a grant from Cllr Thomas's localities fund when applications open later this month. Anima Training – YCA will organise the training. It is likely to be in June 2024 and will be advertised in the May & June Yealmpton Press.	Cllr Tucker to contact the training provider Cllr Barton to arrange racking in the new Phone Box. Clerk – to add the phone box to the YPC insurance Policy.
15)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise Public Rights of Way - Cllr Barton is meeting a local organisation to review the surface of some of the footpaths to see if they can be improved. Speed Watch – Cllr McKay reporting that his time has been taken up with arranging for the new speed sign to be obtained. He is unable to give more time to the Speed Watch activities and it is agreed that the local 20s Plenty Group will be approached to see if they want to take over this role. It would appear that Speed Watch aligns closely with the aims of this group and they may be well placed to take this over.	Cllr Barton to report at next meeting. Cllr Craddock to approach 20s Plenty to see if they want to take over Speed Watch.

	Although speed watch is currently a Parish Council activity, it can be undertaken a different local group.	
16)	Financial Matters Consideration of accounts to end March 2024. There were no questions. Cllr Thomas was thanked for the allocation from the Localities Fund to change some swings in the playground. Proposed payments totalling £9,677.96 were approved.	
17)	Correspondence Cllr Thomas had received an anonymous letter from a resident, questioning whether some development taking place in the village was "permitted development" or whether it should have required planning permission. The letter was passed to the YPC Planning Sub-committee and they have undertaken an initial review of this development. A referral has been made to the SHDC Planning Enforcement Department, seeking that they investigate. A resident requested that some stiles along one of the footpaths are changed to gates. The Clerk will liaise with the resident and identify which stiles should be changed. A resident requested that the pavement between Milizac Close and Bens Farmshop is cleared of debris and the overgrown grass cleared for safety reasons. A resident had asked whether the 30mph zone could be extended to cover the area outside Bens' Farmshop up to the existing 30mph zone. Cllr Thomas explaining that this extension would not meet the County Council criteria, which, amongst other things, links to the number of residential frontages. We have received a letter from Pillar Securities advising that the decontamination work has commenced at the Collaton Park development. Correspondence has been received from 20sPlenty Group seeking that some documentation produced by them, with suggested traffic calming proposals is provided to the Callidus Traffic Engineer. Council considered this request and it was felt that the Traffic Engineer should not be influenced in this way and they should be left to propose the measures that they consider most appropriate. Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site – matters are progressing. It is hoped that the site could be available for night landing by the end of April/May. Defib training – only 6 people attended the training. It will need to be advertised better in the future.	Clerk – to continue application and keep YPC informed. Clerk – to meet resident and identify stiles. Clerk – to instruct a contractor. Clerk – to report back to resident.

Date of next meeting: 13th May 2024

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