

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 14th OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30 pm at the COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Members of the public present: 1

A member of the public spoke in relation to the meeting of YPC and Devon Highways regarding a proposed 20mph limit on Ford Road and New Road.

Councillors present: Cllrs Baldry, Endicott, Craddock, Thomas, Tucker, Barton, MacKay, Street

No	Minute	Action
1)	To receive apologies for absence Dist. Cllr Edie	
2)	Report from County Council. Cllr Thomas Consultations on local transport, cycling and walking Transport Planning team officers will shortly be collecting feedback on two important transport strategies. Between 1 October 2024 and 30 November 2024 consulting will take place on: • The draft Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4: 2025-2040 • The draft Devon Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan The Devon and Torbay Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) is the strategic document that sets out the priorities for transport across the county between 2025 and 2040. From 1 October, you can view the full LTP4, a summary video, a summary document, the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment and complete the consultation questionnaire on the Have Your Say webpage or by searching: devon.cc/LTP4. Four online webinars are being hosted during the consultation period. Two are specifically for stakeholders and two are open to the general public. Come along to watch a presentation about the LTP4 and ask the project team any questions you may have. • Stakeholder Webinar - 8th October 2024 4pm-5pm. • Public Webinar – 8th October 2024 6-7pm. • Stakeholder Webinar - 18th November 2024 4pm-5pm. • Public Webinar – 18th November 2024 6-7pm. Register via devon.cc/LTP4	

	The requirement for Local Authorities to produce LCWIPs is set out in the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. Developing an LCWIP follows a standard process identifying cycling and walking improvements and strengthens Devon County Council's position to bid for future funding. You can view the full LCWIP, a summary document and complete the consultation questionnaire on the Have Your Say webpage or by searching: devon.cc/devon-lcwip. There will be two online webinars on Wednesday 30 October for this, the first specifically for stakeholders and the second open to the general public. These will both begin with a presentation about the LCWIP followed by a chance to ask the project team any questions. • Stakeholder webinar at 3.30pm. • Public webinar at 6pm. • A drop-in afternoon in Lucombe House (Exeter) Ground Floor Large meeting room on Wednesday 9 October 2-5pm is also being offered. Please come along to view the printed documents for both the LTP4 and the LCWIP and ask the project team any questions in person. If you have any questions about the LTP4 or the LCWIP, or would like to provide feedback on the draft documents, please email: transportplanning@devon.gov.uk.
3)	Report from District Council. Cllr Thomas/Cllr Edie National Planning Policy Framework Consultation response from South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council, 24/09/2024. Key points raised: • Greater ability for local councils to acquire land and build their own homes • Remove the right to buy for new affordable homes • Require developers to deliver a significant proportion of discount open market homes that can only be owned and occupied by people with a demonstrable long-term connection to the local area • Apply the 'golden rule' to all greenfield land (not just greenbelt) when considering viability matters, capping the land value in viability considerations to no more than three times the value of the previous land use. • Greater financial incentives to unlock brownfield land • Local authorities with both landscape and affordability constraints must have the flexibility to reduce their housing needs figures to reflect challenges of delivery • Developers must be penalised for the non-implementation of planning permissions on sites allocated in local plans • Capping the amount of tourism accommodation that can operate in areas of high demand, to ensure enough homes remain to meet the needs of local communities • Freedom to apply primary residency restrictions where applicable by the LPA



	Digital phone public drop-in sessions As you will be aware, we have been told the copper phone network is being switched off and replaced with digital technology. This is because it is old and becoming harder and more expensive to maintain. The phone network in the UK is owned by BT and will be retired by January 2027. This means other providers that use BT's network must follow the same timescale. Other companies with their own networks such as Virgin Media plan to follow a similar timescale. Over the coming months BT is targeting the SW region to help people switch over to digital phones. For many of us this will not be an issue, but it could cause anxiety for people with poor mobile signal and poor broadband. BT are running a series of public drop in events this year which are listed on their website. Please be aware that there will be other providers who will offer digital phone services which residents may also wish to explore. Here are a selection of BT events being held across the county, including in the South Hams: Kingsbridge - 30th October, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m Library, Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1EB Tavistock 13th November, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m Cllr Thomas reported that the District Council was consulting with the five major towns in the district to consider differential parking, whereby residents would pay a lower rate for parking than holiday makers.	
4)	Councillors' Declaration of Interest: None	
5)	Previous minutes: The minutes of the meeting on 9 th September 2024 were approved and signed.	
6)	Planning matters a) A brief update was given on applications relevant to the Parish. b) Council noted that the Clerk had responded to a TCA application (response required before this meeting), providing the usual YPC response asking SHDC Tree Warden to advise.	
7)	Financial Matters a) Accounts to the end September 2024 were considered. b) Proposed payments totalling £5,495.90 were approved. c) Council had considered the External Auditors report and were pleased to note its successful conclusion. The Clerk was thanked for her hard work.	Clerk to arrange payments
8)	Environment Report - YEG report October 2024 Preventing run-off into Yealm Land managed by non-farming landowners has lead to nature restoration projects that include - tree and hedge planting - fencing to keep livestock from water courses - new ponds - new bunds and leaky dams - wetland area restoration. YPC has part-funded these initiatives for land in our parish. Control of Invasive species	

There have been nine 'bashing' events for Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed on five sections of the river over 3-months involving 20 volunteers and 3 ParkLife professionals. This will continue Year on Year. Work in the Yealmpton section of the river has been undertaken to very good effect.

Planting trees

Ewells Wood and Worston Farm planting with trees from Kitley nursery, Kitley woodland (Lodge Gate Field); brush-cut bindweed, brambles and Clematis Vitalba with a hired ride-on cutter (£300 paid for by YEM)

Kitley tree nursery; polytunnel erected (£500 from YPC) that will provide shelter for the preparation and stratification of tree seeds. Over 1,000 saplings are ready for planting out from 2023 tree seed collection under management of Liz Tutty (Moor Trees); 5 x regular watering volunteers.

Joint work with Ivybridge Community College continues on field work and research methods. This term we'll be identifying Youth Ambassadors for ecological activity on the Yealm and "green awards and accreditation" to map across to other youth award schemes and link to other Government initiatives.

Tree seed Sunday 2024 is/was 6 October.

Biodiversity

Ruby's wood surveys now include bat monitors funded from a locality grant.

Water

Great news! RYWQG has recently succeeded in obtaining the on-off times for all overflows of untreated sewage on our river during 2023. This followed an Environmental Information (EIR) request submitted by RYWQG to South West Water (SWW) in April 24, then refused, and which RYWQG subsequently appealed.

District and Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas has kindly agreed to ask SHDC for a review of their response to RYWQG in Feb 2024, when SHDC stated they do not have any information on drainage from the Lee Mill Industrial Estate, in respect of which drains flow into Lee Mill Stream and which drain into Lee Mill sewage treatment works.

More sensitive Hanna phosphate monitors are being trialled by CSI volunteers to be used when high CSI water quality measures for phosphate are observed or when pollution incidents require more in depth investigation. A new project called "MudSpotter" will be introduced for run off and catchment drainage.

We have permission to install two automated water temperature monitors and two wildlife cameras funded by South Hams District Council (SHDC) Climate Change & Biodiversity allocation and will be owned and insured by Yealmpton Parish Council.

Active travel

Consultation event, the Watermark Ivybridge. The interactive map identified cycling, walking and wheeling routes in the South Hams. This was done by consultants who produced an interactive map with barriers and interventions to overcome the barriers. There is no money to enact the interventions but it could inform future planning. The consultants only visited routes in main towns and we advised them that the scheme they had come up with would be a waste of money because the route through Yealmpton went in and out of the A379 and cyclists, walkers and wheelers would not use it.

	 Going West the proposed route is down Orchard Hill, along the A379, right up Gypsy Hill (steep, busy and narrow), down past the allotments entering the A379 at a dangerous junction, left down New Road and right up Torr Hill (another dangerous junction). Then either up Yealmbury Hill (again steep narrow and busy) or left onto the A379. It then follows Silverbridge Way (not awarded planning permission for cyclists) to Brixton. Devon County Council have also produced a LCWIP where they have identified Yealmpton to Newton Ferrers as a priority route. It is not known whether there is funding for this. [END] Cllr Baldry thanked RYWQG for their perseverance with their appeal to SWW.	
9)	Report following meeting with Devon Highways Council has now considered the notes from the meeting with YPC and Devon Highways. A further meeting had taken place between members of YPC and our local Neighbourhood Highways Officer, where new signage, crossings and measures to improve road safety were considered. Notes of the meeting would be circulated to members of Council and the matter considered further at the next meeting.	Clerk – circulate notes from the meeting of 11.10.2024
10)	Report regarding flooding in the village A list of actions for various points along footpath 18 and Ford Road has been compiled. These are actions for SHDC/DCC/Devon Highways. This has been reviewed by a DCC Flood and Coastal Risk Officer. They will check that the advice from the EA to landowners, regarding reducing muddy run-off from fields was being followed in the wider catchment.	Clerk – to contact DCC/EA and get a copy of the recommendations for distribution. Clerk – to continue to follow up actions
11)	Footpaths update a) DCC had approached the landowners of Footpath 19 and they would not consent to replacing the stile with a kissing gate at the entrance of footpath 19 (behind Riverside Walk). Without landowner consent the stile cannot be changed. Some stiles along footpath 19 will be replaced with gates. YPC to take no further action. b) South Hams Ramblers – a new South Hams Way is proposed. The precise route is not clear. Cllr Barton to investigate further.	Cllr Barton – ascertain route.

12)	Councillor Vacancy a) Cllr Baldry will assume interim responsibility as Snow Warden and Cllr Baldry and the Clerk will meet to check the Emergency boxes. b) The vacancy will be advertised when SHDC have confirmed there is no need for an election.	Cllr Baldry/Clerk Clerk – to advertise the vacancy in due course.
13)	Report following the consultation of the LCWIP Cllr Barton reporting that the consultation has been very disappointing for Yealmpton. The route is unlikely to be used. It seems that the focus has been on the towns in the district. Y2P has commented and Cllr Barton has commented in a personal capacity.	The public are encouraged to read and comment.
14)	Personal Hearing Amplifiers Two personal hearing amplifiers have been purchased, one funded by the Parish Council and one funded by District Councillor Thomas' localities fund. These will be available from the YCA for attendees at events/meeting, who have reduced hearing. Thanks to Dr Durman for producing simplified user instructions.	Clerk to pass amplifiers to YCA.
15)	Grass Cutting SHDC have provided a quote for grass cutting in 2025/2026. It is significantly more than in previous years. A private contractor has been instructed to cut Ford Road verge and the visibility splay. Further quotes from private contractors may need to be obtained for the main village contract.	Cllr Thomas to enquire why it is so much more than in previous years.
16)	Flower Tubs A winter display will be requested.	Clerk to arrange.
17)	The Parish Room a) Fire Risk Assessment - required actions have been taken. Recommendations will be considered when we have prices. b) Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) – has been obtained. Some remedial electrical work is required and the quote from the assessor was agreed. c) A quote has been obtained for the redecoration of the exterior and interior of the Parish Room. It was agreed to not to proceed with the interior decoration at this time. Cllrs Craddock and Endicott to review and decide what materials should be used for the exterior and the design of the porch and new signage.	Clerk – to obtain pricing Clerk – to instruction electrician to undertake work. Cllr Craddock to look into availability of grants.
18)	Donations Clerk to make donations agreed in the budget. Following the cessation of the local Scouts group, the donation that was agreed	Clerk – to arrange transfers.

	for them will be given to SH Community Action who have recently started a cancer support group in Yealmpton.	
19)	Road Closures - Yealmpton – A379 Remembrance Sunday 10 th November 2024. Cllr Tucker to manage road closure with a volunteer.	Clerk – to order new signboards.
20)	a) Telephone Box/ Parish Room Library The new library will start in the Parish Room in November. As soon as the internal renovations to the phone box are completed the book and puzzle exchange will start. b) New speed monitor to be installed at Yealmbridge YPC has obtained Devon Highways consent to install a new pole to position a speed monitor at Yealmbridge. Cllr MacKay to provide the Clerk with details of the items to purchase.	Cllr Barton to advertise. Clerk – to notify the insurers of activities Cllr MacKay/Clerk
21)	Memorial Garden – the circular bench is broken and will be removed, whether or not to purchase a replacement will be reviewed in due course.	Clerk – to arrange removal of bench.
22)	Correspondence a) Email regarding cars parked on A379 and in Stray Park at pick up and drop off time. (Cllr Baldry has responded – nothing further YPC can do at this stage). b) Devon Air Ambulance Walk 5th July 2025. Council notes that YCA will be open for walker's use. c) SH Community Action – update on activities in Yealmpton. d) Request received a for a new crossing on the A379 around the Yealm Park/Kitley Estate entrances (Cllr Thomas had already ready responded. YPC notes his response.) e) Email from DCC regarding the Snow Warden Scheme. Clerk has ascertained we do not need any more salt for this winter. f) YAGA had requested use of Bakery Square for the annual plant sale. g) YPC can apply for an accessible picnic bench FOC. Stray Park is managed by SHDC. Meeting concluded at 9.30pm.	Clerk – to respond and confirm YPC agreement. Clerk – to accept offer and confirm with SHDC.
	Date of next meeting: 11th November 2024	