

MINUTES OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 9th September 2024 AT 7.30 pm at the COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

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

In attendance: Sasha Walton-Jackman (Clerk), District Councillor Edie

4 members of the public present.

No.	Minute	Action
1)	Apologies: Cllr Craddock	
2)	Report from County Council. Cllr Thomas 1. A resolution was passed by the County Council to contact the Chancellor seeking that the government reconsiders the income requirement in respect of the Winter Fuel Allowance. It was felt that the provision should not longer be universal but the benchmark proposed by government is too low and will disadvantage many elderly people in financial need. 2. The proposed combined County Authority is under review. The government has asked local authorities to go back and try to negotiate more meaningful deals over large geographic areas.	
3)	Report from District Council. Cllr Thomas/Cllr Edie National Planning Policy Framework Consultation Council Members are receiving a briefing on the NPPF consultation next week (12th September). The proposition for a raised housing target for South Hams does not specify the type of housing stock for the South Hams which will be the focus of the SHDC response. Further information on the proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system#basic-information Please share - Polling Station Consultation Can you share this review of polling districts and polling stations in your community groups? We need residents to tell us what they think about our current polling stations. You can copy the text below for your social media. As part of a review of polling districts and polling stations, we want to know what you think about our current polling stations. • Do you think your local polling station is convenient? • Can you get to it easily walking, by car or public transport? • Can you suggest a better location? • Is there somewhere more accessible for those with disabilities? Let us know your ideas and thoughts by 5 p.m. on Monday 7 October. Find out more at www.southhams.gov.uk/statutory-review-polling-districts-and-places	

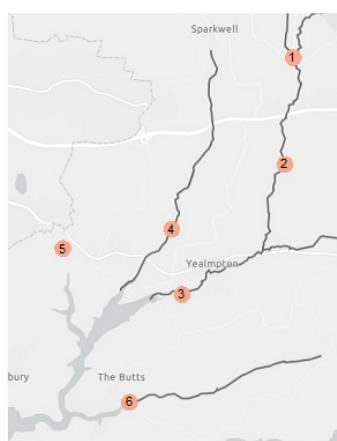
	Cost of living scam We're warning residents to be aware of a scam currently doing the rounds about a £900 cost of living payment. The scammers will text you saying you have not yet received "your annual living allowance" and include a link to a convincing - but fake - webpage that promises a £900 payment if you share your credit or debit card details. The top giveaways are: 1. The web address - gov-subsidy.top 2. The bad grammar and punctuation - notice to you.please submit 3. The urgency - valid for three days, act now Be careful when you receive unsolicited text messages from numbers you don't know! If in doubt, check a completely new Gov.UK webpage or ask us or the Citizens Advice for help. Electric marine propulsion survey With our focus on reducing climate change, we have been speaking to the marine community across the South Hams on the importance of electric propulsion on our waters. We are working with The Green Blue and Round Britain eRIB Challenge to find out more about the opportunities, challenges and solutions to support boat users in their move to cleaner marine propulsion. There is still time for your residents to have their say through our joint online survey until Thursday 30 September. Please help spread the word. Housing Following the change of government, the District has a requirement to provide 325 more homes on top of the existing target. District Councillor Thomas raising the concern that these homes do not have to be affordable or for local people.	
4)	Councillors' Declaration of Interest: None.	
5)	Minutes: The minutes of 8th July 2024 and the 12 th August 2024 (extraordinary) were approved and signed.	
6)	Planning matters a) A brief update in relation to applications relevant to the Parish was given. It was noted that Cllr Tucker has a declared interest in 3820/23/FUL b) 2379/24/LBC 1 was considered. YPC decision – Support with comment; Our support for this application is conditional on the SHDC Heritage Officer having no objection, otherwise we would object supporting SHDC. Vote was unanimous, save for Cllr Thomas abstained.	Clerk – to file response on portal
7)	Financial Matters a) Accounts to end of August 2024 were considered. b) Payments totalling £1863.01 were approved.	Clerk – to arrange transfers
8)	Report from Yealmpton Environment Group Water quality monitoring Yealm Estuary to Moor exhibited at the Yealmpton Show in July 2024. WATER, (the Erme River Group) shared our stand and we also represented the River Yealm Water Quality Group. A number of pollution incidents on the Piall and the Yealm were reported to the EA between 1 July and 26 July. Rebecca Smith MP was engaged to follow up these incidents with the EA.	

The reply received from the EA stated that the discolouration of the Piali and Yealm was due to compliant discharges from 2 operational quarry sites upstream of Lutton. It was noted that low flow at this time of year will also produce more discolouration.

Phosphate monitoring - the more sensitive Hanna phosphate monitors are currently being trialled by YEM. It is likely that they will be used when regular CSI water quality measures for phosphate indicate levels are particularly high, or when there are pollution incidents that require additional analysis within the catchment.

The results of the Spring 24 Riverfly Survey have been received. The results of which are shown here for information. The Autumn survey will take place on 9-10 October 24.

Yealm Estuary to Moor: River Yealm Spring Survey 2024



Sites

- 1: Piali at Marks Bridge
- 2: Popples Bridge
- 3: Puslinch Bridge
- 4: Silverbridge Stream
- 5: Cofflete Stream
- 6: Newton Stream

Summary

Water Quality Scores:

- Chemical Pressure: Unimpacted scores at sites 1, 2, 3, and 5. Good condition at site 4. Moderate pressure at site 6.
- Organic Pressure: Mild loading detected at all sites.
- Sediment Pressure: Natural sediment levels at sites 2 and 3. Site 1, 4, 5, and 6 slightly impacted.
- Flow Pressure: No pressure detected at all sites.
- Phosphorus Pressure: Low impact detected at site 4. No impact detected at other sites.

Invertebrates:

- Site 1 has the highest overall invertebrate species richness, with sites 3 and 4 also having higher counts.
- Site 4 had the highest overall invertebrate abundance, with all sites other than 6 having relatively comparable abundances. The invasive* New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) accounted for a large proportion of the sample at sites 1 to 4. At site 5 freshwater shrimp (*Gammarus pulex*) was the most abundant taxa.
- EPT riverfly species richness was highest on the Yealm sites (1 to 3).
- EPT riverfly abundance was highest at sites 1 and 2.
- Site 6 had consistently the lowest values across the invertebrate metrics. Mayfly numbers were highest at these sites across multiple families; Baetidae, Ephemeridae, and Heptageniidae. These sites also had the richest stonefly communities.

*While invasive this species has been present in the UK since ~1904 and is widespread across the country.



Terrestrial activity and schools engagement

The YEM Catchment Schools Art Challenge Final took place at the Yealmpton Show. Alice from Newton Ferrers School won the YEM Art Challenge cup this year. Ezra from Yealmpton School came sixth and won a Rosette. All the children in the Final will receive a certificate and an individual note from the judges. Yealmpton Nursery School children all submitted entries and will be receiving a certificate. Newton Ferrers School will declare the title and theme of next years challenge in the new year. The challenge was judged by Nicky Dollard of Dellemore and Judith Mears retired Chair of Yealmpton Art Society.

Tree Seed Sunday will this year take place on the 6th October. It was promoted in the September edition of the Yealmpton Press and this year is likely to be a big community event. It needs to be promoted wherever it can be. It will be hosted again by Lisa at the Rose and Crown. Dartington Morris dancers will be there together with folk music, Green Men Face Painting and the whole community will forage for tree seeds. The seeds will be planted in the school tree seed nursery or in the Yealmpton School Tree Seed Nursery.

The Yealmpton Tree Seed nursery continues to be developed and this week a polytunnel will be completed that will provide shelter for the preparation and stratification of tree seeds. The nursery which has deer and rabbit proof fencing now holds well over a thousand viable saplings which will, this autumn, be planted out in the catchment of the River Yealm. The surrounding woodland is now in its second season and some of trees approaching two meters high. However it is inundated with Clematis Vitalba (Travelers Joy or Old Mans Beard) and will be brush cut this out by mid September.

Himalayan Balsam another problematic plant, an invasive species brought here by the Victorians has received a really good bashing this year along the whole course of the River

	Yealm. This will continue Year on Year. Extensive balsam bashing work has been undertaken in the Yealmpton section of the river, to very good effect. The ongoing work at Ivybridge Community College culminated in field work research methods days in July. It was a great success and the sponsorship was gratefully received. This next term we'll be identifying Youth Ambassadors who can give expression of the ecological activity on the Yealm, to schools and to the wider communities. We will also be developing "green awards and accreditation" to map across to other youth award schemes and also linking to other Government initiatives. Active travel Improvement to the Yealmpton end of Silverbridge Way is delayed. We think it unwise to invest until it is clear which route South Hams takes for cycle and pedestrian journeys Yealmpton to Plymouth. The consultation on the LCWIP (Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan) has still not moved to the stage of consultation on proposals. Linda Durman Chair YEG Cllr Thomas was asked to make enquiries with Devon County Council as to the outcome of Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation.	
9)	Report following meeting regarding flooding In August a meeting took place between YPC, South Hams District Council, Devon County Council, Devon Highways and the Environment Agency to look at the potential causes of the flooding on 18th May 2024. The route of the stream was considered between River Yealm and where the stream comes out of the fields on the lane between Two Crosses and Dunstone. This route was split into sections with various actions by different stakeholders at the relevant sections. At points ownership needs to be established and SHDC officers will be undertaking searches. Checks and repairs will be undertaken along the whole stretch of the stream and its flow under the roads. SHDC have already started the clearing of the stream above the horse trough. Works have been completed on the lane where the stream emerges from the fields, the clearing of trash screens and the reinstatement of gullies and ditches. A copy of the notes from the meeting and actions is with one stakeholder and once all these actions have been agreed, it will be sent to DCC Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team to see if they have any recommendations for further works. It was noted by all that the rain on 18th May 2024 was extremely heavy and a huge amount of water flowed along the stream from the surrounding area. It may not be possible to guard against future instances of flooding but steps that are reasonably practicable are being considered. An extract of a private flooding report had been received by the Clerk, with permission for its disclosure to be made to the agencies that were a party to the meeting in August. This will be sent with the meeting summary to the Flood and Coastal Risk Team at DCC.	Clerk – to send the summary of the meeting and the proposed actions to DCC when agreed.

	Cllr Endicott noting that during the meeting the representative from the Environment Agency had a map which showed all watercourses plus LIDAR – this map would become available to the public.	
10)	Report following meeting with Devon Highways Yealmpton Parish Council met with members of the Traffic Engineering Team at Devon County Council. DCC do not think that the case is made for a 20mph limit introduction on New Road and Ford Road. They consider the costings in Callidus report are very low (YPC were aware they were conservative) DCC estimate the actual costs of the scheme designed by Callidus is more likely to be between £150-£200,000. The speed reduction that the scheme would achieve are still not low enough to warrant the introduction of 20mph. They would not consent to all of the recommendations in the report. In some instances alternatives would be considered. Some of the recommendations are acceptable. Devon Highways will provide some further information and costings, along with an indication of whether they would fund any changes or whether it would have to be at the expense of YPC. A draft written summary of the meeting has been provided to the Devon Highways Team and further information will be reported to Council following the approval of the report. A further meeting with the Neighbourhood Highway Officer has been offered to consider safety concerns at certain junctions and proposed further signage that could be installed. Cllr Barton raised concerns about the potential danger to users of the footpaths that come out on Ford Road. It was agreed that Cllrs Barton, Thomas, McKay and Baldry should attend this meeting. It was noted that some of the vegetation on Ford Road was restricting visibility about the Narrows.	Clerk – to follow up on the approval of the written report. Clerk – to arrange a meeting between the Neighbourhood Highway Officer and the agreed councillors. Clerk – to write to relevant landowner.
11)	Report following Grass Cutting meeting with SHDC Members of YPC met with SHDC to discuss the failures of the grass cutting scheme in Yealmpton this year. A document has been provided to SHDC with maps showing all of the areas and the frequency of cutting. In August the churchyard cut took longer to cut so we missed our August general cut around the village– the general cut has now been completed apart from the long Ford Road verge. We have had an indication that SHDC will charge us more than in previous years going forward. Cllr Thomas has been asked to obtain an indication of which week of the month the cut is likely to take place.	Cllr Thomas to report any response from SHDC at the next meeting.
12)	Report following meeting regarding proposed footpath to Newton Ferrers Cllrs Baldry and Thomas reporting that they had met with Newton and Noss Parish Council and relevant landowners. It was proposed that a cycle and footpath would be created between Collaton Cross and Yealmpton. Unfortunately, it may not be possible to secure	Cllr Baldry to continue the negotiations and report any updates to Council.

	permissions for the path to be off road for the entire distance between Yealmpton and the Collaton Cross. It was considered by YPC that it is still a valuable amenity for residents of Yealmpton and consultations should continue. It would be tarmacked and fenced. It would be largely funded by grants. It was also agreed that s.106 money from the Collaton Development would be used to fund this.	
13)	Report following meeting with Devon County Council regarding Footpath 20 and proposed works. Cllr Barton and the Clerk met with the DCC Footpath Warden. The surface of Footpath 20 was considered. It had been suggested to YPC that installing a boardwalk area may be a solution to path being washed away. DCC did not think this would be a suitable site for a boardwalk and raised concerns about ongoing maintenance costs. She recommended a further concrete stretch and some infilling in particularly uneven parts. She also recommended planting along the bank and the discouraging of dogs being able to jump in at certain locations where erosion is likely to result from the dogs scrambling up the bank. Clerk reporting that she had spoken with the Environment Agency and has been given details of the permit that would be required for these works. Cllr Barton will mark the proposed areas of the works on a map and the Clerk will submit a request for a permit.	Cllr Barton and Clerk to work on the permit application.
14)	Training a) A verge working cause for members of the Tidy Village Group was approved at a cost of £510 plus VAT for up to 10 people. YPC is grateful to the TVG volunteers for all their hard work around the village. b) Cllr Tucker deals with the Road Closure for the Remembrance Day road closure and is required to hold the relevant signing qualification. A refresher course is required at the cost of £166 plus VAT, the qualification will last several years.	Clerk/Cllr Tucker to arrange training.
15)	South Hams Festival Cllr Street reported that he had attended a meeting with SHDC about the proposed South Hams Arts Festival 2025. The aim of the festival is to showcase the talent within the district. Funding for the festival will come from the Arts Council and SHDC. Parishes are being asked to give a pledge of £500 and offer support with publicity. YPC voted by majority to pledge £500.	Clerk – to respond to SHDC confirming our support.
16)	Works required for consideration a) New circular bench in Bakery Square. The question of whether to remove or replace was discussed and it was agreed that it was used by residents and a replacement should be sourced. It was beyond repair. A recycled plastic replacement was identified and costs of up to £505 plus VAT was agreed. b) Maintenance is required to the exterior of the Parish Room	Clerk to arrange as appropriate and report at the next meeting.

	c) Repair of bench opposite the memorial garden (on the opposite side of the road), is required. d) Review of use of contractors and areas requiring maintenance. A complaint has been received about the land on Bowden Hill (Bowden Triangle). It was agreed that a working group would meet to discuss areas that need maintenance. Cllr Barton, Hopkins, Craddock and Baldry will meet to discuss this and report at the next meeting. e) Review of works to the telephone box. A second quote had been obtained. The cheapest quote had been accepted. The internal fit will be undertaken by the Men's Shed, funded by Cllr Thomas' county localities fund.	
17)	Discussion on the future of the 5 Parish Alliance Over the years the 5 Parish Alliance has been very valuable. Without someone with the time to lead the group, it is recognised that it cannot continue to operate. There are now other groups across the District which are in place for the exchange of ideas and support. YPC agrees that it should be suspended until a future need.	Cllr Baldry to respond to the other members of the alliance with YPC decision.
18)	Consideration of the purchase of future Speed Monitor Provision. A new site needs to be agreed with Devon Highways. The purchase of another monitor, like the one on Ford Road could then be considered. Cllr McKay reporting that he had downloaded some of the data from the speed on Ford Road. Comparing it with the Callidus data from the traffic counters, it suggested that the new speed monitor may be causing a reduction in the speed of the Northbound traffic. Cllr McKay suggested that this could be a similar reduction to that which the Callidus Scheme hoped to achieve.	Cllr McKay to agree a new location for a speed monitor with Devon Highways.
19)	TRAYE – Youth Club Cllr Guy-Fierens reporting that the Youth Club would now be meeting weekly in Yealmpton, rather than fortnightly. This news was welcomed by Council.	
20)	South Hams Community Action Following the survey on loneliness, SHCA identified that transport was a contributing factor to loneliness. SHCA is seeking support, both financial and logistical in undertaking further surveys to consider this and make recommendations as to how this problem can be alleviated. YPC noted that no specific amount had been requested. Provision is made for a donation to SHCA. YPC agreed to confirm their support for this project.	Clerk – to communicate this support to SHCA.
21)	Road Closures It is noted that the road at Kitterford Cross will be closed this week for works to be done to the roundabout.	

22)	Report from Councillors/clerk in respect of responsibilities/ actions arising from previous meetings. Most actions have been dealt with. Review at the next meeting due to lack of time.	
23)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise Footpaths - YPC has previously received a request for the stiles along Footpath 19 to be changed from step over stiles to livestock gates. This request has been made to the Footpath Warden who has stated that landowner consent is required but no progress has been made. Cllr Thomas is asked to raise this with DCC and to try to make some progress in obtaining landowner consent.	Cllr Thomas to raise this with DCC and report any progress.
24)	Correspondence A letter had been received concerning road safety for mobility scooter users on Ford Road. This was discussed with Devon Highways team and a response will be made by the clerk. A resident had written to the Clerk following receipt of a letter asking that vegetation overhanging a footpath was cut back. A response has been sent. An email has been received from Bixton Parish Council concerning their request to their County Councillor for a review of speed limits in their Parish. Letters had been exchanged with Rebecca Smith MP, welcoming her as our newly elected member of parliament. A letter concerning the review of polling station provision had been received from South Hams District Council. Meeting closed 9.35pm	
	Date of next meeting: 14th October 2024	