

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 14th JULY 2025 AT 7.30 PM AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Members of the public present: 0. No one spoke in the Open Forum.

Councillors present: Cllrs Endicott (chair), Craddock, Tucker, Street, Thomas, Riley, Barton (minutes) and Hopkins.

No	Minute	Action
1)	Apologies for absence. Cllrs Baldry and McKay. District Councillor Edie. Yealmpton Parish Council Clerk	
2)	County Council Report – Cllr Dan Thomas a) Cllr Thomas said that the council are implementing a pilot project repairing all defects to lower category roads at the same time. b) Residential places for children in care are being created. c) DCC finance report (see Appendix).	
3)	District Council Report – Cllr Tom Edie a) Encourage your residents to have their say Following the launch of our first phase of our engagement on Local Government Reorganisation, we have now published a video from our Leader, Cllr Dan Thomas, encouraging our communities to have their say. Messages for residents: • We need your help to shape the future of local government in Devon by letting us know what matters to you. • Everyone with a connection to South Hams is being asked what matters to them to help shape our final proposals so they reflect the needs and aspirations of people living and working in the area. • Take part in the short survey https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution. • Over the next few months, a series of engagement events around South Hams will be taking place. Details on how you can get involved will be available soon. b) Parking fine text scam (see Appendix) c) South Hams Rally for Nature (see Appendix)	
4)	Councillors Declaration of Interest: None. Councillor Tucker had an interest in payments made in June, as approved at the last meeting.	
5)	To agree and sign the previous minutes The minutes of the meeting on 9 th June 2025 were unanimously approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman.	
6)	Exclusion of the Public No matters required the exclusion of the public.	
7)	Planning Matters a. A brief update was given on applications relevant to the Parish. b. An email regarding (c) below was discussed. c. The following planning decision was unanimously agreed, with Cllr Thomas abstaining from voting, due to his role with the District Council. i. 1809/25/FUL 6 Waltacre, Yealmpton, PL8 2LY YPC Decision: Object. Comment: Whilst this application seeks to modify a recent approval of similar design on this site, YPC have	Clerk to send decisions to Cllrs

	concerns. We note the agreed acceptance of privacy in the former decision for this site, has been lost in this application. We have concerns with respect to the foul drainage which we believe to be a shared facility (septic tank). This in the context of capacity as this proposal is much larger than the existing dwelling. Also, the proposed soak away to the rear of the property appears to be above some of the rain water gutters/drains! d. The Clerk to have delegated authority to determine and submit planning responses on behalf of Council on any applications requiring a response prior to September's Council meeting. The planning sub-committee will continue receive and review the applications from South Hams District Council (via the Clerk), to advise the Clerk about planning decisions to be made. Decisions made will be sent to all Councillors not just the planning sub-committee over this period.	
8)	Yealmpton Bowling Club Certificate There was no objection to an alcohol certificate to cover members of the bowling club. All in favour except Cllr Thomas who abstained because he is on the licensing committee.	
9)	Financial matters a) Transactions in June were approved b) Proposed payments in July were approved c) Pre-authorised payments in August were approved. Total spend £4997.19. d) Cllr Craddock requested the Clerk send invoices to himself and Cllr Endicott before they approve payments. e) Cllr Barton requested that James Roberts let her know which footpaths he has strimmed. f) SHDC economy team - Chris Shears will talk to Cllr Hopkins and the Clerk about the Churchyard, he may also provide some money to improve heating in the Parish Room.	Clerk to arrange payments.
10)	Environmental Report (See attached report)	
11)	Local Government Reorganisation a) Report following Plymouth City Council's (PCC's) consultation in Yealmpton 25th June Members of the Council and the Clerk attended the Plymouth City Council "Big Conversation" events. The one in Yealmpton was well attended, the tickets were sold out. It was not intended to be a sales pitch by PCC, it was to gather information about what residents value in the village. b) Report following PCC's meetings with the 13 parishes 16th June and 8th July Cllr Baldry and the Clerk attended 16th June meeting. This meeting was mainly information gathering on the part of PCC. Ross Jago discussed the initial feedback from Government. It was stressed that Parish Councils would remain. Potentially with more powers. Cllr Craddock and the Clerk attended the meeting on 8th July. This focussed on Area Boards, which are something that the White Paper raised. Area Boards would sit between	

	the Parish Council and the Unitary Council – it was felt that this would be an unnecessary layer between Parishes and the Unitary. c) Report following meeting of the 13 parishes and County Council representatives 16th June Hosted by Yealmpton Parish Council. Not all parishes had consulted with the public or yet formed a view as a Council, however everyone indicted concern about the Plymouth City Council proposal and it was likely that it would not be endorsed by any of the Parish Councils and all are opposed. d) This meeting was to gather feedback from the 13 parishes and town council on the PCC proposal. Some questions focused on whether the 1,4,5 proposal could be altered to make it the 5,5 proposal. e) It was agreed that Cllr Craddock would attend the Town and Parish briefing by SHDC 23rd July. f) Consultation with parishioners – this will be done by encouraging parishioners to participate in SHDC's survey https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution g) Response to Rebecca Smith's survey. This had been seen by councillors, no response was thought necessary. h) The correspondence from Cornwood Parish Council was noted. It was agreed that Yealmpton Parish Council would continue in its current approach of reviewing each invitation to be involved in meetings on its merits and deciding whether to be involved.	
12)	Village old VR post box The council are committed to replacing it. The Clerk is still investigating the whereabouts of the original one, if it is not possible to find it the responsibility for agreeing the purchase of the replacement will be delegated to Cllrs Baldry and Endicott.	
13)	Ford Road and Yeo Lane – road marking scheme a) Installation of signs warning drivers of no footway over Torr Bridge. A new roundel on Ford Road entrance and 2 or 3 new Bus Stop cages (subject to consent from Devon Highways) were proposed. The total costs were about £5,000 plus traffic management, agreed with 2 abstentions. b) Other work including remarking centre lines, remarking roundels and slow signs on Yeo Lane will be requested by Cllr Thomas from the Devon Highways Parish remarking scheme.	Clerk & Cllr Thomas
14)	Temporary Traffic Orders The Yealmpton Show traffic notice was noted. Yealm Bridge to Wonnell Barn 4th – 8th August – Cllr Thomas requested that the Clerk email him detailing the proposed work.	Clerk & Cllr Thomas
15)	Report from Councillors / Clerk on actions arising from previous meetings Provision of a Dog Waste Bin at the South end of the village (New Road / West Park), £500 for the bin and installation and £5 per emptying. Cllr Baldry to advise on siting it. Clerk to find out if it will be adopted by SHDC and why there is a charge for emptying it, Cllr Thomas to be copied in.	Clerk & Cllr Baldry
16)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility where matters arise Footpath 19 surface - to consider a request for hard core surfacing for safety reasons. Cllr Tucker to contact the Shire Horse Centre for a meeting to include Cllrs Barton, Thomas and the Clerk	Cllr Tucker to arrange meeting
17)	Correspondence	

	a) From Brixton Parish Council about road speeds, they request 20mph in the village north and south of the A379. They are requesting a reduction to 40mph on the A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton. b) Consultation of South Devon National Landscape Management Plan on 16th July 6pm, Cllr Endicott agreed to attend. Meeting closed at 9.20pm Minutes prepared by Cllr Barton
	Date of next meeting: 8th September 2025

Appendix – Reports

DCC – July 2025

We have ended the last financial year in balance – but tough choices lie ahead

We have ended the 2024/25 financial year without going over budget, but only by relying on temporary savings and one-off government funding.

A report presented to cabinet today showed that we managed to stay within its £637.5 million budget and ‘balance the books’ despite growing demand for services like social care and support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We had been expecting to overspend by nearly £4 million in November but managed to avoid this through a mix of short-term measures, including delaying some projects, not filling vacant jobs, and using a one-off grant from government.

The report also showed that £40 million in planned savings were delivered across council services, though this fell short of the £50 million target.

Councillor James Buczkowski, Cabinet Member for Finance, said:

“This isn’t a moment to celebrate, but it is a moment to be honest. Officers have worked incredibly hard to help balance the books, and that deserves recognition.

“But let’s be clear: this balanced position was only achieved by using temporary fixes. “It’s not a sign that everything is fine. We’ve inherited a fragile financial position, depleted cash balances and a special educational needs deficit now over £169 million.

“The public deserves honesty. We are facing some of the most difficult financial conditions in decades, and we cannot keep doing things the old way. Our new administration is committed to rebuilding trust and making services more sustainable, by working differently, being open about the challenges, and focusing on what really matters to people.”

He added that the Council must now plan ahead carefully and work closely with partners to find better, more sustainable ways to support Devon’s communities.

SHDC – July 2025

Parking fine text scam

We’ve been made aware that some residents are receiving scam text messages about supposed outstanding parking fines.

Messages for residents:

- These messages may look official, but they are not from the council
- The web addresses in the texts are fake
- The payment amounts are often incorrect or suspicious
- Do not click on any links or provide any personal or payment details
- If you're unsure whether a message is genuine, please contact us - <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/parking>

Please share this to help protect others.

South Hams Rally for Nature

We're working with our partners, Sustainable South Hams, to help people connect with nature and the beauty of the South Hams and in so doing increase awareness of and care for our beautiful surroundings.

One such project we're working together on is the South Hams Rally for Nature; the hope is that as well as creating some new events specifically for the rally, many existing projects and activities can be incorporated and promoted as part of the celebration.

Messages for residents:

- The South Hams Rally for Nature programme is designed to help people connect with nature and the beauty of the South Hams and in so doing increase awareness of and care for our beautiful surroundings.
- Two sessions are being held at Follaton House on 15 July for anyone wanting to be involved.
- The first is for communities wanting to be involved - [click here to find out more and book your place](#).
- The second is for event providers and creatives - [click here to find out more and book your place](#).

Environment Report

Yealmpton Environment Group

Yealm Water quality

A set of specific projects that would help to prevent further pollution events and improve Yealm river water quality has been prepared with YEM and RYWQG. A bid for funding for these projects has been submitted on our behalf by Westcountry Rivers Trust to the EA. We have since heard that this initial proposal has been approved in principle and are now awaiting sign off by the EA's legal team.

Mudspotter is a standardised system for collecting information on run-off from land into the river. <https://modularriversurvey.org/mud-spotter/>. In September there will be an initial assessment of what this would involve locally, after which volunteers will be recruited.

The episode of pollution on the River Piall reported to EA earlier this year has been deemed 'within allowable limits'. RYWQG considers that the relevant licence really needs to be renegotiated.

RiverFly project: volunteers continue to monitor Yealm water quality regularly and have recently had training (funded by YPC and Wildfish) on identifying freshwater invertebrates. The results of

these surveys give objective evidence if there is degradation of a river environment. This evidence can then be used to inform remedial action locally and the scale of response required nationally. WildFish is a national organisation and runs a “Smart Rivers” programme collecting river fly data nationwide.

Noxious weeds

This year’s ‘Himalayan Balsam pulling & Brush Cutting’ programme begins soon. All the riparian landowners we have been contacted regarding access. The HB and Japanese Knotweed locations have been reviewed and it is encouraging to see that last year’s large stands of HB have been very considerably reduced due to our efforts. A ‘call for volunteers’ for 2025 has begun.

Schools’ involvement and Biodiversity monitoring.

Seven of the primary schools within the Yealm catchment are taking part in an art challenge with title “Where the Sea Meets the River”. The top three pictures from each school will be judged at Yealmpton Show. Tree seed Sunday this year will take place on Sunday 5th October.

Late in June, Ivybridge Community College students undertook two days’ field work on the Research Methods Module of the AQA A Level in Environmental Science at Rubies Wood. This resulted in a standardised data set that will act as a template for the future. The module is rigorous and challenging:

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/environmental-science/a-level/environmental-science-7447/specification/subject-content/research-methods#Research_methods

There is a second cohort of 23 Environmental Science students at ICC. Their survey in Rubies Wood include methods such as quadrant analysis, transects, camera capture, setting traps, nests, sweep surveys etc. On another day the focus is on water analysis, testing for turbulence, phosphates, nitrates, kick surveys, river flora and fauna surveys etc.

Yealm Catchment Management Plan

YEM is still in the early stages of developing the Yealm Catchment Management Plan that will bring together many aspects of wild habitats and biodiversity, water and land management (including natural solutions to flood/drought management), water quality and pollution and community engagement.

Organising everything to improve our natural environment falls on the shoulders of a few volunteers, and environment improvement would be faster if there was more **volunteer support for project management.**

Linda Durman, chair YEG

July 2025