

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 Baldry, Endicott, Craddock, Tucker, McKay, Thomas, Barton and District Cllr Edie. Cllr Edie left after item 7.**

| No | Minute                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Action |
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| 1) | <p><b>a. Apologies and absences.</b><br/>Cllr Street and Riley had sent apologies.<br/>Cllr Hopkins was absent.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |
| 2) | <p><b>County Council Report – Cllr Dan Thomas</b><br/><b>Pothole Repair Trial</b><br/>Cllr Thomas reported that a new pothole repair trial will commence on 15th September and run until the end of October 2025. The trial will assess the cost-effectiveness of repairing entire stretches of road—from junction to junction—rather than addressing potholes individually. It will be conducted on two-carriageway roads that do not require closures, focusing on areas in the North and West of the County.<br/>Cllr Barton raised concerns about potholes between Ermington and Ugborough, and Cllr Thomas confirmed that this stretch is included on the repair list.<br/><b>Road Markings</b><br/>Rural stop signs and junction marks are also on the list to be remarked soon. The Parish re-mark scheme is still ongoing.<br/><b>Road sign graffiti</b><br/>Devon Highways are unable to deal with the extensive graffiti of red crosses on white road markings around the county. If they cause offense, then they will be removed. However, it is likely that the spray paint will fade and wear off quickly.<br/>A County proposal for Local Government Reform is expected within in the next fortnight.</p> |        |
| 3) | <p><b>District Council Report – Cllr Tom Edie</b><br/><i>(See attached written report)</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |        |
| 4) | <p><b>Councillors Declaration of Interest:</b><br/>None.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        |
| 5) | <p><b>To agree and sign the previous minutes</b><br/>The minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were approved and signed by the Vice-Chairman Cllr Endicott. (The Chairman, Cllr Baldry was not in attendance at July's meetings).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |
| 6) | <p><b>Exclusion of the Public</b><br/>No matters required the exclusion of the public.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |
| 7) | <p><b>Planning matters</b><br/>a. A brief update was given on applications relevant to the Parish.<br/>b. Council notes the response that the Clerk had filed to the following applications;<br/>i. 2049/25/HHO - Can Pastilla, 69 Church Lane, Yealmpton, PL8 2HG (Support, no comment)<br/>ii. 2169/25/HHO - Hollybank (Two Crosses), Yealmpton, PL8 2HS (Support, no comment)<br/>iii. 2114/25/TPO - 8 The Borough, Yealmpton, PL8 2LR (YPC have no expertise in tree husbandry and therefore are unable to make a meaningful decision. We therefore rely on the SHDC 'Tree Officer' to make a suitable decision on our behalf. Noting</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        |

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|     | this is within the 'Conservation Area' and close to the river with no adjacent TPO's that we are aware off.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                      |
| 8)  | <b>Financial matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Accounts to end of August were reviewed.</li> <li>b. Payments were approved totalling £4,270.11.</li> <li>c. Council approved the implementation of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/2026 to the Clerk's pay-scale point.</li> <li>d. Council approved the investment of £60,000 in a 6 month fixed term investment.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Clerk to arrange payments and ask South Hams to implement the pay increase. Cllr Craddock to arrange the investment. |
| 9)  | <b>Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Council reviewed and noted the External Auditor's report. The Clerk confirmed the Report and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been published.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      |
| 10) | <b>Clerk's Employment Contract</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cllr Baldry confirming he would conduct a Clerk appraisal which would include a review of the number of permanent contract hours of the employment contract.</li> <li>b. It was agreed that the Clerk would be paid for an extra 15 hours in September 2025, to deal with the backlog of review of Council policies.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                      |
| 11) | <b>Environmental Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. (See attached report)<br/>Many thanks to Dr Durman for her report and for her recent article in the Yealmpton Press drawing everyone's attention to how to report any unpleasant smells from the sewage works.</li> <li>b. LCWIP. Cllr Barton commented it was disappointing that there is no funding to implement the recommendations of the report.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                      |
| 12) | <b>Funding Requests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Council noted the request from Yealmpton and Brixton Befriending.</li> <li>b. The below donations were approved and authorised to be made upon receipt of the next instalment of the precept;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Samaritans £200</li> <li>ii. Citizens Advice Bureau £200</li> <li>iii. Ivybridge Ring'n Ride £300</li> <li>iv. Athletics Club £500</li> <li>v. YCA building fund £3,000</li> <li>vi. Brixton &amp; Yealmpton Befriending £1,250</li> <li>vii. Dementia Friendly Parishes £500</li> <li>viii. Brownies and Rainbows £250</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | Clerk to arrange transfers.                                                                                          |
| 13) | <b>Local Government Reorganisation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The South Hams District Council event in Yealmpton is on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 6.15-8pm.</li> <li>b. Some of the thirteen councils, who are part of the Plymouth City Council proposal have recently met. Many Councils are waiting until the County Council publish their proposal, before they decided which model they intend to support. It was agreed that a collective letter would be sent to government and hand delivered to London. There</li> </ul>                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                      |

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|     | would be a further meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2025. The meeting would take place in Yealmpton again.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                   |
| 14) | <b>Market Street Car Park</b><br>a. Council approved the Red Book value fee and letter of engagement.<br>b. Council noted that the market value of the car park, on the basis it remained a free car park, was assessed at £20,000. Council noted the restrictive covenants in the title of the property, preventing the property from being used for anything but a public car park.<br>c. Consideration was given to whether the parish council's purchase of the car park was appropriate and whether the wider residents of the village would benefit, in addition to those who currently used the carpark. It was recognised that it had a benefit for the general availability of parking in the village. If the users of the car park parked elsewhere, that would impact on the wider residents of the village.<br>Cllr Dan Thomas abstained from voting, due to his role in the District Council. Council agreed to approach the District Council to try to negotiate the purchase the car park, at a maximum price of £20,000 | Clerk to liaise with the Cllr Baldry regarding the negotiation.                                   |
| 15) | <b>Newton and Noss Bathing Water Status Group</b><br>a. Council noted that the group had applied for bathing water status between Pope's Quay and Newton Brook. Council unanimously agreed to support the application from an environmental perspective.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Clerk to write in support of the application.                                                     |
| 16) | <b>Ford Road Marking Scheme</b><br>a. The existing scheme had been submitted to Devon Highways for their agreement and to arrange implementation. No response had yet been received.<br>b. Council had received a request from residents of Ford Road for double yellow lines to be painted between Tor Bridge and Riverside Walk on the East side of Ford Road and between the Bus Stop by the turn to Boldventure to Orchard Close. This request had been passed to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) for their comment. The NHO was unaware of any history of inappropriate parking, beyond a few isolated occurrences while building work was taking place. They did not think it would be given high priority by Devon County Council. YPC felt that by installing double yellow lines on this stretch of road, it would potentially cause problems with parking in other locations in the Ford Road area and decided not therefore support the request.                                                                    | Cllr Thomas would seek a response.<br><br>Clerk to write to the parties who had made the request. |
| 17) | <b>Speed Reduction on the A379 between the villages of Brixton and Yealmpton</b><br>The Council received a formal request from the Chair of Brixton Parish Council seeking support for a proposed reduction in the speed limit along the A379 between the villages of Yealmpton and Brixton. The                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Clerk to contact Devon Highways to obtain                                                         |

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|     | <p>rationale provided included enhanced safety for cyclists and improved consistency in speed limits from the South Hams boundary at Elburton through to Yealmbridge—ensuring the entire stretch would be designated either 30mph or 40mph.</p> <p>Two emails were received by the Clerk from Yealmpton residents expressing support for the proposal. The content of these emails was read aloud during the meeting and referenced five road traffic accidents reported between 2020 and 2024.</p> <p>Council agreed that further information regarding these incidents should be obtained prior to reaching a decision. The Clerk was therefore instructed to contact Devon Highways to request accident data for the relevant section of the A379, so that this evidence may be considered in due course.</p> | information about the 5 accidents.                |
| 18) | <p><b>Village Library</b></p> <p>It was agreed that an A board would be purchased for the Parish Library, which could be placed in Bakery Square to indicate when the library was open. The remaining library budget could be used.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Cllr Barton to choose the item.                   |
| 19) | <p><b>Heritage Items</b></p> <p>It was agreed that a list of potential items that could be listed would be compiled and the Parish Council could then decide whether to apply for them to be listed. Resident input would be requested in the Yealmpton Press.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Clerk and Cllr Barton to liaise about an article. |
| 20) | <p><b>Pavement between Yeo Lane and Yealmbridge</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There had been a meeting over the summer between members of the Council, Devon Highways and the adjoining landowner to agree the clearing of the pavement between Yeo Lane and Yealmbridge.</li> <li>Only one quote had been obtained for the work. Three had been requested. They would be considered at next month's meeting.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |
| 21) | <p><b>Gardening</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was agreed that the gardener who had been working in the Memorial Garden would asked if she could help with improving the appearance of the small visibility splay on the A379 at Stray Park.</li> <li>It was agreed that a composter would be placed in the Memorial Garden. Cllr Endicott had one that he would donate, to save the purchase of a new one.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |
| 22) | <p><b>Report from Councillors/Clerk on actions arising from previous meetings.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phone box relocation – this would require listed building consent and planning permission. SHDC had indicated that they were unlikely to support its relocation. It was agreed the phone box would remain in its current location.</li> <li>Victorian Post box on Fore Street – Rebecca Smith MP's office had written in support of our request for a replacement antique box. Royal Mail are trying to source replacement.</li> <li>Additional Dog Waste bin- Council felt the best location for it would be near the entrance to the permissive path by West Park. SHDC would be asked if this was a suitable location.</li> </ol>                                               |                                                   |
| 23) | <b>Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise;</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |

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|     | <p>a. Footpath 19</p> <p>i. Footpath 19 claim update – Cllr Thomas would contact the Devon County Council officer for an update. The claim was supposed to be determined in July 2025.</p> <p>ii. Cllr Tucker had assessed the surface of footpath 19. He estimated that the hardcore would cost £750 and it would be approximately £1000 for labour. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the P3 officer at Devon County Council and they would advise whether this could be a special project and we would be able to reclaim the cost through the scheme.</p> |
| 24) | <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>a. An email had been received about safety on the pavement been Yeo Lane and Yealmbridge.</p> <p>b. Yealmpton Community Association AGM – Cllr Baldry would attend in a Parish Council Representative.</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 9.25pm</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|     | <b>Date of next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## District Council Report

### **SHDC – September 2025**

#### LGR engagement events

Please feel free to share events for our public engagement events near you - you can download them from the links below.

The engagement events start at 6:15 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. with doors opening at 6:00 p.m.

- 16 September – Sparkwell Parish Hall, Sparkwell - Poster
- 19 September – Yealmpton Community Centre, Great Hall, Yealmpton - Poster
- 23 September – Newton and Noss Village Hall, Noss Mayo - Poster
- 30 September - Rose & Crown, Yealmpton - Poster

#### It's win-win with SeaMoor Lotto

Please help spread the word about the SeaMoor Lotto. Residents who take part will support a good cause and be in with the chance of winning weekly cash prizes of up to £25,000. Entries made before Saturday 27 September, could also win a £1,000 Aldi Gift Card, all for just £1 a week!

SeaMoor Lotto is a lottery for the people, by the people. It's a fun way to help good causes without giving up precious time.

Tickets are just £1 in the weekly draw, and you can choose exactly which good cause you would like your money to go to. More of your money goes to your chosen cause than with any other major lottery – you can see the exact breakdown, where every penny goes, on our website. [www.SeaMoorLotto.co.uk](http://www.SeaMoorLotto.co.uk)

South Hams Way launch – Sunday 14 September

Borough Park, Totnes 10:30

Attached is a recent press release about the South Hams Way in case it is of interest or use. In the meantime, arrangements for the official launch have been finalised. An opening ceremony will be held at 10:30 in Borough Park, Totnes, followed by a mass walk departing at 11:00 (staggered departure dependent on numbers). The walk is 7.5 miles from Totnes to Buckfastleigh. Walkers will be accompanied by South Hams Ramblers leaders.

### **Environment Report**

#### **YEG report to Parish Council September 2025**

### **Active travel**

The long awaited 'Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan' (LCWIP) for South Hams has been published. An LCWIP aims to prioritise investment in infrastructure to increase walking, wheeling, and cycling. The full report of 598 pages includes analysis and recommendations for infrastructure in West Devon and South Hams and can be accessed here:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/communities/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip>

The report includes information on possible sources of funding and highlights the danger of active travel along the A379 from Yealmpton to Elburton. It suggests an alternative route from Yealmpton to Sherford through narrow rural lanes, accepting that this is not ideal either (pages 396,7). In the prioritized list of "longer-term" projects for South Hams, one of the routes is "South Hams Route 17 Brixton - Yealmpton". The proposed interventions for this route include exploring the feasibility of upgrading Woodland Drive and Silverbridge Way to a walking and cycling path, continuing this path up to Yealmpton, and removing gates on Silverbridge Way to provide a dedicated cyclist link to/from the A379.

Liz Hitchins, chair of Brixton Parish Council, chairs the Silverbridge Way extension group that will report to Yealmpton PC. The need for a walking and cycling route separate from motor traffic is emphasised:

‘for the inter-urban routes which follow the A379 corridor, including those that start/end in Sherford, and Yealmpton. The results show that all these routes score less than 70%, the threshold considered acceptable for Active Travel England or a good/Dutch-quality

level of provision. These routes were scored between 32% and 44%.' (page 352) Pages 492,3,4,5 lists the main projects recommended for improving access to safe walking and cycling in and through Yealmpton, with detail on work to achieve this. A safer route between Yealmpton and Ermington (page 546) also has a fairly high priority.

## **Trees**

The tree nursery team assembled at Lodge Gate Field on Bank Holiday Monday to undertake maintenance: weeding the polytunnel, sowing hazel nuts and weeding and watering the beds. Planting that day included planting out 25 hazel saplings and 672 small trees from their root trainers. Councillors are welcome to visit and to see how well the system of growing from locally sourced seeds is going. When the planting season arrives, usually November to March, the team will dig out the trees that are ready to be planted at the final destination.

## **Air quality at Yealmpton sewage treatment facility.**

A well-functioning sewage treatment plant should contain odours within the facility, with any release being a sign of a problem, such as excessive surface water entering the system, an inadequately maintained plant or insufficient capacity. This summer the stench of deeply unpleasant smells emanating from the Yealmpton sewage treatment plant has been regular and excessive. In addition, there now seems to be an almost daily procession of South West Water's trucks taking away significant waste, suggesting that their current sewage treatment infrastructure is inadequate.

Information on how to complain about smell from any of South West Water's sewage treatment plants, is already available on the Parish Council website and has been added to the River Yealm Water Quality Group's Facebook page. To complain, call SWW wastewater services line at 0344 346 2020 or use the online report-a-problem form online at <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/household/help-support/report-a-problem/pollutions/report-a-pollution> Be prepared to provide your address and details about the smell to help them investigate the cause, which could be due to higher temperatures, wind direction, blockages, or wastewater volume.

In view of the increased frequency of noxious odours this summer, we are asking members of the public to let the Parish Council know ([clerk@yealmpton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yealmpton-pc.gov.uk)) about the issue and the complaint so that they may collate evidence of the problem and then make their own formal complaint to SWW on behalf of us all. Hopefully such complaints will boost SWW's ability to apply for funding to increase the capacity of Yealmpton Sewage Treatment Plant.

## **Monitoring Yealm water quality**

The over-riding purpose of measuring water quality of the Yealm, is to present reliable data to enforce improvement, as this does not appear to happen otherwise. We work with standardised methods that are also used across the UK. Following training, CSI volunteers took part in a low cost nitrate test comparison study on 12 August, run by the

University of Bristol, School of Geographical Sciences. The aim was to test the performance of the different kits used by citizen scientists across the UK against lab analysis of nitrate in samples; to understand the benefits and limitations of each test and how citizen science methods for nitrate collection might be improved, thus building trust in citizen science data sets. 4 different samples were collected at each of our 6 selected sites within the Yealm catchment. 1- sample for lab analysis, 2 - Hanna Nitrate Checker (high range, marine), 3 - Hach nitrate strips, 4 - La Motte nitrate test strips. The sites sampled were as follows: Puslinch Bridge, Yealm Bridge, Long Brook, Coffin Stream, Newton Stream, Silverbridge Lake (Smithhaleigh), R Piall Marks Bridge, Lee Mill Stream@ Lee Mill. All results were recorded on the Epicollect5 app and submitted to the U of Bristol. All samples for the lab analysis were collected by 12.30 on 12 August and transported to the U of Bristol that afternoon. A full report will be produced by the U of Bristol in Spring 2026. This exercise and report will reduce the risk that CSI readings could be successfully challenged authorities.

YEM and RYWQG were represented at the Yealmpton Show on 30 July 2025. It was a highly successful show and 8 new volunteers came forward for water quality testing or Mudspotter training.

Linda Durman, Chair, Yealmpton Environment Group