

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10TH NOVEMEBR 2025 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Members of the public present: 1

Public Forum

Kerry McCabe, the Service Manager for Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement Project (TRAYE) outlined the success of the Youth Clubs that were running in the village. The two groups were well attended and met at either the Cricket Club Pavillion (older young people) or St Bartholomew Church (younger group). The Youth Club had been welcomed by both venues and Kerry thanked those at St Bartholomew Church and the Cricket Club for their warm welcome. She also thanked the Parish Council for their financial support for the project. It was hoped that the older young people's Club would start to meet weekly in the next financial year, there was a great need for a weekly session. Cllr Baldry thanked Kerry and her team for all their hard work and the teams at St Bartholomew and the Cricket Club for their support.

Councillors Present: Cllr Baldry, Cllr Endicott, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Tucker, Cllr Riley, Cllr Barton and Cllr McKay.

1) Apologies and absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Street and Cllr Hopkins. Cllr Craddock was absent.

2) County Council Report – Cllr Thomas

Local Government Reorganisation

Plymouth City Council had now published their proposal, along with Exeter City Council and Torbay Council. Their respective proposals all supported each other's proposed new boundaries and focus on the concept of urban power houses needing space to expand.

The District Councils remain committed to the 1-4-5 proposal, as previously outlined. Some of the District Councils (not South Hams) are likely to include an addendum to their proposal, that would provide for a modified 1-4-5 proposal as a potential alternative. This would allow for a modest expansion of Plymouth City Council's boundary, to take in some of the surrounding urban areas.

Cllr Thomas was asked for an explanation of why it was taking the County Council so long to repair the wall at Torr Bridge. The reason being, the County was trying to agree the repair with the insurance company for the driver that was involved in the accident. In the meantime, the footway is still useable.

Complaints were raised about the use of County Council owned verges for the display of Estate Agents sign boards – often simply advertising that they had sold a property in the area. It was agreed that, prior to any formal action being taken by the County Council, the Parish Council would write to the relevant Estate Agents, asking for the boards to be removed from the County owned land.

ACTIONS ARISING: The Clerk to write to the relevant Estate Agents.

3) District Council Report

(Written report provided by Cllr Edie)

4) Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

5) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 13th October 2025, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6) Exclusion of the Public

No matters required the exclusion of the public.

7) Planning matters

- a) A brief update was given on matters relevant to the Parish
- b) The following response to 1809/25/FUL 6 Waltacre Yealmpton PL8 2LY was agreed;
Object: YPC object to this application as we can see no acknowledgement in the present proposal that the decision notice of 2317/24/FUL stipulated privacy remediation toward No 5 Waltacre. We are concerned that the proposed soak away in the SW corner of the site could impact the road and public footpath. (No percolation tests are reported in this application). We are confident the septic tank also situated in the SW corner of No 6 Waltacre site, is used by both No 6 & 7 Waltacre. We therefore question its suitability primarily for the extra load this proposal will create.
(Cllr Thomas abstained from voting due to his role in the District Council)
- c) The Clerk was given delegated authority to submit responses to any planning applications that required a response prior to the next Parish Council meeting in January 2026.

ACTIONS ARISING: Clerk to submit response on the South Hams Planning Portal.

8) Financial Matters

- a) The accounts to the end of October 2025 were reviewed.
- b) Payments totalling £2,468.79 were approved.

ACTIONS ARISING: Clerk to arrange payments.

9) Local Government Reorganisation

- a) Cllr Baldry and the Clerk reported that a letter on behalf of 9 or 10 out of the 13 Councils affected by the Plymouth City Council proposal would be sent to the government minister, outlining the opposition to the Plymouth City Council proposal. One Council was still to concern whether they wish their Council's name to be added to the letter.
- b) The Clerk will attend a South Hams District Council virtual briefing for the 13 Councils. Cllr Thomas is chairing the meeting. A report will be given at the next meeting.
- c) An update on proposals from the upper tier Councils was given during the County Council report at item 2.

10) Policies and Procedures Review

- a) The following proposal were considered;
 - i) A new Grievance Policy was approved and adopted
 - ii) A new Disciplinary Policy was approved and adopted
 - iii) The existing Environmental Policy was reviewed and minor amendments were approved

- iv) Emergency Plan. Cllr Riley reported that the Emergency Plan was still being reviewed. The Emergency boxes had been replenished. An article would be included in the Yealmpton Press asking for volunteers to be contacts as part of any emergency response.
- v) Planning Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed, the need to appoint a Vice-Chairman was removed.
- vi) Environmental Group Terms of Reference was reviewed.
- vii) New Staffing Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed and approved.

11) Footpath 19

- a) It was agreed that the landowners of the land subject to the new footpath claim would be contacted and if a meeting was not arranged within the next four weeks, an application would be made to the Secretary of State to determine the claim.

ACTION ARISING: Clerk to write to the landowner, the letter to be agreed with Cllrs Barton and Thomas.

12) Ford Road Safety Scheme

- a) Correspondence from Devon Highways had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that Yealmpton would not be included in the Parish remarking scheme for the next two financial years.
- b) A road safety scheme comprising of new road markings (bus stop cages and a roundel on Ford Road), refreshed existing roundel markings and refreshed SLOW signs on Yeo Lane, and new signage on Torr Bridge was agreed. The total cost of the scheme was estimated at £14,580 plus VAT.

ACTION ARISING: Clerk to instruct Devon County Council to progress the scheme to the next stage.

13) Parish Directory

- a) A loose-leaf design for the directory was agreed
- b) It was noted that the costs would be shared with the YCA and 50% of the £237 printing cost was approved.

14) Website Accessibility upgrade

- a) A budget of £500 plus VAT was agreed to make necessary changes to improve the accessibility of the website.

15) Report from actions arising from previous meetings

- a) Purchase of Market Street Car Park – heads of terms were expected from South Hams District Council, but not yet received.
- b) Heritage Items – the Parish Archive were compiling a list of items for the Parish Council to consider to apply to list.
- c) Victorian Post-box on Fore Street – talks with Royal Mail were ongoing. They were looking for an antique fascia for us. They have asked if YPC would accept a GR fascia instead. It was felt by Council that it needs to be a Victorian box that was put back in.

ACTION ARISING: the Clerk to respond to Royal Mail in these terms.

- d) The Land Registry had confirmed by phone that the leasehold entry on the Parish Room title had now been removed.

ACTION ARISING: The Clerk would confirm this by purchasing the official copy.

- e) Silverbridge Way Extension – Cllr Barton had a meeting with members of the group and would report in January's meeting.

16) Reports on allocated areas of responsibility

- a) Christmas Decorations – Cllr Thomas confirmed he had ordered the two Christmas Trees for the village.

17) Correspondence

- a) YAGA Plant sale would be on 2nd May 2026, permission to use Bakery Square was approved.
- b) An email had been received from a parishioner regarding the Yealmbridge Speed data and the pavement to Yealmbridge. Speed data would be reported in the new year and work on the pavement to Yealmbridge would shortly commence.

Meeting closed: 9.40pm

Date of the next meeting: 12th January 2026

Minutes prepared by the Parish Clerk

District Council Report

SHDC – November 2025

Community jammin' at Totnes skatepark

Totnes was buzzing with energy on Saturday 1 November as skaters of all ages came together to celebrate the grand opening of the town's brand-new skatepark. Despite the rain, the inaugural Totnes Skate Jam was a huge success, showcasing the talent, spirit, and inclusivity of the local skate community.

This exciting new facility is the result of a powerful collaboration between South Hams District Council, Totnes Town Council, and the local community.

We're proud to have played a major role in bringing this project to life, contributing over £200,000—around two-thirds of the total project cost. This included a £150,000 allocation brought forward to ensure the skatepark could be delivered this year.

Yealm Community Energy Fair

On Saturday 15 November (10am-1pm), Yealm Community Energy and Sustainable South Hams will be hosting the Yealm Energy Fair at Wembury War Memorial Village Hall, PL9 0LF.

This free, family-friendly, drop-in event will provide local residents and business owners from all 5 Yealm parishes with practical ideas to reduce energy costs, improve warmth, comfort and efficiency, and access expert, tailored advice on retrofit and renewable energy options.

There will be free impartial advice from South Dartmoor Community Energy with information on grants and funding, plus practical and technical advice.

A number of local energy installation companies will be at the show to promote a range of services from retrofit to renewables. There will also be kids activities and refreshments, plus free parking so that you can bring the family.

To find out more visit yealmenergy.co.uk/news

NHS App

NHS Devon is encouraging residents to take control of their health this winter through the NHS App.

Record numbers of patients in Devon are now accessing services through the NHS App, which has become an essential tool for managing healthcare needs conveniently and efficiently.

It's particularly beneficial during winter as illnesses such as flu, RSV and COVID-19 spread more easily in the UK during colder months when people spend more time indoors.

The NHS App helps users order repeat prescriptions and nominate a pharmacy for collecting medication, book GP appointments and locate nearby NHS services – all without needing to wait for surgery opening hours or make a phone call