

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY, 13th OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.30 PM AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Members of the public present: 3. One member of the public spoke in relation to a planning application to be considered at item 7 on the Agenda. One member of the public spoke in support of a reduction of the speed limit between the villages of Brixton and Yealmpton to be dealt with at item 11 of the Agenda.

Councillors present: Cllrs Baldry, Craddock, McKay, Thomas, Hopkins, Riley and District Cllr Edie. Cllr Edie left after item 7.

No	Minute	Action
1)	a. Apologies and absences. Cllrs Street, Barton, Tucker and Endicott sent apologies.	
2)	County Council Report – Cllr Dan Thomas Local Government Reorganisation The County Council’s LGR submission would be for the whole area currently administered by Devon County Council to form one Unitary Council, “pulling up” the existing District Councils. Neighbourhood Committees would preside over local areas. It would keep Torbay Council and Plymouth City Council on their existing boundaries. This meant that four proposals would be submitted for the County of Devon. Cllr Thomas confirmed that the bank slippage on the A379 between Brixton and Elburton is within the Plymouth City Council boundary. Cllr Thomas was asked whether Devon Highways had a policy about Estate Agents placing signboards on land owned by the Devon Highways. Cllr Thomas stated they did not.	
3)	District Council Report – Cllr Tom Edie (See attached written report) Cllr Thomas added that the District Council were looking at ways to improve the car parking facilities at Ivybridge Football Club and Tennis Centre.	
4)	Councillors Declaration of Interest: None.	
5)	To agree and sign the previous minutes The minutes of the meeting on 8 th September 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 applications relevant to the Parish. b. The following response was agreed; i. 2623/25/FUL - Land At Sx 571 517 (Kitley Self Storage), Underhay, Yealmpton Decision: Support. Comment: YPC support this application on the understanding adequate screening is provided in general and especially towards Tappers Lane development. Also both noise and lighting are controlled or prohibited and the site is used purely for storage.	Clerk to submit response.

8)	Financial matters a. Accounts to end of September were reviewed. b. Actual spending against budget was reviewed. c. Bank Reconciliation statement to the end of September 2025 was received. d. Payments were approved totalling £5,666.94. It was noted that one of the invoices was for an environmental grant given to YEM in the previous financial year. The invoice was accepted, however, the Clerk was asked to inform YEM, that invoices for grants should be delivered in the financial year to which they relate.	Cllr Craddock would check the Bank Reconciliation statement against the bank statements. Clerk to arrange payments.
9)	Environmental Report a. (See Dr Durman's written report) It was noted that on the preceding Friday to the meeting South West Water lorries had removed three loads of waste from the processing plant. The Clerk was asked to submit a written request for details of the capacity at which the plant was currently operating and to ask whether any untreated waste was being discharged in the river. b. It was noted that invoices had been delivered by YEM for grants that had been awarded but where the project had not yet been delivered. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to YEM to say that invoices would only be paid when the project was delivered. If necessary, provision could be made in next year's budget for the payment of these invoices.	Clerk to submit the request for information. Clerk to liaise with YEM.
10)	Local Government Reorganisation a. Cllr Thomas had provided an update on the upper tier proposals for LGR in his County Council Report. b. Cllr Baldry reported that he and the Clerk had attended a meeting with representatives from some of the 13 councils affected by the Plymouth City Council proposal for LGR. A joint letter had been agreed and would be sent to government stating our opposition to the Plymouth Council proposal. This draft letter had been circulated to councillors. Councillors confirmed they were happy with the letter in its current form.	
11)	Speed reduction on the A379 between the villages of Yealmpton and Brixton a. The request from the Chairman of Brixton Parish Council was considered. b. Correspondence from members of the public who had written to the Clerk was considered. c. Correspondence from the Safer Travel Strategy & Programme Officer at Devon County Council was considered. Some members of the Council cautioned that a reduction in the speed limit on this stretch could have a knock on effect on speed at Yealmbridge, where speeds as high as 80mph had been recorded East bound and speeds of 95mph West bound. It was suggested that expert advice should be taken before any review of the speed limits took place. It was also noted that the National Speed limit was 50mph for heavier vehicles, so for heavier vehicles the reduction would be 10mph. Comment was made that some of the white lines were indistinct on this stretch already. Some members of the Council felt that a reduced limit would result in cyclists feeling safer and would encourage cycling, which complimented various government initiatives.	

	Cllr Thomas abstained from voting as he is the Cabinet Member for Highways at Devon County Council. After debate, the motion to keep the National Speed limit between Brixton and Yealmpton was proposed and seconded. Two councillors voted for the motion and two against. Two Councillors abstained (inc. Cllr Thomas). As the vote was tied, the Chairman used his casting vote to maintain the “status quo” by supporting the motion. The Chairman commented that YPC was not adverse to considering this again following an understanding of the costs involved and further comment from the public. It was agreed that a notice would be placed in the Yealmpton Press and Yealmpton Parish Council Facebook page seeking further public comment. The Clerk would report this to Brixton Parish Council.	
12)	Pavement between Yeo Lane and Yealmbridge a. Two quotes had been received from contractors. A third had been requested, but not received. It was agreed that James Friend’s quote would be accepted and he would be instructed to proceed with the works forthwith. Maintenance of this pavement would be important and a plan for this had been agreed with the landowner.	Clerk to contact all parties.
13)	Footpath 20 – re-surfacing and bank regeneration scheme a) The cost of the Environment Agency permit application is £488.50. There was no guarantee that the permit would be granted. The Clerk was authorised to sign the Charging Declaration and return this to the Environment Agency.	Clerk to submit the declaration.
14)	Remembrance Sunday Day Road Closure a) The Temporary Road Closure Order had been received. The signs would be put up the week before on the A379. Cllr Riley offered to help Cllr Tucker and the Clerk manage the closure.	
15)	Works a. Tree Risk Survey. It was agreed that a Tree Risk survey would be undertaken. Both quotes were for the same amount. The decision of which contractor to appoint was delegated to the Clerk. b. Flower Tubs. It was noted that there are two flower tubs in Bakery Square which were planted by Bee Wild. The group does not have funds to continue with the planting of these tubs. It was agreed that these would be added to the Parish Council Flower Tub displays. The WI would also be asked if they wished to continue to plant their designated tub in Bakery Square or whether this would be removed. c. Tidy Village Group. One of the aims of the group was to tackle pavement weeds. Some members of the group were frustrated that the weeds were returning so quickly and felt that it was a waste of time trying to tackle the weeds without weedkiller. The group are therefore going to focus efforts on litter picking and clearing pavement debris, as opposed to weeding. Cllr Baldry thanked the group for their efforts and stated they had improved the appearance of the areas they had worked on and it was worthwhile work.	Clerk to instruct contractor. Clerk to advise Fordbrook Nurseries and enquire with the WI.

16)	Dog Waste Bin a) It is not possible to situate the bin near the entrance of the path at West Park, as this was outside the 30mph area. An alternative area of near the bus stop, under the tree by Hillside Drive was discussed. A final cost is still waited from South Hams District Council, but it is likely to be in the region of £500 to purchase and install the bin, with on going costs to the parish council of £260 p.a. for weekly emptying. It was agreed that the need for this item should be considered when setting the budget for next financial year and this stage, the installation would be taken no further at this stage.	
17)	Policy and Procedure Review a. Approval of updated policies; i. Standing Orders – a few minor alterations to the existing standing orders were approved and adopted by Council (predominantly stylistic and typographical). ii. Financial Regulations – the draft used the most recent precedent circulated by DALC. The new Financial Regulations were approved and adopted by Council. iii. Publication Scheme - the draft policy was approved and adopted by Council, with the addition that it would be stated that the meeting schedule would included on the Noticeboards. iv. Privacy Notice – the draft was approved and adopted by Council. v. Equality and Diversity Policy – the draft was approved and adopted by Council. vi. Risk Management Scheme – the draft was approved and adopted by Council vii. Health and Safety Policy – the draft was approved and adopted by Council. b. It was agreed that the Publication Scheme, the Standing Orders, the Financial Regulations, the Finalised Annual Budget, Committee Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee and Code of Conduct would be placed on the website. c. Code of Conduct. The decision notice following a Code of Conduct hearing concerning another local Parish Council was considered (not concerning YPC). It was felt that YPC Councillors were aware of the importance of appropriately declaring interests (which had been the basis of the complaint). It was noted that an interest is deemed to endure for a period of time beyond resignation from the outside body and there is a “run-out” period before a councillor is free of the interest. Any Councillors who wished to receive training could attend training with DALC. It was agreed that this served as a reminder for Councillors to keep under close review their Declarations of Interest.	Clerk to update Drop Box with new policies. Clerk to update the website. All Councillors to review their Declarations of Interest and advise the Clerk if any updates are required.
18)	Report from Councillors/Clerk on actions arising from previous meetings; a. Market Street Car Park – members from YPC had met with the Market Street Businesses and Residents Association.	

	The group were considering making their own application to purchase the Car Park. There were no further updated regarding the negotiations with South Hams. b. Ford Road Marking Scheme – there was no update from Devon Highways. c. Heritage Items – the Yealmpton Parish Archive had agreed to compile a list of items and would liaise with Cllr Barton and the Clerk. d. Post Box update – the Clerk was in touch with Royal Mail about the sourcing of a replacement antique box to be installed. It will be a decommissioned box and only be installed as a heritage item.	Cllr Thomas to make enquiries.
19)	Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, as and where matters arise. None.	
21)	Correspondence None in addition to the above.	
	Date of next meeting: 10th November 2025	

District Council Report

SHDC – October 2025

Photo library

We are in the process of expanding our photograph library for the district and would love to include any photographs you already have that showcase the unique aspects of your ward.

We would also like you to also suggest five key areas that are easily recognisable as part of your locality so we can take photographs. These could be photos of a specific building, a river, park, monument, or specific scenes or vantage points of your towns and villages that truly capture the essence of the place.

It would be very helpful if you could give clear details of the photos so we understand where you suggest they can be taken. We will then arrange to capture these photographs for our collection.

Please direct any of your own photographs, your five ward photo suggestions, or any questions you may have, to the Communications Team. If you are sending a large number of photographs, please use Mimecast to accommodate larger file sizes.

South Hams Energy Assembly

Sustainable South Hams, South Dartmoor Community Energy and South Hams District Council are excited to be hosting the 2025 South Hams Energy Assembly alongside Octopus Energy.

- The event takes place on 18 October at Kingsbridge Community College.
- Spaces are limited so book your space online [here](#).
- The event aims to connect, support and inspire action to accelerate the transition to energy resilience in the South Hams.
- Sustainable South Hams is bringing together community organisations, councillors, rural businesses, housing associations and other local decision makers and interested individuals, together with experts from local energy organisations, installers and related companies

Environment Report

YEG report to council October 25

Water pollution

Tackling run-off

Five new volunteers were recruited this summer for Mudspotter training. We are only the second area trialling this system for West Country Rivers Trust. It became clear that the system does not address the source of run-off and is therefore unlikely to deliver the impactful change we need locally. An alternative system is being developed that includes mapping the sources of run-off. This will enable remediation attempts through existing contacts (Charles W-B). Brixton and other volunteers are developing a high resolution terrain map for this purpose. The EA still wants people to report in their incident hotline 0800 807060 as well.

Measuring water quality

In August our CSI volunteers took part in a low-cost nitrate test comparison study. This involved assessing the performance of the different kits used by citizen scientists across the UK, compared with lab analysis of four different nitrate samples from six selected sites. All samples will be analysed by Bristol University School of Geographical Sciences – report on results due Spring 2026. This focus on accuracy builds trust in CSI data sets. Our existing Sonde measures temperature, pH levels, dissolved oxygen and turbidity and enables real-time data collection and transmission. This is working well but doesn't tell us which tributary of the Yealm is the source of pollution. Fortunately, an additional Sonde has been funded by SHDC to improve information on the source of pollution in real time. It will be located on the Piall. This Sonde will include a sensor that measures an amino acid diagnostic of sewage and farm waste.

Fish

A recent EA catch count exercise on the Yealm showed a considerable improvement against earlier surveys. Current planning is under way to support a programme to bring Salmon back to par and hopefully we will see smolts leaving the Yealm to begin a recreational cycle and the return of a healthy fish stock back to our river.

Air pollution

Inadequate capacity at Yealmpton Sewage Plant remains a problem for air quality with ongoing obnoxious smells. Cllr Barton has added a link on the YPC website in the 'REPORT IT' section.

Trees

There are 1,600 trees in the Yealmpton Tree Nursery at the moment ready for planting this year and 1700 that will be ready for next year. Tree Seed Sunday on 5th October this year was a great success. There is higher demand for hedging plants than for trees at the moment. Wasps' nests are a problem at the tree nursery, having swarmed and stung three volunteers badly this year. An improved water supply has also been installed. Seven additional volunteers were recruited during the summer. Tree planting Our section of the river is now completely lined with trees and shrubs, preventing animal access and limiting run-off.

Cllr Thomas has supported our application for an award of £1665 from SHDC from the sustainable communities locality green fund for a Woodland enrichment programme. Three sites have been selected for a trial: Lotherton Wood, Treby Wood and Torr Farm. Where this system is in place (Dendles Wood and Dartmoor) the results are impressive. The system involves use of hurdles and fencing to keep deer and rabbits out until trees are established. Two professional advisers are involved.

Noxious weeds. There have been six episodes of 'Balsam bashing' this summer and the big stands from two years ago are much diminished, especially that near Puslinch Bridge. One new area of growth has been found. We are waiting for result for a trial along the Tamar of rust that kills Himalayan Balsam. Japanese Knotweed in the DWT nature reserve by New England Quarry has been cut to ground level. There is funding for injecting this to kill it off.

Linda Durman

Chair YEG