

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12TH JANUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Members of the public present: 2

Public Forum

The Treasurer of St Bartholomew's Church spoke on behalf of the Bell Ringers outlining their intention to apply for a Parish Council grant towards repairing the church's bell frame. Their fundraising was at an early stage, and they had not yet explored all potential funding sources or gathered all the information the Parish Council might require. The repair work, estimated at £30,000–£35,000 pending further quotes, would need to be carried out in 2026/2027 to avoid safety risks. The speaker emphasised the cultural and community importance of the bells, noting that the Church of England would not fund the repairs because the bells are not essential to religious practice.

Councillors Present: Cllr Baldry, Cllr Endicott, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Craddock, Cllr Tucker, Cllr Riley, Cllr Barton, Cllr Hopkins and Cllr MacKay.

1) Apologies and absences

Apologies and the resignation of Cllr James Street had been received by the Chairman and the Clerk. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Street for his contribution to Council business and were sorry that he was not continuing as a Councillor.

Arising Action – The Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Street to convey the Council's thanks. The Clerk would prepare the necessary Notices of Casual Vacancy and inform South Hams District Council.

2) County Council Report – Cllr Thomas

Money will be invested in the Community Protocol, with match funding available for parish and town improvement projects. It was noted that Yealmpton Parish Council is already engaged with the Protocol.

An update was requested on the repair of Torr Bridge. The Clerk reported that the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer had advised that a works order was imminent.

3) District Council Report

(Written report provided by Cllr Edie)

4) Councillors' Declarations of Interest

Cllr Baldry declared an interest in the grant application from the St Bartholomew's Bell Ringers, as he is a member of the group. He also volunteers with the TRAYE Youth Club when sessions are held at St Bartholomew's Church.

Cllr Barton declared an interest in the grant application from the Parish Archive, as she is a member of the group, and in the proposed payment to the Yealmpton Press, as she is the Editor.

Cllr Thomas declared an interest in the funding provision for the TRAYE Youth Club, as his children attend the Club.

Cllr Craddock declared an interest in funding for the Yealmpton Community Association and its projects, as he is the Association's Treasurer.

Cllr MacKay declared an interest in the donation to the Rainbows and Brownies, as his wife manages the local group.



5) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10th November 2025, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6) Exclusion of the Public

No matters required the exclusion of the public.

7) Planning matters (this matter was taken after item 13)

- a) The response made by the Clerk to 3580/25/TCA Yealmpton Manor was noted by Council;

"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 this is within the 'Conservation Area' and this tree has no associated TPO that we are aware off."

- b) A brief update on applications relevant to the Parish was given.

- c) The following responses were agreed;

- i) 3417/25/FUL Sunridge Lodge, Worston, Yealmpton, PL8 2LN;

"Support - YPC support this on the understanding it is to be used only for holiday accommodation and secondly if SHDC grant permission for this application it should supersede the 'Lake House' application previously granted permission (1701/18/FUL)."

- ii) 0020/26/TCA 37 Market Street, Yealmpton, PL8 2EB;

"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 this is within the 'Conservation Area' and adjacent to a listed building with no associated TPO that we are aware off."

(Cllr Thomas abstained from voting due to his role in the District Council)

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

8) Silverbridge Way Extension

Cllr Barton reported that stakeholders had walked the route of the proposed extension and that a formal costing had been requested. The route measured 450 metres. A quote for the surface had been received at £80 per metre, equating to £36,000 plus VAT. Additional fencing costs were expected to be in the region of £10,000–£15,000 plus VAT. Cllr Tucker had reviewed the figures and felt they were high for the work required, and further quotes would be sought. It was noted that grant funding had been accessed for the initial Silverbridge Way, and grant applications should be made once full costings were available. It was agreed that provision should be made in the budget for a contribution. A sum of £3,000 was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed, to be ringfenced if not used in this financial year.

9) Village remarking and signage scheme

The Clerk sought clarification on whether the Council wished to remark all three existing roundels in the village or only mark the new roundel on Ford Road. The costs were considered, and it was agreed by majority, with one vote against, that all roundels should be refreshed. It was noted from the consultation responses on the proposed speed reduction between Brixton and Yealmpton that ensuring compliance with the village speed limit was important. Reinforcing the existing limit with clearer delineation at the gateways was therefore considered a good use of funds.



10) Market Street Car Park

The Clerk provided an update on the purchase. South Hams District Council had indicated that they were minded to grant a 999-year lease rather than sell the freehold. A premium would be payable for the lease, although it would be lower than the proposed freehold purchase price. The terms and the amount of the premium had not yet been confirmed. It was agreed that £10,000 would be included in the budget.

11) Grant Applications

- a) Requests for the financial year 2026/2027
 - i) A request for £700 from the Parish Archive had been received. It was felt that this project met the criteria of the newly adopted Grant Giving Policy. The grant was approved.
 - ii) A request for a contribution from the St Bartholomew's Bell Ringing Group had been received, and a member of the group had spoken in the public forum. Cllrs Baldry and Thomas left the room for this item and took no part in the discussion or vote (Cllr Thomas left the room as his father is a member of the Bell Ringers and had spoken in the public forum). It was noted that the final amount required had not yet been confirmed but was likely to be in the region of £30,000–£35,000. There was discussion on whether to award a percentage or a fixed sum. It was unanimously agreed by the remaining Councillors that provision for an award of up to £3,000 should be made in the budget. The award would be determined once a final costing had been received and the requested information provided and the award would be used as part of a complete refurbishment, rather than a temporary fix. Cllrs Baldry and Thomas returned to the room on the conclusion of this matter.
- b) Review of completed grants for the year 2025/2026
 - i) Yealmpton Athletics Association had been awarded a grant of £2,800 last January. They had fulfilled the criteria set for obtaining the grant and it was agreed the £2,800 would be released to them.

ARISING ACTION: Clerk to write to the applicants and inform them of the award.

12) Yealmpton Environment Group Projects

- a) It was agreed that the funding for the biodiversity project at Lodge Gate Field would be increased from £600 plus VAT to £800 plus VAT. The extra funding would come from a flood prevention project that was unlikely to be able to proceed.
- b) The proposed projects for 2026/2027 were reviewed, and the RiverFly contribution with neighbouring parishes was agreed at £452. Before approving the projects proposed by the Yealmpton Environmental Group (YEG), clarification would be sought as to whether the landowners of the sites concerned could access any government grants, for example for tree planting or hedge restoration.

ARISING ACTION: Clerk to instruct Devon Wildlife Trust to undertake the agreed works at Lodge Gate Field and seek clarification from YEG regarding available government funding.

13) Precept and Budget for Financial Year 2026/2027

- a) The budget for 2026/2027 was agreed with spending of £117,950, estimated income of £10,552, leaving a net budget of £107,398 for the financial year 2026/2027. It was agreed that spending on Footpath 20 and the Silverbridge Way Extension would be ring fenced



for the financial year 2027/2028, if they did not take place in 2026/2027, to enable YPC to build up a fund for these projects.

- b) The level of general reserves was reviewed. It was estimated that cash in the bank at the end of 2025/2026 would be in the region of £75,000 (including Devon County Council P3 funds of c.£3,000). Revenue expenditure was estimated at £70,000. It was agreed that general reserves could be reduced to £35,000 by the end of 2026/2027, representing six months of revenue expenditure and within the recommended range of three to twelve months. The Clerk advised that a higher level of reserves would be prudent given the uncertainty surrounding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), but the Council considered £35,000 to be sufficient, noting that the precept could be increased for 2027/2028 if LGR created additional demands on resources.
- c) The level of precept to request for 2026/2027 was unanimously agreed at £68,000. It was noted that this was an increase from last year of 5% (£3.34/year) on the Bank D Parish Tax rate.

ARISING ACTION – the Clerk to submit the request to South Hams District Council for the precept for 2026/2027

14) Proposed Speed Reduction on A379 between Brixton and Yealmpton

There was insufficient time to deal with this matter, it will be considered in the meeting on 9th February 2026.

15) Financial Matters

- a) Accounts to the end of December 2025 were reviewed. It was noted that the Solar Farm funds had been received.
- b) The bank reconciliation to the end of December 2025 was reviewed, Cllr Craddock confirmed he had reviewed its accuracy and it was signed. Actual spending against Budget had also been reviewed and it was as expected.
- c) Payments for January 2026 totalling £8,213.71 were approved.

ARISING ACTION – Clerk to arrange payment of suppliers

16) Local Government Reorganisation

There was insufficient time to deal with this matter, it will be considered in the meeting on 9th February 2026.

17) Emergency Plan

Cllr Riley reported that the Emergency Plan had been reviewed and was now ready for submission. It was noted that gritting did not fall within the remit of the Emergency Plan and was managed separately by the Parish Council. The Clerk had arranged for the existing grit bins had been topped up, and had requested a further delivery of salt from Devon County Council. Volunteers responsible for grit salt had been provided with additional supplies. Increasing the number of grit bins and volunteers in the Parish was agreed to be a sensible step. Cllr Baldry offered to assist Cllr Riley with a review of the Council's arrangements for icy weather and gritting. Yealmpton Parish Council was not listed on Devon County Council's website as part of the Snow Warden Scheme. The Clerk was asked to remedy this.

ARISING ACTION: The Clerk to ensure we were part of the Snow Warden Scheme.



18) Policies and Procedures Review

(This item was dealt with before item 11, as although the applicants had not seen the policy when submitting their requests, it was felt that we could use the criteria in the policy when considering the requests.)

The draft Grant Giving Policy was reviewed and approved.

19) Facebook Page for the Parish Room

There was insufficient time to deal with this matter, it will be considered in the meeting on 9th February 2026.

20) Training

It was agreed that the Clerk would attend Funding Solutions for Smaller Parish and Town Councils on 11th February 2026 at a cost of £36 plus VAT.

21) Reports on areas of responsibility

There was insufficient time to deal with this matter, it will be considered in the meeting on 9th February 2026.

22) Correspondence

There was insufficient time to deal with this matter, it will be considered in the meeting on 9th February 2026.

Meeting closed: 9.30pm

Date of the next meeting: 9th February 2026

Minutes prepared by the Parish Clerk

District Council Report

SHDC – January 2026

Support directory - severe weather

Our Support Directory webpages offer advice to residents on how to keep warm and stay safe during severe weather, like the ice and snow at the start of this week and the strong winds we saw yesterday.

We have pages on:

- Winter advice
- A warm spaces directory
- Energy saving tips
- Fuel, energy & bills

MR Baker 9
2
26

MR

There are many other helpful sections too, so take a look and see how it can offer advice and support to your residents.

Community Development

South Hams Community Awards 2026

From Monday 5 January 2026 you will be able to nominate individuals and organisations in your community for recognition through the South Hams Community Awards.

The Categories are:

- The South Hams Young Persons Award (for under 18s)
- The South Hams Community Champion Award (for over 18s)
- The South Hams Community Organisation Award
- Climate and Biodiversity Champion Award

Nominations can be made online throughout January through our website; we will circulate a link when nominations open in January. Please share details of the award with interested parties; it is a great way to show appreciation for those doing good in the community. For a reminder of last year's Awards, please see our website.

South Hams Community Transport Network Meeting

Friday 30th January

Time: 10:30 am – 1:00 pm (arrivals from 10:00 am)

[Register Here](#)

Please do join us for lunch at the end of the event. Join us for a collaborative session focused on strengthening community transport in South Hams.

This session builds on the July roundtable where operators and stakeholders came together to explore challenges and co-create solutions for community transport in

South Hams. This meeting will provide an opportunity to review those discussions and agree on practical next steps as well as getting some national and local updates.

What's planned:

Roundtable discussions to identify priority actions from July's themes: Shared service promotion

Collaboration between operators

Engagement with stakeholders

Updates from partners on campaigns, local initiatives, and collaboration opportunities

Volunteer recruitment and retention strategies led by South Hams CVS Partnership



Ahead of the meeting, please review the July Roundtable Outcomes Report, which captures key insights, proposed actions, and future priorities.

This is your chance to shape the next phase of work and strengthen the community transport network across South Hams

Environmental Report

YEG report January 2026

Two Natural England reports praise the citizen science volunteer work happening in England, as a new and vital way to monitor our natural world:

1. More than the sum of our parts: professionals and citizen scientists working together to transform evidence collection

<https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2025/10/14/more-than-the-sum-of-our-parts-professionals-and-citizen-scientists-working-together-to-transform-evidence-collection/>

2. Biodiversity

How citizen scientists are helping to close the freshwater data gap.

<https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2025/11/11/how-citizen-scientists-are-helping-to-close-the-freshwater-data-gap/>

It is encouraging to know that Yealmpton is part of this.

3. Recent activity locally.

An article summarising CSI Yealm Water Quality reports is published in the January 2026 Yealmpton Press.

As the window for successful tree planting becomes shorter, replanting a local orchard has been achieved with some local varieties: the ancient orchard at Mill Farm in Yealmpton has been restored by volunteers from YEM and YEG this January, with the planting of thirty-five delightfully named locally sourced apple trees from Organic Pip and Stone Ltd and Adam's Apple. The restoration, which is clearly visible from the A379 from Yealm Bridge, is part of the Yealm Erme Species Survival (YESS) environment programme. It should give us pleasure in seeing the trees grow and blossom over the coming years. YESS is an ongoing programme, so please let YEG know if you have any areas suitable for tree planting?

Apple varieties used:

Dabinett x 2, Hains Sweet Kingston Black Katy x 2, Bardsey Island Fortune Devon Crimson Queen x 2, Egremont Russet x 2, Lord Lambourne x 2, Rough Pippin x 2, Ashmead's Kernel x 2, Adam's Pearmain x 2, King of the Pippins x 2, Lucombe's Pine x 2, Grenadier Rev W Wilkes Nine Square Howgate, Wonder Don's Delight English Codling.

In addition, 160 metres of hedge restoration work was carried out by volunteers in December at Highter Torr. This was organised and managed by YEG, YEM and ParkLife.

Linda Durman,

Chair, YEG

