

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF YEALMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM, STRAY PARK, YEALMPTON.

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Members of the public present: 1

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

1) Apologies for absence

Cllrs Endicott, Riley and District Cllr Edie sent apologies.

2) Election of a Chairman for the meeting

This item was not required as Cllr Baldry was unexpectedly able to attend the meeting.

3) Councillors' Declaration of Interest

None.

4) To agree and sign the minutes of the Council held on 11th May 2026

Approved and signed by the Chairman.

5) Exclusion of the Public

No matters required the exclusion of the public.

6) County Council Report

Cllr Thomas confirmed that New Road would be patched during the third week in July. It is likely that letters will be sent to those who live on or off New Road. There is an easy diversion of Torr Hill for most traffic.

There is now a Road Warden Handbook created by County Councillor Louise Wainwright. A hardcopy will be given to the Clerk to assist the work the new Pot Hole Gang, that will hopefully be created. The Clerk reported that about 6 volunteers had expressed interest in joining the project.

7) District Council Report

(Cllr Edie had provided the below written report in his absence, see Appendix 1)

Cllr Thomas added that the decision on Local Government Reorganisation is likely to be announced in July.

8) Planning matters

A brief update was received on applications within the Parish. There were no applications requiring a decision by the Parish Council.

9) Financial matters

- a) Accounts to the end of May 2026 were reviewed.
- b) The payments in the Payment List and one additional grass cutting invoice were approved totalling £12,564.42

10) Yealmpton Environmental Group Report

(See Dr Durman's report at the end of the minutes in Appendix 2)

Cllr Thomas stated that he did not accept that the pavement between the Farmshop and the entrance to Silverbridge Way was dangerous. He was willing to walk the route with members of YEG to understand their safety concerns. Since preparation of YEG's report, the pavement had been cleared by a Parish Council contractor and this had improved its useability.

Council also sought clarification from YEG regarding the comment; "Parish Councils are the authority responsible for taking action on runoff". Dr Durman would liaise with the Clerk about this. It came from Yealm Erme to Moore Group's report.

11) Footpath 20

Three quotes had been received for the concreting and bank restoration work. From an initial assessment of the quotes, it was felt that further questions should be raised of the contractors and the information displayed in a table format for Councillors to consider at the next meeting. It was agreed that the works should avoid the School Summer Holidays.

Devon County Council wished it to be noted that they would not assume responsibility for maintaining any stretches of concrete installed by the Parish Council. Council confirmed their acceptance of this.

12) Silverbridge Way Extension

- a) The working group were exploring whether the path extension was within the Permitted Development Rights of the Parish Council. Further work would be undertaken and a report would be given next month.
- b) Further information would be sought from South Hams Planning Department to enable Council to consider the operation of GPDO Part 12, Class A and whether it applied to the Silverbridge Way Extension.

13) Footpath 19 – Definitive Map Modification Claim

The Clerk had received an email on behalf of the landowner seeking to arrange a further meeting by the end of the month. Council were agreeable to this and dates would be offered.

14) Emergency Planning

- a) Cllr Taggart suggested some amendments to the Home Emergency Plan, Cllr Riley and Cllr Barton were shortly to meet to discuss the final form and would take these comments into consideration.
- b) Cllr Riley had attended the People's Emergency Briefing and this item would be carried forward to July's meeting.
- c) Council noted that there would be a digital switch over in January 2027 where existing landlines telephones are being replaced with digital lines (VOIP). Cllr Riley had some suggestions on informing residents about this change. This item would be carried forward to July's meeting.

15) Historical Features Working Group Report

- a) The working group had considered the features that had been suggested by the public. It was felt that the work should focus on documenting and recording, rather than seeking

listing. The ability to list Post Boxes had been thoroughly investigated and it had been concluded that an application was unlikely to succeed.

The group asked Council to consider offering to repair the mile marker at the Petrol Station. An indication of costs had been sought from the Parish Council's contractor and this was agreed. The Clerk would contact the owners of the Petrol Station.

The Council's contractor had recently cleaned the finger post at Two Crosses/Oak Corner and had greatly improved its appearance.

- b) It was reported that the Apple Press lent to Cockington Trust many years ago by the now dissolved Yealmpton Holbeton and Brixton Society had been destroyed. It had apparently rotted and was destroyed three years ago. A local Cockington artist had salvaged some of the wood and a Parishioner had purchased an ornamental lamp. The Parishioner had offered the Parish Council the opportunity to purchase it, the Parish Council felt that it was more appropriate for the Archive to consider the offer as they have various other local history items.

16) South West Water Sewage Treatment Works

Correspondence had been reviewed by Council in response to queries regarding the frequency of tankers attending the site. The resident who initially contacted the Parish Council with their concerns would be asked to make a note of the frequency of visits. SWW appeared to be suggesting that the frequency of the visits to the works were weekly and had not increased in recent months.

17) Hedge Trimming and Footpath Strimming

A contractor had been instructed to strim all footpaths around the village. It was agreed that the Parish Council would work with landowners to ensure the following hedges were cut at the following locations; 1) Underhay, 2) The Villa to Yealmbridge and the lanes to Yeo Park, 3) the Toll House to Dunstone, 4) The hedge Sunnyside on Fore Street. Council would ensure pavements were cleared after, with contractor and/or volunteer help.

18) Report from Councillors/Clerk on actions arising from previous meetings

- a) Ford Road and Yeo Lane remarking – the Clerk had received no response from Devon County Council, but was continuing to chase. Cllr Thomas agreed to help get confirmation that the scheme was accepted.
- b) Victorian Post Box – Royal Mail had not responded to the Clerk regarding the replacement box. Rebecca Smith MP had written to Royal Mail seeking an update to try to assist with the conclusion of this matter.
- c) Lease of Market Street Car Park – the Clerk had undertaken the Local Search for the Car Park and the Lease was awaited from South Hams District Council.
- d) Pot Hole Gang update – the Clerk had received half a dozen emails from people who were interested in joining the pot hole gang. Cllr Thomas advise to contact the Neighbourhood Highways Officer regarding the setting up of the group.

19) Reports on allocated areas of responsibility, where matters arise.

- a) Footpaths – Cllr Barton was keen to progress some repairs to stiles. The Clerk would liaise with a contractor. P3 funds and materials were available for repairs.
- b) IT – Cllr Barton was removing unused files on the cloud storage system
- c) Works – Cllr Craddock reported that there was a loose paving slab on the path off Bowden Hill. The Clerk would arrange its repair.

- d) Speed Monitors – new batteries had been purchased for the speed monitor on the A379 at the western side of the village and the sign was working.

20) Correspondence

- a) The Clerk had received some correspondence regarding “fly-tipping” on Torr Lane. Garden waste had been left at a verge in the turning/parking area on Torr Lane. This had been removed by South Hams District Council. A complaint had also been received that garden waste was falling off the hedge along the side of Torr Lane. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Localities team at South Hams District Council and to ask them to contact householders.
- b) An email had been received from Brixton Parish Council confirming that they were willing to pay 50% of the costs of implementing a speed reduction and asking Yealmpton Parish Council to consider this matter again. The Clerk reported that she had written back explaining the Standing Orders prevented the matter being considered again before September 2026, without a Special Motion from three Yealmpton Parish Council Councillors.
- c) Plants Out of Place – the Clerk had contributed to a survey and received a report regarding unwanted weeds in villages. This was an initiative by Green Futures Devon CIC and it is hoped that some guidance on weed management will be available in due course.
- d) An email had been received regarding a gift in the Will of a former parishioner. The gift was to the Woodland Trust but the village may benefit from some trees in the memory of the parishioner. The Clerk was asked to liaise with YEM regarding suitable locations for the trees.
- e) A Parishioner had emailed regarding EV charging on the Public Highway. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had been consulted and his advice passed on.
- f) The Clerk had been contacted by residents of Yealm Park regarding the lack of grass cutting of the communal verges. These had been done by LiveWest until recently, but they are adopted by Devon Highways and now LiveWest have stopped maintaining them. The Clerk was asked to write to LiveWest to seek that the previous arrangement is reinstated.

Meeting closed at 9.38pm

Date of next meeting 13th July 2026

Minutes prepared by Sasha Walton-Jackman

Clerk to Yealmpton Parish Council

Appendix 1

SHDC – June 2026

Waste collection update

Residents are being encouraged to help our crews by putting their waste and recycling out slightly earlier.

From now on, we're starting waste and recycling collections earlier for the welfare of our crew members, so they can get more of their work done before the hottest parts of the day.

Residents are asked to support our crews by making sure that recycling containers, bin bags or garden waste bags are on the kerbside by 6 a.m. on collection day.

South Hams backs Rivers and Moorlands Festival

We're proud to be supporting an exciting Rivers and Moorland Festival promising big ideas, lively conversations and enriching workshops in Ivybridge on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 June.

Sustainable South Hams will be co-curating Moor Understanding as part of their Rally for Nature project, which is supported by the Council.

The festival aims to bring residents, community groups, farmers, young people and environmental organisations together for a full day of activity focused on nature, environment and local action.

By supporting this event, the Council is reinforcing its wider commitment to climate action and nature recovery, building on previous work across the district including solar projects, electric vehicle infrastructure and tree planting schemes

Appendix 2

Yealmpton Environment Group

Report to Parish Council June 2026

Active travel/Public footpaths.

YEG fully supports the project to extend Silverbridge Way in the interests of providing a safe walking route between Yealmpton and Brixton. The existing footpath along the road is so dangerous as to constitute significant risk when used by the population of either village. The creation of the path extension may be within the Parish Council's Permissive Development Rights, negating the need for planning permission and the associated costs.

Footpath 20. YEG fully supports the Parish Council project to repair river banks using natural materials to significantly reduce the risk of future damage. We will help with signboards that outline the flora and fauna in the area. Planting to stabilise the banks will start following the repairs and concrete works that will require use of some heavy machinery.

Land based work.

Lodge Gate Field;

- Veterans Outdoors have installed the access track from the road to the VO area at the end of the field and fencing of the area. Two buildings will be installed: one for training and the other as an office. They plan to have 5 polytunnels
- The wildflower meadow under the power cables that cross Lodge Gate field has been planted.
- Seedlings in the tree nursery survived the high temperatures in May thanks to a team of volunteers watering diligently.

Himalayan Balsam bashing programme 2026 is underway; 50 square metres were removed at Longbrook and Parklife brush cut where the Himalayan Balsam grows through brambles.

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest and YEM are working with the Catchment Farmers' Group to install hedges, trees and fencing to protect the river from cattle.

River Yealm/water quality

For the Yealm, biosecurity is a major issue due to invasive species. **Pacific oysters** are a threat throughout the coastal area (Yealm to Dart). All have E Coli and toxic substances in soft tissue, so are not edible. They are intertidal. Oyster bashing (to kill them) has been tried but is tricky and not a practical solution. Lifting the oysters and taking them away in dumpy bags has been suggested, but disposal is still a problem. Advice to all people using the coastal waters, is to thoroughly wash all clothing, footwear, boats and equipment if moving from one estuary to another. There is a trial restoration of **native oysters** on the Tamar and Yealm this summer (2026).

The Yealm is a ria (a drowned river valley) so often steep sided, which renders banks and intertidal areas more vulnerable. There has been marked **saltmarsh erosion** at Puslinch creek. SW Natural Solutions and SDNL will attempt restoration when they have a marine licence and landowner permission. They may install a polder system (wood brush across the saltmarsh that slows flow and enables build-up of sediment behind, thus providing area where seagrass may flourish).

Citizen Science; the results of two years' monitoring are being analysed to show priorities for intervention to make the Yealm salmon ready and to form the basis of a **project proposal** to SWW for funding from their Nature Recovery Fund for improvement of water quality on the Piall and Wembury streams/ivers.

The EA is still investigating the **China clay** pollution incident affecting the Yealm Dec 2022 and have determined the category of pollution.

Capacity at Yealmpton **Sewage Treatment Plant** has been defended by Pennon in a letter responding to the Clerk. YEG was not completely reassured. In particular, 'when the Population equivalent crosses the Urban and Wastewater Treatment Directorate (UWWTD) threshold of 2000, then the plant may be required to achieve different, tighter standards under the UWWTD.' In fact the Yealmpton population is:

- 2024 Estimate: 2,428 residents.
- 2021 Census: 2,418 to 2,420 residents living across roughly 1,020 households.

Water quality is also adversely affected by **run off**. Parish Councils are the authority responsible for taking action on runoff, so RYWQG for each parish bordering the Yealm. RYWQG will consider how to approach this.

Lee Mill stream. During high rainfall there is considerable silt flowing from upper reaches of Lee Mill stream, some of which settles downstream in the Yealm. CSI results demonstrate considerable decline in river quality immediately below the point at which Lee Mill Stream flows into the River Yealm. The decline is consistent with the lack of any confirmed treatment of effluent from Lee Mill Industrial Estate and numerous discharges of untreated sewage from Lee Mill STW. Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICWs) and sustainable settlement ponds naturally filter treated sewage and surface runoff before the water enters the river. These proven natural filtration systems would improve Yealm water quality. YEG members are working with a landowner to position a suitable system to include planting and a sediment trap in land north of New England Wood.

Funding of £2,000 has been agreed by YCE to assist with the restoration of the **old fish trap** in the Yealm Estuary for fish monitoring. This is located beside the disused railway track along the estuary, further inland than the seagrass restoration project for Puslinch.

Note that the Sonde has recorded the highest temperature in the river (21.5°C) so far. For both brown trout and Atlantic salmon water temperatures above 18°C cause the onset of thermal stress.

Linda Durman
Chair YEG

