

Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 11 January 2023

Present: Cllrs. Brice (chair), Cooke, Farr, Jeffery, Newberry, Pengilly, Williams, Clarke (Torrige District Council / TDC), Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC) and M. Dymond (Clerk)

23.1 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Lock (TDC) and PCSO Brown.

Cllr. Brice declared a personal interest in application 1/1253/2022/FUL, see item 23.09.

There were no other declarations of interest and no requests for dispensation had been received.

23.2 Public Participation and Feedback

Clerk had received queries from parishioners regarding two issues.

1) Potential of houses being built on far end of South Street Car Park — Cllr. Clarke confirmed this is not going to happen.

2) Potential of cruise ships to house homeless people/refugees — This had been considered by TDC but this idea will not be pursued any further.

23.3 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County — Donna Manson has been appointed as new Chief Executive of DCC; she had previously served as Chief Executive for Scottish Highlands Council. She already has been in discussion with Director of Finances and is involved in setting budget for next year.

New potholes and/or failed repairs of potholes need to be reported via the website or by phone. In recent cold snap gritters went out, no major problems reported. The current overspend at DCC is £7million; a better financial settlement from central government is expected for next year. Spending will increase in Children's Services / SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

District — The TDC website offers 20 ways to access help and/or financial support with the cost of living.

TDC budget will be set at Full Council meeting on 20 February 2023.

A forum with North Devon Council discussing rural social housing is scheduled for 20 January 2023.

Cllr. Clarke asked to remind all parishioners of the need for Photo ID for the local elections in May this year. She reminded the council that at present the sum of £200 was available as part of the Councillors Grant Scheme. The money had to be used for tangible items and the grant money could only cover a proportion of total cost. Applications had to be received by mid-February at the latest; funding for Village halls was also available.

Actions taken: Clerk to pass on information about village hall funding to Village Hall Committee (Treasurer, Terry Fairbrother) and explain need for Photo ID at elections in next Eagle.

2) Village Hall / Social Club — see item 23.03/2, Actions taken

3) Youth Club — None

4) PCSO / Police Report — No crimes had been reported, two calls regarding concern for welfare had been logged.

5) Playing Field

Painting of storage container — To be completed in due course, most likely in summer.

Actions taken: Fence repairs to be put on next agenda.

6) Snow Warden — Distribution of salt grit bins around parish to be arranged. Cllr. Farr had put in request for delivery of additional salt grit, still waiting for delivery date. During icy weather Cllr. Farr had used council's snow gritter, but it appears that DCC's gritter had on at least one occasion also gritted main road through village.

Actions taken: Clerk to contact DCC to establish if and when DCC gritter comes to Yarnscombe.

23.4 Minutes of Meeting from 23 November 2022

Minutes were approved and signed off as a true record.

23.5 Matters arising from last Minutes

NALC Pay scale 2022/23 feedback from meeting between chair and clerk

At meeting clerk and chair had set clerk's pay grade at LC 1, based on size of parish and qualification obtained by clerk (CiLCA). The NALC pay scale suggested that for size of parish, clerk's hours per week should be increased to 5 hours. The hourly rate as prescribed by NALC had increased by one pound per hour, to be backdated from 1 April 2022. Councillors agreed to pay backdated pay and to increase clerk's hours from three to five.

Actions taken: Clerk to contact payroll department at TDC, so pay can be adjusted.

Feedback from Herds Lane Residents meeting — No meeting arranged as yet.

23.6 New Matters

Oaken Hill — Parishioners had started and circulated petition regarding repairs needed on road up to Clogshill Cross. Cllr. Saywell stressed need to inform him of any public petitions first and reiterated information on how best to report potholes, so that they get repaired and roads are kept in acceptable condition. See also item 23.3/1.

23.7 PROW — Monthly Report

Further to the enquiry regarding an electric fence on the line of Yarnscombe footpath 5, the land owner has been contacted and asked to remove fence or grant 'hook and eye' access to allow unhindered access to footpath. No further problems have been reported.

23.8 Planning

[1/1026/2022/AGMB](#), Barn at Grid Reference 256449 121983, Yarnscombe, Devon

Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 dwellinghouse and associated building operations under Class Q — Application permitted

Tabcott House, Yarnscombe, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3LN

Ref. No.: [1/1091/2022/FUL](#) — Application permitted

[1/1231/2022/FUH](#) Luckaborough Farm, Yarnscombe, Barnstaple, Devon

Erection of single storey extensions to the front and rear of property — Councillors had no concerns.

Actions taken: Clerk to forward relevant comments to planning department.

23.9 Additional Planning

[1/1253/2022/FUL](#), Demolition of redundant rural building and erection of new dwelling following class Q approval ([1/0427/2022/AGMB](#)) and associated works — Cllr. Brice declared personal interest, as property in question is opposite his.

Actions taken: Councillors to contact clerk with any comments/concerns regarding this application so clerk can forward them.

23.10 Accounts

Setting of precept and budget setting for 2023/24

The council discussed the budget for 2023/24. Over the last couple of years council had been able to keep precept at the same level. This time it was raised in order to pay clerk's legally prescribed hourly rate; also clerk's working hours were increased to deal with increasing administration tasks. In real terms, the raise in precept means that a property in band E will pay an additional £8 per year in council tax. Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Williams seconded to set precept for next financial year at £7,625.00. Comparing last year's budget with actual expenditure, council had largely stayed within budget; more grants were issued than originally budgeted for (Queen's Jubilee) and maintenance of assets went over budget due to purchase of last storage container for playing field.

Actions taken: Chair and clerk filled in and signed precept form. Clerk to send off.

Bank reconciliation and signing of cash book October to December 2022 — Due to postal strike, latest bank statement had not arrived yet.

Actions taken: To be put on next agenda.

Meeting closed 8.20pm.

13th February 2023