

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 22 March 2023**

Present: Cllrs. Clarke (Torridge District Council / TDC), Cooke, Farr, Jeffery, Newberry and M. Dymond (Clerk).

Due to the absence of Cllr. Brice (chair) and Cllr. Williams (vice-chair), Cllr. Farr had agreed to chair the meeting.

23.21 Apologies, Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Brice, Cllr. Pengilly, Cllr. Williams, Cllr. Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC) and PCSO Brown.

23.22 Public Participation and Feedback

None

23.23 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County —

Potholes: Since January 1 a total of 14,469 safety defects have been repaired. Over 40 gangs have been deployed and the Dragon Patcher also used in Torrington Rural to help with the repair backlog. From the anecdotal evidence I'm seeing locally they seem to be finally catching up, though where there have been big delays has been on patching repairs — which involves planing off the top road surface and resurfacing it, not a basic pothole repair. Of the 14,000 repairs, nearly 6,000 were additional defects identified by safety inspectors when responding to public reports. Non-safety defect repairs (i.e. small or shallow potholes) have been suspended pending catching up on the backlog. The service seems to be confident they can resume non-safety defect repairs next month in April. In addition, in the Budget the Government awarded DCC over £9.4million of additional capital funding, the highest amount for any local authority in England. This will be used to fund further patching and resurfacing schemes.

Devolution: The Government have given outline approval for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs. More details to be confirmed but this will not involve the creation of an elected Mayor for Devon or a change to the existing democratic structures. Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a Final Business Case to present to Government for final approval later in the year.

Councils to receive additional funds to help support households with rising food and energy costs. Devon has secured additional funding to help households weather the rising costs of living, to help pay for food, energy and other essential items. The latest bid amounts to a little over £10million, to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024. It will take Devon's total level of Household Support Funding received so far to just over £25million. The funding is to support households in most need that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials, and specifically, those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government. [More details online.](#)

Growing Communities Fund

DCC has announced another round of the Growing Communities Fund and are encouraging not-for-profit groups, charities, church or faith groups, schools and councils to bid for grants. Typically these are grants of between £500 and £1,000, although funds of up to £3,000 will be considered for exemplary projects that will receive their funding when their project is completed. The Growing Communities Funding is to support projects that could offer warm safe spaces, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity, or that address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity, build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience, for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals, tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem and that have clear

and direct community and environmental benefits. [More information can be found online.](#)

District — Cllr. Clarke confirmed that she will stand as an independent candidate at the forthcoming local elections, expressing her hope to work with Yarnscombe PC in the future. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Cllr. Clarke for her help and advice over last four years.

2) Village Hall / Social Club

None

3) Youth Club — None

4) PCSO/ Police Report

Drop in and have our say session on 6 April 2023, Torrington Town Hall, 7pm to 11pm

Online Teams meetings for councillors — From now on PCSOs will only attend meetings in person if a particular spate of crimes occurs within certain area or councillors raise concerns about any issue related to crime. Otherwise, councillors will be informed of date/time of online Teams meetings where PCSOs will be available.

5) Playing field — None

6) Snow Warden

It was agreed to remove this item from agenda until October 2023

Actions taken: None at present.

23.24 Minutes of Meeting from 22 February 2023

Minutes were approved and signed off as a true record.

23.25 Matters arising from last Minutes

None

23.26 New Matters

Hedgehog Highway Project — This project aims to encourage local councils and organisations to purchase hedgehog “doorways” to enable the animals to wander freely. A pack of 150 such doorways would cost £150. Decision on purchase was postponed until next meeting.

Actions taken: Put on next agenda.

Local election nomination packs — Clerk handed out nomination packs to attending councillors; clerk had dropped off papers for Cllrs. Brice, Pengilley and Williams. She explained timetable of elections and stressed that deadline for handing in completed papers was 4 April, 4pm at Riverbank House in Bideford. Clerk pointed out that in case of any queries councillors should ring election department at TDC.

Actions taken: Clerk to email all councillors with contact number of election department.

23.27 PROW — Monthly Report

Clerk will be in contact with Ros Davies regarding financial end-of-year forms.

Actions taken: None at present

23.28 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, Barn At Grid Reference 253321 122636, Yarnscombe, Devon — Application permitted

23.29 Additional Planning

None

23.30 Accounts

None

Meeting closed 8.05pm.

4th April 2023