

Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 28 June 2023
— D R A F T —

Present: Cllrs. Brice (chair), Cooke, Jeffery, Newberry, Pengilly, District Councillor Elliott (Torrige District Council / TDC) and M. Dymond (Clerk), and one member of public.

23.68 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Farr and Cllr. Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC) and PCSO Brown. Cllr. Newberry declared a personal interest in item 23.73, contribution to cost of printing of village leaflet, as family member is involved.

23.69 Public Participation and Feedback

Salt grit bin outside Ley Park has been replaced after clerk reported damage to old bin.

Cllr. Cooke had trimmed hedges and verge at Clogshill Cross to improve visibility.

Actions taken: Clerk to thank Cllr. Cooke in next edition of Eagle.

23.70 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County

DCC did officially come in with a small underspend for the 2022/23 financial year, a big achievement following the projected £40 million overspend in the summer of last year if we had sat back and done nothing to address it. The 'Dragon Patcher' has now started work in Torrington Rural and I expect to see it out and about on our rural road network in the coming months.

Road Safety — As promised after the last meeting I took the concerns of the parishioner to the County Council's Road Safety Manager, who has come back with the following comments. There is not a significant collision history on the minor road network within the parish. From the village north towards the A377, including through Langley Cross, and south to the B3227 there has been a total of 5 slight category injury collisions recorded over the last five years.

- Four out of the five collisions involved two vehicles. Three of these were head collisions on the narrow lanes and one resulted from a junction manoeuvre at Langley Cross.
- The other collision involved a single young uninsured driver's loss of control.
- Address details were provided in 4 of the 5 collisions. In each of these four known collisions, a Yarnscombe village resident was involved.
- Younger drivers were also involved in many of the collisions (the youngest driver involved in 4 of the 5 collisions were aged 20, 20, 28, 23). DCC only receives records of injury collisions and do not hold details of any damage-only collisions. The most significant injury patterns for the village and the parish occur on the surrounding main road network.

District

Cllr. Elliott reminded councillors of a "Planning Process Presentation" organised by Cllr. Lock (TDC). Clerk had already circulated relevant email and Cllr. Newberry will attend on behalf of Yarnscombe PC.

Actions taken: None at present.

2) Village Hall / Social Club — Cllr. Newberry, who is Yarnscombe PC representative for village hall / social club, had emailed Mike Avery (chair of their committee), but not received reply yet.

Actions taken: Await reply from Village Hall Committee.

3) Youth Club — No news. Clerk remarked that there had been influx of new families with children and maybe Youth Club could be revived with new volunteers.

Actions taken: Clerk to include issue in next article for Eagle.

4) PCSO/Police Report — No crimes reported, no calls logged.

5) Playing Field

Grass Cutting — To be done before fete on 8 July, weather permitting.

23.71 Minutes of Meeting from 24 May 2023

Minutes were approved and signed off as a true record.

23.72 Matters arising from last Meeting

Paul Williams gift and reimbursement to Cllr. Brice £67.00

Paul Williams had joined councillors before beginning of meeting. Chair presented him with gift on behalf of Yarnscombe PC as thank you for his service.

Co-option of new councillor — Council had received one application for co-option. Richard Ellison is a retired solicitor who has been living in Yarnscombe for two years; family members also live in the parish. He has previously been a parish councillor and would like to contribute to village community. Co-option was proposed by Cllr. Brice, seconded by Cllr. Newberry. All councillors agreed. Richard Ellison accepted co-option.

Actions taken: Clerk to email Richard Ellison Register of Interests form.

Review of council's policies and documents — Cllr. Pengilley had carried out annual review of policies and documents. Parish Council Information Accessible to the Public needs to be amended, due to Paul Williams standing down and new councillor being co-opted. Regarding Standing Orders, Cllr. Pengilley is awaiting the outcome of the return of the mobile router to Amazon and a decision on how, if at all, the council intends to handle remote access to meetings in future.

Actions taken: Cllr. Pengilley to update documents when necessary information has been received.

Termination of Giffgaff contract and refund for Netgear router

Clerk had terminated Giffgaff contract, refund for Netgear router more difficult to obtain as Amazon and Netgear say it's each other's responsibility.

Actions taken: Clerk to investigate further and push for refund via Amazon.

23.73 New Matters

Register of Interests and councillors' profiles — Register of Interests forms had been handed in or emailed to TDC. Cllr. Pengilley would like copies of completed forms to post on website. He still needs to complete councillors' profiles: to do that he needs personal profiles from Cllrs. Newberry, Jeffery and newly co-opted councillor Ellison.

Actions taken: Clerk to request email copies of Register of Interest forms from TDC. Cllrs. Ellison, Jeffery and Newberry to send profiles to Cllr. Pengilley.

Internal Audit Report — Council had passed internal audit. Internal auditor made some recommendations to deliver best practice, some of which — annual review of documents, amendments to clerk's contract, reclaim of VAT — had already been carried out. Councillors discussed outstanding recommendations, and finding an interest-earning account for some of council's reserves.

Actions taken: Outstanding recommendations to be discussed and/or decided on at next meeting.

Internal Auditor invoice £100.00 — Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Newberry seconded. All agreed to pay invoice.

Actions taken: Cheque written out and countersigned. Clerk to send off.

Renewal of Information Commissioner's Office subscription £40.00 — This has to be done by 8 July; Cllr. Newberry proposed, Cllr. Pengilley seconded. All agreed.

Actions taken: Clerk to renew via debit card payment.

Reimbursement to Cllr. Brice for Paul Williams gift £67.00 — Cllr. Pengilley proposed, Cllr. Cooke seconded. All agreed. Cheque written out and countersigned.

Actions taken: Clerk handed cheque to Cllr. Brice.

Village leaflet — Contribution to cost of printing

Cllr. Newberry declared a personal interest in this issue, as family member had been instrumental in putting together a leaflet, listing village organisations and how to contact them. Clerk had circulated a draft of leaflet among councillors and the eventual cost of printing leaflets would be split between village organisations, parish council being one of them. Councillors agreed the leaflet was a good idea and were in agreement to contribute

to cost of printing.

Actions taken: To be put on next agenda, as still awaiting quote for printing.

23.74 PROW Monthly Report

Clerk had sent in annual report and grant request several months ago, but had not received a reply, despite emailing Ros Davies at DCC last month.

Actions taken: Clerk to contact Ros Davies again, but also to contact Cllr. Saywell in order to speed up response.

23.75 Planning

1/0432/2023/FULM, Construction of photovoltaic (PV) solar array and associated works

(Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 1/0997/2012/FULM) (Variation of conditions 1 and 2 of Planning Application, 1/1130/2020/FULM, Solar Farm at Grid Ref. 249919 124897, Gammaton Devon — Councillors had no comments to make regarding this application.

Actions taken: None at present.

23.76 Additional Planning

None

23.77 Accounts

Internal Auditor Invoice £100.00 see 23.73

ICO £40.00 see 23.73

Reimbursement Cllr. Brice £67.00 see 23.72

Meeting closed 8.15pm.

11th July 2023