

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday 23 August 2023**

Present: Cllr. Brice (chair), Cllrs. Cooke, Ellison, Jeffery, Newberry and Pengilley, Cllr. Elliott (Torrige District Council/TDC) and M. Dymond (Clerk)

23.88 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr. Farr, County Councillor Saywell and PCSO Brown.

23.89 Public Participation and Feedback

Since the beginning of 2023 the "Yarnscombe" sign at Chapelton junction had been lying on side of verge. It had been reported back in March, action was promised but nothing has been done. At the last meeting, clerk raised this issue with Cllr.Saywell who advised to contact North Devon Council. Clerk had done so, only to be told via email that this was a matter for highways, therefore to contact Devon County Council.

**Actions taken:** Clerk will once again contact Devon County Council and report back next month.

DCC had carried out drainage works along road to and from Easton Moor and rubbish collected had just been tipped on top of hedges.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to contact DCC.

23.90 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

*County*

Discussed the sick rates and still looking into it, as the figures still include all the schools.

On the mobile library, the consultation did finish and the Cabinet took the decision to end the service and develop alternative rural outreach methods, like community libraries and the home mobile library service. The opposition on the County Council have 'called in' the decision to the Council's Corporate Scrutiny meeting which will consider it on 28 September. Scrutiny cannot overturn the decision, only make recommendations to Cabinet. In the meantime, DCC is working up the Community Library offer, details of which should be publicised in time for the Scrutiny meeting.

*District*

Cllr. Elliott raised the following issues: He will encourage PCSOs to be more visible in rural parishes; they are due to visit Roborough PC. He reminded councillors of the Road Warden Scheme, where volunteers can be trained up to carry out certain repairs. This scheme had elicited no interest when the parish council publicised it a few years ago. Responding to a query from a councillor, Cllr. Elliott conceded that planning department at TDC were in the past not always held accountable, but that rules around granting permissions were now stricter.

2) Village Hall / Social Club — Meeting on 31 August has been cancelled, Cllr. Newberry will try and arrange meeting with Mike Passmore.

**Actions taken:** Cllr. Newberry to report back next month.

3) Youth Club — Clerk had one email registering an interest in attending Youth Club.

**Actions taken:** None at present.

4) PCSO/Police Report — Virtual meeting 5 August, 7pm

Meeting was re-scheduled at short notice, therefore Cllr. Pengilley was unable to attend.

5) Playing Field

Grass Cutting — Council will be invoiced at the end of the year.

Invoice for fencing materials £414.50

The purchase of these materials had been agreed at an earlier meeting. Cllr. Cooke was reimbursed for the sum of £414.50.

**Actions taken:** Cheque written out, countersigned and handed to Cllr. Cooke.

23.91 Minutes of Meeting from 26 July 2023

Minutes were signed off and approved as a true record.

### 23.92 Matters arising from last Meeting

Feedback from Planning Workshop — Clerk had already circulated presentation slides as provided by Cllr. Lock. Cllr. Newberry outlined the following points that would be relevant to Yarnscombe Parish Council. Only local needs housing can be built in Yarnscombe, class Q applications are subject to planning permission. Planning department would like input of local councils as they possess local knowledge. Any comments made by council should identify policies that comments are based on. However, these policies are vast, complex and understanding them all would be difficult. Cllr. Newberry pointed out some relevant points that can be included in comments, for instance design, overlooking other existing properties or where existing character of area/village is impacted.

TDC and DCC have a valid strategic Planning Development Plan. Yarnscombe is not included in any Planning Developments. Should the council wish to draw up a Neighbourhood Local Plan it would then be able to introduce planning application criteria. TDC offers a grant of £10,000 for development of plan, overall cost would be in the region of £20,000. A Community Engagement Officer [can] advise council, if an area for at least twenty buildings is available. Such an officer had visited Yarnscombe a few years ago, but at the time a maximum of three houses were needed; one of these houses has now been built.

Refund for Netgear router — Amazon had agreed to accept return of router and issue refund. Council had changed banks since purchase of router, so refund could not be transferred directly into bank account. Once router has been received, refund will be issued to clerk's Amazon account. Once credit has been received, councillors will have to decide whether to purchase router again and which network to use. Cllr. Brice uses Netgear router and has never had any problems. He will bring in his router to next meeting to establish whether it will work in village hall.

**Actions taken:** Decision about purchase of router/network to be taken at next meeting.

Register of Interests and Councillors' profiles — Cllr. Pengilly had received Register of Interests forms from TDC, they are now on website. Cllr. Newberry has provided profile and photograph, profile of Cllr. Jeffery still outstanding.

**Actions taken:** Once Cllr. Pengilly receives relevant information from Cllr. Jeffery, profiles will be posted on website.

DAA software update — Cllr. Newberry and clerk had met with Devon Air Ambulance technician. Software is updated and should not ever need updating again. Should weather conditions allow, pilots can land helicopter with aid of night vision goggles. Light mast does not necessarily need to be activated.

**Actions taken:** None at present.

### 23.93 New Matters

Parish Online Invoice £36.00

Cllr. Pengilly proposed, Cllr. Brice seconded and all agreed to pay invoice.

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

### 23.94 PROW Monthly Report

P3 grant and work carried out.

Despite sending emails to Ros Davies and to generic PROW contact at DCC, no reply has been received as yet.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to liaise with local PROW, contact Ros Davies again and ask for advice from Cllr. Saywell should no reply be forthcoming.

### 23.95 Planning

None

### 23.96 Additional Planning

None

### 23.97 Accounts

Following on from discussion at last meeting, Cllr. Pengilly had made further enquiries. He suggested to

give Reserves account a generic name, so it could be used for day to day operations, should the need arise. For instance, council may become responsible for upkeep of cemetery [i.e. churchyard]. Councillors agreed that £5,000 should be held in an instantly accessible account. The remainder of £10,000 would be held in an interest-earning account. Cllr. Newberry mentioned that Eagle team had sought advice from a parishioner who worked for Lloyds; this person may be able to help council set up suitable account.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to contact Eagle team and to phone Lloyds bank to ask for advice.

Fencing materials £414.50 — see item 23.90/5

Parish Online £36.00 — see item 23.93

Meeting closed 8.20pm.

2nd September 2023