

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 27 September 2023**  
**— D R A F T —**

Present: Cllrs. Brice (chair), Ellison, Jeffrey, Newberry, Pengilly, Cllr. Thomas (Torridge District Council / TDC), PCSO Brown and M. Dymond (Clerk)

23.98 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr. Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC), Cllr. Cooke and Cllr. Farr. There had been no Declarations of Interest and no requests for dispensations had been received.

23.99 Public Participation and Feedback

Condition of roads from Easton Moor to Chapelton junction — Parishioner had complained to clerk about condition of roads, as at times they had been thick with slurry and extremely slippery. Parishioner had asked whether parish council could intervene. However, issues regarding highways are outside the parish council's remit, clerk referred query to District and County Councillors. In the meantime, one of the parish councillors had spoken to farmer whose tractors use roads through Yarnscombe the most and reiterated concerns. Other councillors expressed the need to have specific rules for slurry spreading in place. For instance, at times it seems too much slurry is produced and fields are not capable of holding it. More information is needed regarding zones and amounts allowed to be spread in specific zones.

**Actions taken:** Await reply from District/County councillors, see also 23.100/1 and 23.100/4.

Feedback from DCC regarding road sign and drainage cleaning — Clerk had contacted DCC Highways once more regarding the fallen over road sign at Chapelton junction. Reply still states that repair should be finished by 18 March 2023. Regarding the rubbish left behind on top of hedges after drainage cleaning, the only reply received was stated as, "No issue to report".

**Actions taken:** Ask Cllr. Saywell for advice at next meeting.

23.100 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County — None

District — Cllr. Thomas reported that TDC's finances are in good condition and asked councillors to share relevant information regarding available Household Funds via Facebook, village website and/or village newsletter. Regarding the issue of slurry on roads Cllr. Elliott stated that all dairy farms need to expand to stay profitable and that the day of 50 cow herds were a thing of the past. According to information obtained by councillors, slurry gets driven to Cranford Cross, coming back through the village empty and road sweeper is on standby. Cllr. Elliott agreed to contact Environment Department at TDC on behalf of Yarnscombe PC and asked for a list of questions to be considered.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to include info for Torridge Household Fund in next "Eagle" and ask for it to be posted on village Facebook and website. Cllr. Newberry to send list of questions for TDC to clerk who will pass them on to Cllr. Elliott.

2) Village Hall / Social Club — Meeting still to be arranged. Cllr. Newberry to attend AGM on 26 October 2023 and report back.

3) Youth Club — None

4) PCSO/Police Report — Next virtual meeting 18 October 2023

Visit by PCSO Brown — PCSO Brown confirmed the date for the next virtual meeting, an invite to join Teams meeting would be sent via mail and meeting can be accessed on internet browser. Virtual meetings were introduced to enable PCSOs to meet more parishioners, therefore able to address more queries. She confirmed that parish council visits were still taking place, but more infrequently. Regarding the issue of slurry on roads, she pointed out that PCSOs can speak to farmer and inform Highways who in turn can enforce clean-up.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to circulate Teams invite once received.

5) Playing Field — Fence is almost done, approximately 10% of work yet to be done.  
Mowing of field is weather dependent, invoice for year still outstanding.

#### 23.101 Minutes of Meeting from 23 August 2023

Cllr. Newberry noted that under 23.90/2 it should read “Cllr. Newberry will try and arrange meeting with Mike Avery (instead of Mike Passmore)”. This was corrected by clerk and signed and dated by chair. Minutes were then approved and signed off as a true record.

#### 23.102 Matters arising from last Meeting

Trial of router provided by Cllr. Brice — Cllr. Brice had provided his own Netgear router which was able to connect to PC laptop without any problem.

Decision on purchase of new router with Amazon voucher — Following on from successful trial, councillors decided to purchase same Netgear router as previously, using refund issued due to first router being faulty. Cllr. Newberry proposed, Cllr. Brice seconded. All agreed to purchase Netgear router.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to purchase router from Amazon.

Councillors' profiles — They are now complete and will be on website as of 28 September 2023.

**Actions taken:** None at present.

Re-issue of cheque to Eagle for sum of £10.00 (contribution towards printing of village leaflet) — Clerk had spoken to Rebecca Lewis of Village Hall Committee: cheque had not been banked yet and subsequently destroyed. Cheque for sum of £10.00 was issued and made out to “The Eagle”. Cllr. Pengilly proposed, Cllr. Brice seconded. All agreed to re-issue cheque.

**Actions taken:** Cheque was written out, countersigned and handed to Cllr. Newberry who will pass it on to the Eagle team.

#### 23.103 New Matters

Grant for CAB — Clerk had received letter from Citizens Advice Bureau covering Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon, asking for grant to support their work. In previous years, council had financially supported CAB and councillors agreed to do so again this year. Cllr. Pengilly pointed out that whatever sum was decided upon should come out of “Chairman's Allowance”, otherwise a formal grant application would be needed. Chair agreed to have sum of £50 taken out of his annual allowance of £100. Cllr. Newberry proposed, Cllr. Brice seconded. All agreed.

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

#### 23.104 PROW Monthly Report

P3 grant and work carried out.

Clerk had emailed Ros Davies and generic PROW email at DCC for update of grant and works to be carried out. Ros Davies had visited Yarnscombe back in April, met up with local PROW and had given go-ahead for repairs. Since then, neither clerk nor local PROW had received any further information.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to keep in contact with local PROW in case of new developments and also to ask Cllr. Saywell for advice at next meeting.

#### 23.105 Planning

**1/0680/2023/FUL**, Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of single dwelling, land at Northchurch, Yarnscombe, Devon — Application permitted

**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 — Application permitted

#### 23.106 Additional Planning

Conversion of barn to one dwelling including creation of new access

Barn At Grid Reference 252997 122434 Yarnscombe, Devon, Ref. No: 1/0849/2023/FUL

The following comments were noted: It is not a development for local needs; also, if approved under section Q,

plan should not be amended without re-submission, rather than simply passed by TDC planning department.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to pass on comments to planning department.

#### 23.107 Accounts

##### Reserves Account

Following on from advice given by the internal auditor, councillors had decided at a previous meeting to set aside £15,000. This amount was to be distributed between two separate accounts: an “Instant Access” account holding £5,000 and a higher interest bearing account. Councillors decided the best option to go for would be a 32-day “Notice Account”, holding £10,000.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to set up savings accounts and transfer funds.

Meeting closed 8.15pm.

4th October 2023

DRAFT