

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 25 October 2023**

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

23.108 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllrs. Ellison, Farr, Lock (Torrige District Council / TDC), Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC) and PCSO Brown.

There were no Declarations of Interest and no requests for dispensations had been received.

23.109 Public Participation and Feedback

None

23.110 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County:

Devolution — Talks with Central Government remain ongoing. Hopefully there will be a deal announced in the Autumn but we shall see as negotiations continue.

Budget Position — Currently there is a projected £9m overspend on DCC's Budget, mainly relating to pressures on Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care placements. Work is ongoing to address the overspends. It is important that we do so. A restructuring of Council staff teams has started. Although the Council has enough in reserves to cover off this overspend, experience from other Councils shows us that if you don't tackle the overspends in year, they usually continue and get worse in the following financial year(s). An example of that is our neighbours in Somerset who, unlike Devon, failed to balance their budget last year and had to take £18 million out of their reserves to cover the overspend. They had to take money out of their reserves again this year to set a budget and are now facing a projected overspend of £21 million this financial year.

Mobile Libraries/Community Library — The decision to end the mobile library service was called in and referred back to Cabinet which will take a decision in November. There is the possibility of a legal challenge though I expect to be able to give details next month of how we can get the Library Service to support rural communities like Yarnscombe which currently does not benefit from the Mobile Library Service, and is unlikely to benefit from it even if the service continues.

Highways — Dragon Patching of sites in Torrington Rural has now largely finished for the year with the weather becoming more autumnal. With my Neighbourhood Highways Officer we are now assessing sites for next year and that includes some potential sites in Yarnscombe Parish.

Village Centre road / Road from Court Cottage to Normead — Unfortunately this site was rejected for being used as an 'Elastomac' repair. BUT, the good news instead is that it should be conventionally patched and an order has now been put through to Highways to do this. So I am hoping we will see an improved road surface very soon.

Other Highways matters — With the cancellation of HS2 there is a possibility that Highways will receive more capital funding for resurfacing as the funds are reallocated nationally. We await details from the Department for Transport.

District:

Cllr. Elliott's feedback re. conditions of roads in Yarnscombe:

Cllr. Elliott had chased up the issue of slurry with the Environment department within TDC; they had passed it on to the Agricultural team. Awaiting final answer.

He updated councillors with regards to Sully House on Caddstown Industrial Estate, Bideford. This property had been bought by TDC to house homeless people.

2) Village Hall / Social Club — Feedback from AGM

AGM will take place on 26 October 2023, Cllr. Newberry will attend. He had tried to make contact with

committee members over last few weeks and had been referred to Terry Fairbrother.

Actions taken: Await outcome of AGM.

3) Youth Club — None

4) PCSO/Police Report —Virtual meeting 18 October 2023

Clerk had not received an invitation; she sent an email to PCSO Brown asking whether the meeting had taken place and why no invitation had been received.

Actions taken: Await reply.

5) Playing Field — Fencing to be finished depending on weather.

Actions taken: None at present.

23.111 Minutes of Meeting from 27 September 2023

Minutes had been approved and signed off as a true record.

23.112 Matters arising from last Meeting

Purchase of replacement Netgear Router using Amazon refund and Prime Trial discount £20.00 (payment via debit card) — Router had been purchased as agreed at previous meeting.

Purchase of pre-loaded SIM up to 08/02/2026 for £74.99 or up to 08/05/2026 for £89.99 — Cllr. Newberry proposed, Cllr. Pengilly seconded, all agreed to buy SIM for £89.99. Cllr. Brice will order and be reimbursed at next meeting.

23.113 New Matters

Parish Salary Recharge £1511.90

Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Pengilly seconded. All agreed to pay invoice.

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

Renewal of website hosting domain £40.00 — Cllr. Pengilly explained that price had risen for the first time in twenty years, but that it still represented good value for money. Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Newberry seconded. All agreed to pay invoice.

Actions taken: Cheque written out, countersigned, handed to Cllr. Pengilly for onward transmission to website hosting provider.

Energy Outreach Project — Devon Communities Together and Citizens Advice Bureau are working together to provide free energy advice to individuals and community groups.

Actions taken: Clerk to publicise service in next edition of Eagle.

23.114 PROW Monthly Report

P3 grant and work carried out Clerk had received reply from Ros Davies who apologised for late answer, as she had moved on to a different position within DCC Rights of Way. Works needed will be carried out, clerk to re-send original forms filled out in spring.

Actions taken: Clerk to re-send original forms.

23.115 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](#) - Application being considered.

There had been confusion about the postcode: according to the planning department the postcode is not allocated until later on in the planning process. The access road to the property at the dip of the road at Cloghill Cross gave cause for concern.

23.116 Additional Planning

None

23.117 Accounts

Parish Salary Recharge £1511.90 — see item 23.113

Instant Access Account £5,000 — is active now

32 Days Notice Account £10,000 — Lloyds are experiencing backlog in setting up new accounts, should be

up and running within next week.

Actions taken: Clerk to ring bank in a week's time.

Bank reconciliation July 2023 to September 2023 — Bank reconciliation carried out and cash book signed off.

Renewal of website hosting domain £40.00 see item 23.113

Purchase of SIM card £89.99 see item 23.112

Meeting closed 8.20pm.

7th November 2023