

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 24 April 2024**  
**— D R A F T —**

Present: Cllrs. Cooke, Ellison, Farr, Jeffrey, Newberry, Pengilley, Cllr. Elliott (Torrige District Council / TDC), PCSO Brown, M. Dymond (Clerk) and one member of the public.  
In the absence of Cllr. Brice, the vice-chair Cllr. Newberry chaired the meeting.

24.31 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr. Brice, Cllr. Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC) and Cllr. Lock.

24.32 Public Participation and Feedback

Faulty street lights

Faulty street lights that had been reported over the last few weeks have all been repaired.

24.33 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County — Locality Budget Grant applications

Approval of grant application confirmed, awaiting transfer into bank account.

Report by Cllr. Saywell:

Financial Situation — Final figures are being finalised but it is likely that DCC came in with an underspend for the 2023–24 financial year. I cannot stress enough what an achievement this is, given the wider challenges the Council has faced in the past 2 years, and this puts us on a firm footing for this new financial year. Compared with the neighbouring and wider local government family, Devon's finances appear to be in a far more secure position.

Devolution — I have outlined in previous reports the Devolution settlement for Devon. The consultation has now closed and DCC Full Council will vote to ratify the agreement on Monday. While this won't for most people change things overnight, it is the start of a journey for Devon and puts us in a much stronger position to engage with Central Government, draw down more funding for economic and affordable housing regeneration schemes, and over time see a greater transfer of powers away from Westminster and down to Devon.

There has been some fears expressed during the consultation that the new Devon and Torbay County Combined Authority will be too remote and focus funding on south Devon only at the expense of the north of the County and we will be 'overlooked'. I do not agree with that assessment and would point out that, with the recent exception of Levelling Up Funding, both Torrige DC and Devon CC on their own have been regularly overlooked for the past 50 years! Carrying on with the status quo won't change that but I believe the Devolution Settlement will re-set our relationship with Government, and the poor economic and social indicators in Torrige will mean this area is a priority. And to give a tangible example, I happen to believe if we'd had this set up before it would not have taken over 30 years to demolish the old creamery site at Taddipport and funding for a regeneration scheme could have been drawn down much sooner, and in a way that our existing local government organisations on their own simply haven't been able to do. I will provide more details once a final decision is taken next week.

John Hart — As you may have seen in the local news, Cllr. John Hart, the Leader of Devon County Council, will be retiring in May after 15 years as Leader. He is likely to become the new Chairman of the Council in the next municipal year. Although not officially confirmed yet, Cllr. James McInnes, County Councillor for Hatherleigh and Chagford and the current Deputy, is likely to become the new Leader at the Council's Annual General Meeting in May. Andrea Davis, County Councillor for Combe Martin Rural and Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, is likely to be nominated as the new Deputy Leader.

SEND Settlement — Over the Easter period the Government have announced a new funding settlement for Special Educational Needs services in Devon, with £95 million being drawn down to help the County

Council balance the SEND Budget and improve the service for our children and young people in Devon. This settlement was more generous than first expected, in part due to our overall careful financial management, as referenced earlier in my report. This settlement also helps to contribute to the Council's long term financial stability.

£10 million more for Highways — Thanks in part to the more generous settlement from the Government on SEND, £10 million of savings the Council had made in the past financial year will now be re-allocated to Highways. The majority of this funding will be used to carry out more serviceability patching — which are resurfacing style repairs/patches — on defects rather than standard pothole repairs. A further allocation will be used to boost the drainage budget further too.

District — TDC Grant £795.00

Thanks to Cllrs. Elliott and Lock a total of £795 grant confirmed towards metal fence.

Cllr. Elliott also explained that he had spoken to Mr. Holland in Yarnscombe regarding ditches and problems of flooding. He had also received a call from a parishioner regarding pollution into river which still needs to be investigated.

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

2) Village Hall / Social Club — £200 towards path lighting

Member of Village Hall Committee was present at meeting and accepted grant of £200 from parish council towards path lighting. It will be installed in May. With money from lottery grant, roof replacement for conference room is planned. Also, suggestions are welcome for new/different use of conference room.

**Actions taken:** Cheque written out and countersigned and handed to member of Village Hall Committee.

3) Youth Club — There are enough children in Yarnscombe to make the running of Youth Club a viable option. The problem lies in recruiting adults/parents who are willing to take on the responsibility. Anyone running it would need to be DBS checked or willing to undertake one.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to raise issue in next Eagle and call for volunteers.

4) PCSO/Police Report — Teams Meeting tonight

Teams Meeting was cancelled. PCSO Brown attended council meeting. No crimes had been reported, no call logs created. PCSO Brown stressed the importance of reporting crime and not just putting information on Facebook, as this could mean not all crimes are reported and also any further proceedings could be prejudiced.

5) Playing Field

Plans for metal fence as provided by WM Ironworks — Councillors looked at plans and approved.

**Actions taken:** Clerk to write to Mike Currick of WM Ironworks and to let him know that work can begin.

Playing Field Draft Agreement between Richard Ellison and Yarnscombe PC to be presented at next meeting.

**Actions taken:** None at present.

6) Snow Warden

Invoice for Gritter Repair £634.69

Cllr. Cooke had presented invoice for gritter repair. Repair of gritter had been discussed at January meeting.

Cllr. Cooke proposed, Cllr. Farr seconded. All agreed.

**Actions taken:** Cheque written out and countersigned and given to Cllr. Cooke who will pass it on to person who carried out repair.

#### 24.34 Minutes of Meeting from 17 January 2024

Minutes were approved and signed off as a true record.

#### 24.35 Matters arising from last Meeting

Laser Printer Toner Yellow High Yield £121.99 — purchase agreed via email and paid by debit card

Laser Printer Toner Cyan High Yield £121.99 — purchase agreed via email and paid by debit card.

Toner cartridges received and installed.

**Actions taken:** None at present.

#### 24.36 New Matters

Creation of Parish Council Google Account — Account was created in order to access online Jitsi meetings.

DALC Subscription Renewal £134.64 — Clerk had received invoice, increase in fee had been discussed at

earlier meeting. Cllr. Pengilley proposed, Cllr. Newberry seconded. All agreed.

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

Parish Salary Recharge October 2023 to March 2024 £1829.40 — payment agreed via email

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

#### 24.37 PROW Monthly Report

Repair works ongoing. Footpaths walked and checked as much as weather allows.

**Actions taken:** None at present

#### 24.38 Planning

[1/0120/2024/FUL](#), Land At Northchurch, Yarnscombe, Devon

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of single dwelling (Variation of Condition 2 of planning approval 1/0680/2023/FUL) — Application permitted

[1/0155/2024/AGMB](#), Agricultural Building at Grid Reference 255022 122048, Yarnscombe, Devon

Prior Notification for the change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling and associated building operations under class Q — Application permitted

#### 24.39 Additional Planning

[1/0392/2024/FUL](#), Proposed extensions to dwelling, 6 St. Andrew's Close, Yarnscombe

#### 24.40 Accounts

Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement 23/24

Clerk read out Governance statements, councillors agreed.

**Actions taken:** Clerk and vice-chair (due to absence of chair) signed Annual Governance Statement. Clerk to present to internal auditor.

Annual Accounting Statement 2023/24 had been filled in by clerk.

**Actions taken:** Clerk and vice-chair (due to absence of chair) signed Accounting Statement to present to internal auditor.

Signing of Exemption Certificate as required by External Auditor

**Actions taken:** Clerk and vice-chair (due to absence of chair) signed exemption certificate

DALC Subscription Renewal £134.64 see item 24.36

Parish Salary Recharge October 2023 to March 2024 £1829.40 see item 24.36

Laser Printer Toner Yellow High Yield £121.99 — see item 24.35

Invoice for Gritter Repair £634.69 — see item 24.33/6

Receipt of TDC Grant £795.00 — see item 24.33/1

Bank reconciliation January 2024 to March 2024

Bank reconciliation had been carried out, Cllr. Newberry signed cash book and end of year bank reconciliation.

Meeting closed 8.30pm.

6th May 2024