

## **Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 28 August 2024**

Present: Cllrs. Brice (chair), Cooke, Ellison, Jeffery, Newberry, Pengilly (via Jitsi online), M. Dymond (Clerk) and a member of the public (joined meeting at 7.50pm).

### 24.88 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Farr, Cllr. Elliott (Torrige District Council / TDC), Cllr. Lock (TDC), County Councillor Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC) and PCSO Brown.

### 24.89 Public Participation and Feedback

Clerk had received an email from parishioner asking for advice and support regarding a disagreement he had with another parishioner. The clerk had in turn asked for help from district councillor. As suspected, the parish council had no power to intervene or solve disagreement. It was suggested that both parties log time/date of incidents and report to police or highways. One of the parties involved joined meeting at 7.50pm and was updated accordingly.

**Actions taken:** None at present

### 24.90 Representatives Reports

#### 1) County/District Councillors

County — None

District — Cllr. Elliott provided the following update via email:

On 15 August we had a housing strategy workshop to brainstorm ideas and priorities to focus our vision on how to meet the housing demands of the district, be it affordability, social and private sector. The final draft will be presented to full council later on in the year. Once agreed by full council, it will be sent out on a consultation phase for parish councils and stakeholders to have their input and feed back to TDC.

Out of that workshop there came the knowledge of the grants available currently to residents who qualify for help with things such as hoarding relief, energy efficient upgrades to houses, installation of stair lifts, or help towards other forms of accessibility, whether that be your own home or even if you are a tenant/landlord and many more. More information on what is available to come later on when in receipt.

2) Village Hall / Social Club — None

3) Youth Club — None

4) PCSO/Police Report — One crime reported, one other incident reported, one call logged regarding road offence.

5) Playing Field

Parishioner had queried whether the old wooden fence/posts could have had resale value and, if so, how had money raised been used for the benefit of the community. Before councillors discussed the matter any further, Cllr. Ellison explained that he had no involvement with the query and no problem with what happened to the old fencing materials. Chair explained that he and councillors Cooke, Farr and Jeffery had removed old fence posts/fencing, of which most was rotten and of no or very little monetary value. All councillors provided their labour for free, the rotten wood was taken away for free. Leaving it on the playing field could pose potential hazards. The cost of a contractor coming in to remove the wood/posts and transport it to a safe place was estimated at £3500 + VAT. It was suggested that the question of the "value" was a perception issue and going forward, at the AGM, the voluntary work undertaken by all councillors should be acknowledged. Grass is still growing and cuts still outstanding. The door of the wooden shed opens occasionally and is noisy. For now, should a councillor see the door is open, just shut it as tightly as possible. No valuables held in the wooden shed. All valuable items are stored in a locked metal shed.

### 24.91 Minutes of Meeting of 24 July 2024

Minutes were signed off and approved as true record.

#### 24.92 Matters arising from last Meeting

Website domain.gov.uk — Feedback from Cllr. Pengilley

Cllr. Pengilley provided synopsis of webinar that he had attended. Synopsis to be circulated among councillors via email. Moving forward, Cllr Pengilley will seek three quotations and at next meeting the council will decide whether a move to a gov.uk domain would be of benefit.

**Actions taken:** Cllr. Pengilley to report back next month with three quotations

#### 24.93 New Matters

Parish Online £36.00

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

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

Lottery funding declined — Explanation via email:

We have received a large number of applications and cannot fund them all. We are unable to fund your project as it does not address our funding priorities as strongly as other applications. As additional feedback, whilst we understand the benefits of your project to your community, we would consider fencing around a community playing field to be the responsibility of the local council and we are unable to fund statutory activities. Although this may fall outside of their funding obligations, projects which are more aligned with the expected activities or within the overall span of another public body are also not likely to be a priority for our funding. We appreciate that this will be disappointing to you and hope that you are able to make arrangements for your project to go ahead.

**Actions taken:** None at present.

#### 24.94 PROW Monthly Report

Feedback re. parishioner's concerns over footpaths and overgrown stile on Ward Lane

Regarding the Ley Farm footpath, the existence of a temporary electric fence alongside the footpath was confirmed; however, the remaining width of footpath is adequate per County guidelines. As for the Cleave Farm footpath which runs across grazing fields with no aggressive animals, e.g. bulls, separating the path from any livestock is deemed not viable or necessary. Overgrown stile on Ward Lane had been cut back by a contractor.

#### 24.95 Planning

**1/0562/2024/FUL**, Demolition of agricultural building and erection of one dwelling following planning permission 1/0849/2023/FUL, Barn At Grid Reference 252997 122434, Yarnscombe, Devon — Application permitted

#### 24.96 Additional Planning

None

#### 24.97 Accounts

Parish Online £36.00 — see 24.93

Meeting ended at 8.05pm.

10th September 2024