

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 25 September 2024**

Present: Cllrs.Brice (chair), Ellison, Jeffery, Newberry, Pengilly and M. Dymond (clerk). Member of public joined at 7.55pm.

24.98 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

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

24.99 Public Participation and Feedback

None

24.100 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County

Family Hubs — The Council has formally agreed to proceed with the Family Hub provision and change the way Children's Centres operate. This will move the service away from a limited and targeted approach to a universal offer. Discussions over the future use of the Children's Centre building in Torrington continue and from the discussions I have had with officials I know they are keen to build links with the wider community as the new Family Hub model should provide more support for parents and families in Torrington Rural. One of the areas highlighted during the consultation has been childcare provision and the thinking has been that the existing building could be remodelled to provide a child care facility in the town, but those discussions are continuing. The other positive of this model is also to provide more support for families in rural communities like Yarnscombe, so that we're not having to make young parents in the parish travel to a building in Bideford or Barnstaple etc. and even make use of the facilities we have locally.

Devolution — I am delighted to say that the new Government has confirmed Devon's Devolution Deal is going ahead, as previously agreed with the former Government. This is good news for Devon and it means the start of a journey of having greater powers devolved down to Devon. Immediate measures include £16m worth of additional funding for projects involving 'green' jobs, homes, skills and business growth. The new Combined Authority will have devolved powers and direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retention opportunities by 2030.

The Government is also offering a strong partnership with Homes England to use the 'Affordable Housing Programme' and 'Brownfield Infrastructure and Land Fund' to create a joint action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people.

The plan is for the Government to pass the necessary legislation in the autumn, with hopefully the first meeting of the CCA being held in January.

Local Highways Matters — Still awaiting feedback from the local Highways Team on the road past Rooks Cross, will chase again for an update when I am back next week.

Summer Holiday Activities and Food — Holiday activities and food for children who receive free school meals were provided again over the summer holidays. Funded by the Department for Education, DCC teamed up with over 100 different activity providers across Devon to offer more than 30,000 places to children aged five to 16 years old, who receive benefit-related free school meals.

District — None

2) Village Hall / Social Club — Meeting was held last week, Cllr. Newberry had been in London and unable to attend.

Actions taken: Cllr. Newberry will ask for updates and report back next month.

3) Youth Club — None

4) PCSO/Police Report — One crime of vehicle theft reported

5) Playing Field — None

24.101 Minutes of Meeting of 28 August 2024

Minutes were approved and signed off as a true record.

24.102 Matters arising from last Meeting

Quotations for setting up .gov.uk website domain

Cllr. Pengilly had carried out research and based on relevance and competence had drawn up a shortlist of three approved registrars.

1. Active Council
2. Netwise UK
3. Parish Online (used by Combe Martin PC)

Yarnscombe being a small council with a modest budget, cost was the overriding factor. Cllr. Pengilly provided the following breakdown of cost:

Costs (including VAT) for initial set up and fee for first year

1. £426; annual cost thereafter £276
2. £290.40; annual cost thereafter £350.40
3. £312; annual cost thereafter £312

Over course of 5 years costs would work out as follows:

1. £1530
2. £1692
3. £1300

There is a £120 reduction for the first 1000 councils to sign up.

Councillors wondered whether the cost provided good value for money for Yarnscombe PC. Overall, it was agreed that cost outweighed the benefits.

Actions taken: None at present.

24.103 New Matters

South West Heritage Trust / North Devon Record Office grant

Clerk had circulated letter asking for donations toward running of South West Heritage Trust / North Devon Record Office. Yearly, a sum of approximately £80,000 is needed. Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Newberry seconded. All agreed to give grant of £50.

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

24.104 PROW Monthly Report

None

24.105 Planning

1/0772/2024/FUL

Demolition of agricultural building and erection of new dwelling and associated works (Variation of condition 2 of planning approval 1/0066/2023/FUL), buildings at grid reference 255410 123805, Yarnscombe, Devon — No comments

24.106 Additional Planning

None

24.107 Accounts

Claim back VAT 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024

Clerk will claim back VAT for the above mentioned period for the sum of £2,282.44.

Actions taken: Clerk to send off claim.

Meeting ended at 8.05pm.

8th October 2024