

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 27th August 2025
Village Hall, 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr.Brice (chair), Ellison, Jeffery, Newberry, Pengilley, Cllr.Elliott (Torridge District Council/TDC), M.Dymond (clerk) and two members of public

25.88 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr. Cooke, Farr, Lock(TDC)and Cllr. Cottle-Hunkin(Devon County Council/DCC). Cllrs. Newberry and Ellison declared a personal interest in item 25.92/1, there were no requests for dispensations.

25.89 Public Participation and Feedback

Scaffolding at Greenacre, Yarnscombe

Scaffolding had been partially removed, no further complaints.

Members of the public wanted to comment on planning application 1/10607/2025/FUL Demolition of existing storage sheds and erection of commercial building (B8), Yarnscombe, Grid Reference 255977 123750 which was going to be commented on by councillors under item 22.96 Additional Planning. They were asking councillors to take their views on board when passing comment, as at present their house sale is at a delicate stage. In their opinion, the proposed new building is of similar size to the one in withdrawn application. It will be 6.6metres high and with being close to back boundaries of their property, visual impairment will be great. The construction and everyday use of the proposed building will lead to increased traffic and noise. In their opinion, a commercial building would set a precedent within parish boundaries. They queried, if there were restrictions to operational times attached. Cllr. Elliott (TDC) assumed it would be 7am to 7pm, but he can find out exact times. Lastly, they made suggestion of moving building further down the field and rotating it by 90 degrees, in order to lessen impact on neighbours.

25.90 Representatives Reports

1) County

Great news to report on The Globe in Great Torrington, they reached their £230,000 goal with just a few days to go and the grand total exceeded the goal by an extra £10,000 which will go towards its restoration! The goal being reached means it is now owned by the community, unlocking more than half a million pounds from central government as part of the previous government's "levelling up" funding. Brilliant news for Great Torrington and the surrounding area!

I had a large number of people contact me, including the headteacher of Great Torrington School, in relation to Stagecoach's price hike which took effect 20th July. There was no warning and a lack of communication that this was happening, meaning that many children didn't even have enough money to get home from school (those who travel out of catchment ie mainly those from Bideford to GTS). There is also huge concern for post-16 students who saw a massive increase to £444 per term to get to college. The concerns are not only for young people, but for everyone more generally

with both return tickets and the North Devon zone now scrapped as part of their new ticketing strategy. I immediately raised concern over the price increases through urgent matters at our cabinet meeting and launched a petition which was actively supported by more than 2/3 of county councillors across all political parties. <https://chng.it/rK7VQ5mfBN>

We have now met with Peter Knight, Managing Director of Stagecoach and have agreed to work more closely in partnership, both to lobby central government in terms of the need for fair funding for our large rural county, but also he has agreed to seriously look at re-zoning/expanding zones and the costs for young people under 18. Unfortunately these changes will likely not come into effect until January 2026 <https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/local-news/1870285/devon-mps-and-councillors-quiz-bus-boss-over-rising-fares-for-schoolchildren.html>

At our recent cabinet meeting I presented a report from the public health manager on alcohol harm in Devon. I had to declare that I am not teetotal by any means! But there was real seriousness in the report, and some of the figures for Devon are double the national average. For example in Devon alone premature death (*which means dying before the age of 74yrs*) from alcoholic liver disease has increased by nearly 42% since 2001 and within the last 10 years alcohol related hospital admissions have grown by 46%. Admissions for alcoholic liver disease have increased by 70%. While nationally we are seeing a *reduction* in alcohol consumption in younger adults (18-34yrs) it still causes significant harm to young people. In Devon, our under-18s hospital admission rate for alcohol-specific conditions are *nearly double the national average*. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/cabinet-backs-plan-to-reduce-harm-caused-by-drinking/>

We also agreed a new strategy aiming to increase the number of young people in education, employment or training called "Brighter Futures – Employment, Education and Training Strategy" <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/strategy-aims-to-create-brighter-futures-for-young-people-in-devon/>

And we backed 'innovative' proposals to work with children's charity Barnardo's to create eight new 'gap' homes, specifically designed to house and support care leavers with complex needs in Barnstaple and Exeter. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/news/were-working-with-barnardos-on-new-homes-for-care-leavers/>

Last week we had a very interesting day visiting different locations in North Devon and Torridge in relation to DCC-related economy and skills projects and partner organisations. First stop: Node Cowork at Roundswell which is absolutely thriving and it's great to hear about the innovative businesses which are starting up and growing from this fabulous work space. Particular mention to Julian Dymond from Great Torrington who manages Node and is doing such an awesome job. I know Jules from way back so it was great to see him in more professional circumstances! Second stop: Castle Hill Work Hub, an excellent facility offering flexible work spaces in Great

Torrington, a great combination of hot desks, a bookable meeting room and individual private work spaces at the top of the Castle Hill building, at very reasonable rates which include free parking! Third and Fourth stop in the same building: Learn Devon and Bideford Library . It was great to speak to the tutors at Learn Devon who are so passionate about the adults they teach, helping to improve skills and employability for people across Devon, some even enabled to take their exams from home if needed. And upstairs to the truly stunning library, such a fab community space, welcoming various community groups, including knit and natter who were there on the day, as well as all of the events for children and everything else that they do from bounce and rhyme to public health initiatives, oh and don't forget there are books there too!

I have today had a complaint in relation to light pollution from an agricultural building in Yarnscombe. I would like to understand a bit more about this and will look to speak to the farmer and find out what can be done.

District – At Holsworthy Swimming Pool ,we decided to leave the current boilers and heating system in as the heat pumps they were looking into replacing the current system with, would take us around £700,000 over budget. We have been assured by the maintenance company for the current system that it is still serviceable going forward.

2) Village Hall / Social Club -None

3) Youth Club-None

4) PCSO/Police Report – Cllr. Pengilley is updating Emergency plan, clerk will provide him with PCSO and other local police contacts.

Actions taken: Clerk to email Cllr. Pengilley relevant information.

5) Playing Field

Damage to playing field shed – Update regarding repairs

Repairs have been carried out.

Actions taken: None at present.

Permanent position of goal posts – Update

Cllr. Brice and Newberry secured goal posts into permanent position, following Air Ambulance advice.

Actions taken: None at present.

25.91 Minutes from Meeting of 23rd July 2025

Minutes were approved and signed off as a true record.

25.92 Matters arising from last Meeting

Cleaning of bus shelter £30

Clerk to contact Terry Jeffrey and report back next month.

Actions taken: Item to be put on next agenda.

Setting up of yarnscombe.org.uk email address for Cllr.Jeffrey

This has been done with the help of the website administrator.

Actions taken: None at present.

25.93 New Matters

Parish Online subscription 36-00

Cllr.Brice proposed, Cllr. Pengilley seconded. All agreed to renew subscription.

Actions taken: Cllrs. Brice and Cllr. Pengilley signed electronic payment schedule and accompanying invoice. Clerk to electronically pay invoice.

25.94 PROW Monthly Report – Parishioner had reported damage to handrail and footbridge at footpath accessible from Ward Lane. Parishioner had already contacted Martin Caddy from DCC.

Actions taken: Clerk to contact Martin Caddy for progress support, also ask Dave Trickett whether this work could be carried out by him.

22.95 Planning

22.96 Additional Planning

1/10607/2025/FUL

Demolition of existing storage sheds and erection of commercial building (B8), Yarnscombe, Grid Reference 255977 123750. Councillors had listened to views put forward by members of the public and decided to forward the following comments:

- Application for a commercial building constitutes a change of use of land
- It would set a precedent for commercial development within village boundary
- If permitted, can it be relocated within field
- as it stands building would be overbearing and have negative visual impact
- commercial building could be considered fire risk
- noise and additional traffic are to be considered and is building for storage only
- potential hours/days of operation need to be disclosed

22.97 Accounts

£36-00 Parish Online

Meeting closed at 8.15pm