

10th November 2025

Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 22nd October 2025
Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Brice(chair), Cooke, Ellison, Farr, Jeffrey, Newberry, Cllr. Elliott(Torridge District Council/TDC) and M.Dymond

25.108 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Cottle-Hunkin (Devon County Councillor/DCC) and Cllr. Lock (TDC). There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensations had been received.

25.109 Public Participation and Feedback

Road closure from 20/10/25 B3232 towards Torrington

This road is now closed for 26 days, diversions are in place. Cllr. Cottle-Hunkin has asked Devon Highways and Neighbourhood Highways Officers to try and divert traffic away from Yarnscombe, as parishioners had reported to her that lorries used the village as a shortcut to get to Torrington.

It was also mentioned that during/after previous patching works, left over tarmac had just simply been left in drive. The possibility of having a Community Group repairing small potholes was discussed. Some years back, the council had been approached to nominate a Road Warden who could do just that. There had been no interest then and councillors thought it unlikely that such a person or group could be found now.

Actions taken: None at present.

25.110 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County-

I have been flooded with emails from concerned residents about the lack of NHS dentistry provision locally, particularly with the loss of an NHS dentist in Great Torrington where *mydentist* has automatically moved people over to private dental care (including children). I have contacted our MP about the situation and have sent a letter to the chair and chief exec of NHS Integrated Care Board as a matter of urgency to find out what can be done locally. [Outrage as Devon families 'removed' from NHS list](#)

A couple of weeks ago we had an incredible day at Farmwise Devon at Westpoint! The whole event was absolutely buzzing with excitement as children got hands-on learning about where their food comes from — from farm to fork. It was fantastic to see so many young people inspired by farming, food, and the natural world around them. Events like this really show the power of education outside the classroom. At Devon County Council we are calling on government to embed food and farming into the national curriculum — and to see more events like Farmwise happening right across the country. [Farmwise returns to teach children in Devon where their food comes from | News - Greatest Hits Radio \(Devon\)](#)

[Devon Councillors urge government action to protect farming communities amid rising pressures – News](#) We are also having a consultation in relation to Devon's library service- looking at how we can do things differently, taking into account the financial pressures but also looking at other opportunities- for example new technology and "open access" which is used successfully in other parts of the country to improve opening hours beyond staffed hours, and opening up opportunities for different groups to use the library spaces. [Residents to be asked for their views on the future of Devon's library service – News](#)

Finally, I really want to emphasise new grant fund we have set up at Devon County Council. Designed by young people, for young people 😊 Please share with your local youth groups. I would encourage them to apply for the £3000 because you never know 😊! It's very easy to apply and has been designed by the Devon Youth Council who designed the fund and they are on the team who sign off the applications (and so am I!). The young people would really like to see new groups and activities being set up if possible so please encourage anyone who you think might be interested. With it being a brand new fund we really want to get the word out there. It doesn't require match funding and it can cover wages if needed. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/new-grant-fund-laims-to-enrich-the-lives-of-devons-young-people/> [If there are any safety defects or other highways type issues please do report them here:Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

[Grit bins can be requested via Grit bins and salt bags - Roads and transport](#) [Speed concerns can be raised from the "report a concern" link at Speeding, Speed Limits and SCARF - Roads and transport](#)

District - Back in October I spent the morning with our operational services manager, Richard Haste. He showed me around our current waste and recycling vehicle workshops, which I must say is a very out of date premises. How they have managed to operate as efficiently as they do from the site they have is a highly commendable achievement. We discussed the new site which is currently being built, and he also took me up to see the site from the road as we couldn't go in yet. That will be to follow once they have completed it and moved/settled in. Currently the fleet is spread out over 2 or 3 sites and their workshop can only deal with one waste lorry at a time on the lifts along with a recycling lorry and also our fleet of vans. Once in the new site, everything from vehicles, maintenance facilities and offices will be all under one roof and yard with an up-to-date workshop and plenty of space to work on the vehicles etc. I shall remind all, that the new site is only for the offices, vehicle storage and maintenance. There will be NO storing or unloading of any black bag waste or recycling. The climate change committee is trying to persuade us to move our entire waste and recycling fleet over to HVO (Hydrotreated vegetable oil) from diesel. However, due to the fact we can not trial it on one or two vehicles, it would have to be a fleet wide move, we have asked them to do some more research as this move could jeopardise the efficiency of how our waste and recycling service is operated. Along with costing a further £71,000 to £121,000 per year more than regular diesel. Also, HVO is produced as far away as Asia, so it is whether the carbon footprint of transporting it to the UK from that distance is offset by the drop in emissions on our fleet. Something I personally feel is impossible and am not convinced by.

2) Village Hall / Social Club - Fire safety check result. According to Cllr. Farr, who is now a member of Village Hall/Social Club committee, fire safety check results are still being processed.

Actions taken: None at present.

3) Youth Club – Potential of paid Youth Club Leader

As Cllr. Cottle Hunkin pointed out last month, there are now grants available for youth clubs/ organisations that in the case of Yarnscombe, could be used towards a paid Youth Club leader

Actions taken: Clerk will include issue of Youth Club in next “Eagle”, firstly to establish that there are enough children living in parish and if there is interest in reviving Youth Club.

4) PCSO/Police Report

According to Devon & Cornwall Police website until end of September 2025 the following crimes had been recorded in Torrington Rural:

Violence and sexual offences - 36

Shoplifting - 11

Anti-social behaviour - 7

Burglary -6

Cllr. Elliott(TDC) sent the following email regarding PCSO visits to council meetings:

Following no in person visit by our new PCSO to any meeting since the resignation of Sandra Brown, I had a phone call with a Jason Slade from Barnstaple police station for other matters yesterday. However, I raised this issue with him and he said he will pass this up the line to the powers that be to see if he can get somewhere for us. He did also inform me that they have a new cohort of PSCOs that are/have just finished/finishing their training. Hopefully, this will result in some attendances at your meetings in the not so distant future.

5) Playing Field – Trimming around hedges has been carried out.

6) Snow Warden – Snow gritter is ready to be used as and when needed, enough stock of salt grit available.

Actions taken: None at present.

25.111 Minutes from Meeting of 24th September 2025

Minutes were signed of and approved as a true record.

25.112 Matters arising from last Meeting

Signing of electronic payment schedule

1) £84 (KrystalHosting Renewal)

2) £40 Cleaning of bus shelter

Both invoices had already been signed and paid, electronic payment schedule was signed retrospectively by Cllrs. Brice and Pengilley. In future, payment schedule will be signed at same time as invoices and before payment is made. Date of payment will be added to schedule by clerk.

Actions taken: None at present.

25.113 New Matters

Website domain registration for one year £9-59

Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Pengilley seconded. All agreed. Invoice signed and payment schedule signed by Cllrs. Brice and Pengilley.

Actions taken: Clerk to process electronic payment and add date of payment to payment schedule.

Parish Salary Recharge 1st April to 30th September 2025 £ 1,862-72

Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Pengilley seconded. All agreed. Invoice signed and payment schedule signed by Cllrs. Brice and Pengilley.

Actions taken: Clerk to process electronic payment and add date of payment to payment schedule.

25.114 PROW Monthly Report - None

22.115 Planning

Change of use and conversion of former agricultural building to provide additional living space to existing dwelling

Little Greylake West Greylake Yarnscombe Barnstaple Devon EX31 3NF

Ref. No: 1/0645/2025/FUL - Application permitted

22.116 Additional Planning – None

22.117 Accounts

1. Website domain registration for one year £9-59 – see 25.113
2. Parish Salary Recharge 1st April to 30th September 2025 £ 1,862-72 -see 25.113
3. Bank reconciliation July 2025 to September 2025
4. As the signing of the electronic payment schedule had not been completed before meeting, bank reconciliation was postponed until November Meeting.

Meeting ended 8.35pm