

YARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

In Attendance:

Cllrs M. Tomkinson (Chair), A. Billington (Vice-Chair), S Horner (Co-Vice-Chair),
L Myhill, T Long, C Ford, D Barnes, S Vining, K Thomson

Cllrs I. Chubb, Y. Levine & C Brown

Members of the public: 1

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None Declared

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

All agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the last meeting held on 8th January and they were signed by Cllr Tomkinson.

4. Reports

A. County Councillor

Cllr Chubb said that damage to our highways in January had caused the DCC Highways teams considerable headaches in keeping up with emergency repairs and those of a temporary (prior to resurfacing) and permanent repairs.

Devolution between Devon and Torbay would enable more decisions to be made locally by people who know their areas. Record £6.4 million awarded for further year of skills training in Devon. Any community equipment you no longer use can be collected free of charge. Cllr Chubb full report was forwarded after the meeting.

Cllr Horner asked him about broadband in the village and reported that 1/3 of the village did not have broadband. Cllr Horner will send a report to Cllr Chubb who will then investigate further.

B. District Councillor

Cllr Brown reminded everybody about the parking workshop on 21st February at 3pm. All East Devon District Councillors will have to be DBS checked. Rates for empty properties will double from 1st April this year and for 2nd homes from 1st April next year. Cllr Horner asked about Yarcombe Inn paying business rates. Cllr Brown will investigate and report back but mentioned that the flat above would be rated separately. EDDC is currently having a peer review and a report will be published later in the year.

Cllr Levine mentioned they are trying to promote affordable housing.

C. Police

Darren England PCSO came in prior to the meeting as he was in the area. He did not attend the meeting but will be coming to the next meeting. Cllr Ford & Cllr Tomkinson will attend the opening of Honiton Police Station on 20th February at 10.30.

D. Yarcombe Community Land Trust

They are still battling with the legal profession. Thanks was conveyed to Cassandra Harrison & Cllr Levine for all their help. It is now in the hands of the lawyers and has been a very slow process.

E. Jubilee Hall

Awaiting details about the new doors and windows to be fitted. The hall is replacing the mats at the entrance. The seals have been replaced on the boiler. The acoustics in the hall are still not brilliant. Any thoughts on this should be sent to the hall chair or secretary.

F. Reports from Individual Councillors

Councillor Barnes – Reported that Beacon Lane has had some pot holes filled in but still requires extra work. Also, the road going up to Stopgate is in a bad state of repairs. He will drive around the parish and he will then prepare a report to be sent to Dave Ashford at DCC.

Councillor Vining – Agreed to complete P3 forms regarding footpaths and funding in the future with Councillor Tomkinson. These need to be completed by 15th March.

Councillor Billington - Community speed watch group carried out a session which included 78 cars of which 2 were speeding. They are planning to carry out regular checks hopefully road users will now realise speeds are being checked on roads in the parish and observe the speed limits. Funding for vehicle activated signed is proving hard to obtain. Cllr Thomspson has approached terrier racing. Some funds have been raised from the film club. Cllr Billington will reply to the email from Michael Canham regarding speeding in the Blackdown Hills.

G. Clerks Report

The precept form has been completed and returned to EDDC. The road between Peterhayes & Ley Farm has been reported and tape and bollards have been installed. Further investigation will be carried out by DCC. Cllr Barnes agreed to visit Paula Woodhead at 1 Marsh Cottages. Details of NALC events have been forwarded to all councillors and Cllr Tomkinson will attend one on climate change.

Cllr Thomson then left the meeting.

5. Footbridge at Rag lane

A repair has been undertaken on the footbridge. Clerk to report this to David Ashford along with the photo taken by a councillor.

6. Rag Lane

This council opposes any continued obstruction causing closure of Rag Lane and that Devon County Council be required to take immediate action to enforce the notice dated 10th June 2022 that the gabions be removed and the lane returned to its original width and height for vehicular use.

This resolution was proposed by Cllr Horner and seconded by Cllr Ford. The wording for this was then agreed unanimously and the resolution will be put to the meeting in March.

To agree that the chair be empowered to write to Devon County Council. pointing out that as a result of the disclosures under the recent Fol request no action has been taken to reopen Rag Lane. Furthermore, DCC has a duty under section 130 of the Highways Act have a duty to remove these gabions so that vehicles can pass and repass.

This resolution was proposed by Cllr Horner and seconded by Cllr Ford. It was then agreed unanimously.

To agree that the chair can write to our MP Richard Foord enlisting his support that Rag Lane be reopened.

This resolution was proposed by Cllr Horner and seconded by Cllr Barnes. It was then agreed unanimously.

7. CIL and S106 Funds

Cllr Horner has written a letter to Ed Freeman querying CIL & S106 and the time limits for claims and the usage once received. Also, this letter queried about no CIL due on Ley Farm. This was sent by the clerk on 25th January but no reply has been received.

8. Bob Nelson attendance at meeting

This was discussed and it was agreed Cllr Tomkinson would invite him to our meeting in April.

9. Broadband in the Parish

This had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

10. Speeding in the parish

This had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. Finance

- a. No comments or questions.
- b. All Payments were ratified.
- c. Yonder Marsh Farm still awaiting receipt.

12. Planning

No comments.


13. Public Session

No comments from the public.

Cllr Billington said he wished to step down as vice chairman due to work commitments.

Cllr Tomkinson suggested having a meeting open to the public regarding Alternative Energies. Everybody agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm, the next meeting is to be held on Monday 4th March.


S.J. Warner - 2024.
4th March
Deputy Chairman