

**Minutes of the Yarcombe Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting**

Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall, Monday 13th May 2024 at 8.00 pm

In Attendance:

Cllrs M Tomkinson (Chair), K Thomson, T Long, C Ford, D Barnes, S Vining, A Billington
D Frost (clerk) Y Levine

Members of the Public present – 11

1. Firstly Cllr Tomkinson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised everybody that Cllr Myhill had resigned from the council after serving 27 years and 10 of these were as chairman. She was thanked for all her time and dedication.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor S Horner

3. Minutes

Cllr Tomkinson asked if everyone was agreeable that the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023 could be signed as a correct record of the meeting and everyone agreed.

4. Police Report

No report received.

5. Retiring Chairman's Report – Cllr Tomkinson

This last year has been another busy one which has included the state of our lanes and roads. This resulted in us asking for a formal meeting with Highways to find out why the state of disrepair is so bad. We were told that this mainly comes from lack of funding which descends from the Government. When allocating funding they chose the least expensive and more detrimental way forward which was letting all the roads fall into decline. On the back of this it's no wonder that we have so many issues. A lot of our time has been taking up on road reports with higher authorities and trying to move things forward on behalf of parishioners.

We found a need to consolidate our emails and web presence to make everything more formal and more easily searchable should we be asked for information. We now have a centralised email system and more information is put onto the website for anyone who is interested.

Meetings are now held every month, 12 a year instead of 10. This aids continuity and means there aren't any large gaps between meetings.

6. Planning Report – Cllr Long

Taking into consideration some applications roll over from 1 year to another and reductions of grants for agricultural buildings we have processed 14 applications.

Of the 14 applications we have had

- 9 Full applications
- 2 Discharge of conditions
- 2 Listed Building Consents
- 1 CPE

The following decisions were made on these applications from EDDC

- 8 went on to be approved
- 1 Refusal
- 4 awaiting decisions
- 1 withdrawn

Agricultural buildings are the bulk of our applications. In the main Yarcombe Parish Council Support Agricultural development. It can be a challenge with the large agricultural buildings. We try to encourage them to use materials more in keeping where possible. Also, earth-banking, tree screening, light baffling etc. Farmers need to erect such buildings to help reduce pollution. Recently it has been an extra challenge to get some of our locations to carry out their Conditions of Permission. Luckily, we are supported by our very helpful Cllr Levine and Cllr Brown. This is still work in progress.

7. Roads Report – Cllr Barnes

He reported that the roads are still in a bad state of repairs. He encouraged parishioners to report potholes on the website. He has tried to encourage Highways around to look at the edging of the roads as it is giving way. There is an extra 12 million for roads in Devon but we probably need 200 million to repair all the roads. The ditches need to be cleaned out preferably in the winter and the potholes need repairing in the summer. More money is needed!!!!

8 Parish Paths Report – Cllr Vining

He reported that the footpaths are generally in a good state of repair. There have only been a few projects for overgrown vegetation. There is still money available in the budget. He encouraged the public to inform himself or Concillor Ford if there are problems with any footpath.

9. Yarcombe Community Land Trust – Cllr Horner

Cllr Horner had kindly sent the following report as he was unable to attend the meeting.

We are still engaged with lawyers on finishing the Section 106 agreement. I am hoping to have some good news to report to the next meeting as we are now only a few words short of an agreement which probably involves a sum of less than £5000.

10. Charity Report Longcroft Meadow – D Frost clerk

Members of the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council met in May 2023. Here they agreed to pay student grants of £200.00 to the two applicants. An advert was placed in the Yarcombe Voices asking if anyone would like to apply for a Student Grant in 2024 and we had three applicants who were discussed at a meeting recently. Here it was agreed to pay student grants of £100.00 to the three applicants. The Charity balance stands at £4,004.00 before the grants for 2024.

11. District and County Councillor Reports

Councillor Levine has just completed his first year as one of our East Devon District Councillors. He reported that there are problems with communications between the council and Whitehall. There are also problems in the area with flooding but luckily this does not affect Yarcombe. The biggest issue is with housing developments. Whitehall imposes an annual target on new housing developments on EDDC and the current figure is about 920 dwellings per annum. The majority of this is in the West End of the area.

12. Incoming Chair – Cllr Tomkinson

He had advised everybody that Councillor Katie Thomson had agreed to be vice-chairman.

13. Residents Forum and Open Discussion

The question was raised about Crawley Farm and the traffic lights which had been going on for over two years. Councillor Tomkinson advised there were problems with locating of heavy equipment and over hanging trees. Unfortunately, the council had received no date when this work would be completed.

Cleaning drains and potholes is a permanent problem to residents. Councillor Billington reiterated for everybody to report pot holes on the Devon County Council web site. He then reviewed the website and advised everybody that there were 3 outstanding potholes in the village and they had all been allocated a repair. This web site also allows people to report problems regarding drainage. He will liaise with Miranda Gudenian informing the village about this website and what issues can be reported.

A resident advised in Blackpool they had resurfaced all the roads and found this was very cost affective as avoided continuous problems with the highways. Not sure if Devon would ever do this!!!

14. John Salter Award

There was a fantastic response to this award resulting in 12 nominees. All these were read out and a summary of the reasons why they were nominated. This award shows how many kind people volunteer to help in Yarcombe. Helen Parris was then presented with the award by Barbara Salter. She had won it for all the work on the village hall. Since the motor accident when the exterior wall was badly damaged, she had the main responsibility of working with the insurance company and builders who proved inefficient in extremely slovenly work. Helen had a very difficult time with many awkward meetings but managed to get things sorted so the hall is nearly back to a repaired state. She has spent many hours in her role as hall secretary where she goes further than the second mile. Everybody agreed she certainly deserves the ward this year and was a very worthy winner.

Cllr Tomkinson called the meeting to a close at 8.40pm.

Tea and coffee and refreshments were then kindly served by Maggie Tomkinson