

## YARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

### In Attendance:

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

Cllrs I Chubb, Y Levine & C Brown

Members of the public: 2

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr S Horner

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> March and they were signed by Cllr Tomkinson.

### 4. External Reports

#### A. County Councillor

Cllr Chubb said the winter was never ending as regards problems with highways. The potholes haven't been able to be filled due to the weather conditions. Cllr Barnes, Tomkinson & Chubb will drive around the village assessing the roads. Everybody needs to keep reporting potholes. There is extra funding for Special Educational Needs. Each councillor has a Locality Budget of £8000 which opens in Mid-April. The online application form can be found at [www.devon.gov.uk/democract/councillors-nav/locality-budgets](http://www.devon.gov.uk/democract/councillors-nav/locality-budgets). The chairman will look into this but the council need to advise Cllr Chubb what we are applying for. He suggested ask for £500 as his locality budget is split between 22 parishes.

#### B. District Councillor

Cllr Levine advised that EDDC will be conducting an online survey of Town and Parish Councils between May and July and encouraged everybody to respond. Cllr Brown advised the summer rates for carparking were now in place. These are £1.50 per hour in Honiton and £2.00 per hour in coastal towns. EDDC have updated dog controls but there seems no consistency where and when dog can roam. Repairs to the sea wall at Exmouth had cost £1 million. There has been a new play park at Beer. Cllr Brown is dealing with the complaint about the vacant house in Marsh.

### **C. Police**

No report received.

## **5. Public Comments and Questions on External reports**

Cllr Long questioned Cllr Levine regarding Conditions of Permission on FUL Applications not being carried out. He had contacted Mr Crocker the enforcement officer but with no success. Cllr Brown advised Cllr Long to advise him of any issues and he would directly contact Mr Crocker.

## **6. Internal Reports**

### **D. Yarcombe Community Land Trust**

No report received.

### **E. Jubilee Hall**

The hall is going to replace the floor at the end of the hall. This will be a costly job so they are applying for a grant of £10000 from the lottery. The windows are due to be replaced on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### **F. Reports from Individual Councillors**

**Councillor Ford** – She had contacted DCC on 3<sup>rd</sup> April regarding a complaint about footpath 3. They are sending somebody out and we need to wait 2 weeks.

**Councillor Barnes** – The grass verges had been cut along the A303 but the workers said this was very difficult due to weather conditions and management advise. There has been very little gritting done on the road but nobody knows what has happened to this money. There is a temporary restriction for Rag Lane from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June to extend and reposition boundary wall and tree works.

**Councillor Vining** - Advised the P3 form for footpath funding had been completed and included a request for £500 for this financial year.

**Councillor Billington** – Advised that Highways Neighbourhood Team said no additional signage regarding speeding was allowed. Community speed watch group will be out and about once the weather improves as the equipment will not work in the rain.

### **G. Parish Clerk**

The report had been circulated to all councillors. It contained details about the A30 at Crawley Farm and work is meant to be starting in May. It also contained details of emails regarding the vacant house in Marsh. This was discussed and agreed that it is outside the remit of the parish council and will be handled as a personal matter by Cllr Horner.

## **7. AGM & APM Agendas**

Cllr Tomkinson and the clerk will collaborate to produce these agendas.



## **8. Blackdown Hills Parish Network Subscription**

Cllr Thompson said this Network added no value to the council and we should not subscribe again. This was then seconded by Cllr Long and agreed unanimously. Cllr Thompson will advise them we are not going to join again. There had been some confusion as they thought the council owed for 23/24 as well however £97.50 had been paid on 28/2/23.

## **9. Post Office Inner Wall and door access**

Brian Smith the owner of the property was at the meeting. He agreed that the parish council had contributed money and labour for the dividing wall to put the post office in Brian's garage This was built in the late 1980's. Brian is happy with the situation and agreed the parish council is not liable for the structure.

## **10. John Salter Award Nominations**

A list of all nominations has been sent to the parish councillors by the clerk. She encouraged them to cast their votes as soon as possible and the chairman has the deciding vote if there is a tie.

Cllr Tomkinson will advise all nominees and invite them to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm.

## **11. IT Disk Space & Gov.uk Domain Name**

Cllr Tomkinson advised we were running out of disk space for the website and live emails and would need to pay Netwise £124.79 for another 5gb of disk space.

Cllr Billington advised this was rather expensive compared to other companies.

Cllr Thomson has extensive knowledge about IT disk space and storing emails in the cloud. She will look into this and liaise with Cllr Tomkinson. This will then be discussed at the meeting in June.

## **12. David Ashford reports/emails**

It was agreed the clerk would send a monthly report to David Ashford listing problems with the highways. With any other ongoing issues, the clerk needs to only send to the councillors on a monthly basis and include in her clerk's report.

## **13. Longcroft Meadow Trustees**

A meeting of the current trustees has been arranged to discuss student grants. In due course a new trustee will need to be appointed.

## 14. Finance

- a. No comments or questions.
- b. The clerk was asked for a breakdown of half yearly expenses for £183.50. This is for Use of Home as Office for £90.00. Sage Payroll £57.60. Ink Cartridges £15.97 White paper £14.98 & Postage £4.95. All payments were then ratified.
- c. Yonder Marsh Farm Marsh no reply from Ed Freeman to latest email on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Cllr Tomkinson will liaise Cllr Horner for a reminder to be sent again
- d. Ley Farm no reply from Ed Freeman to latest email on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Cllr Tomkinson will liaise with Cllr Horner for a reminder to be sent again and maybe a FOI.

## 15. Planning

Cllr Long was praised on his excellent comments regarding planning at Birch Oak. There have been previous planning applications where the Conditions of Planning have not been carried out so these were also included in the comments.

## 16. Public Session

A Member of the public inquired about the ownership of the Yarcombe Inn. He was advised it was owned by somebody in Essex who owns 64 other properties. He also inquired about the payment of business rates or council tax. Cllr Tomkinson will contact Cllr Brown regarding any payments. The member of the public also asked about the ownership of the land in front of the pub and was advised the land belonged to the Yarcombe Inn. Cllr Billington advised that the Inn is an Asset of Community Value which would need renewing in October 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.40 with the next meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> which is the AGM & APM

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