

YARCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

In Attendance:

Cllrs M Tomkinson (Chair), K Thomson (Vice-Chair) D Barnes, A Billington, J Burdge, C Ford, T Long, C Middleton, S Vining & D Frost (Clerk & RFO)

Cllr I Chubb & C Brown

Members of the public: 2

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Y Levine

2. Declarations of Interest

Declared by Cllr Tomkinson & Cllr Thomson on Heaven's Mouth & Beacon House.
Declared by Cllr Vining on Beacon House.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Cllr Billington requested a small change to his report on the minutes. This was then amended and they were agreed as a true and accurate record of the last meeting held on 2nd December and they were signed by Cllr Tomkinson.

4. External Report

A. County Councillor

Cllr Chubb had emailed a report prior to the meeting. This had been circulated to all councillors.

The government white paper on devolution has been updated. This would involve reorganisation of the Devon County Council as a unitary authority which should end up saving money. There could be a mayor who would be the figurehead but with the council having the power. No decision had been made but would have to be decided by 29th January to determine county council elections which are scheduled for May 2025.

He advised the Government had been allocated more funds for repairs for highways. He encouraged everybody to keep reporting problems with the highways. Cllr Chubb and Cllr Barnes will go around the village reviewing the highways in the better weather.

B. District Councillor

Cllr Levine had emailed a report prior to the meeting. This had been circulated to all councillors.

Cllr Brown reported that they were not in favour of one unitary council for Devon. The devolution white paper is coming to the council early in February. This would give more power to town and parish councils.

C. Police

No report received.

5. Public Comments and Questions on External reports

No questions or comments were made.

6. Internal Reports

D. Yarcombe Community Land Trust

Cllr Billington had nothing to report.

E. Jubilee Hall

Cllr Tomkinson reported that the building work had been signed off. However, there is 3 months to sort out any snagging issue with rust coming through the paintwork.

F. Reports from Individual Councillors

Councillor Vining – reported he had received the forms regarding footpaths work and expenditure and he will complete them by the deadline of 28th March.

Councillor Barnes – reported there were problems with the A303 at Knightshayne as the gutters are blocked resulting in water on the roads. Also the road between Yarcombe & Lower Pithayne has blocked drains. He has drilled holes in the gritter bin near Winnowing Knapp to remove the water. He has a supply of salt and grit for use on the highways.

Councillor Billington – reported there is a problem on A30 by Hillside due to damage to the drains which needs resolving.

Councillor Tomkinson – asked whether any of the salt and grit could be used in the bin which is due to be installed in the hall car park. They will liaise once the bin is in situ. He had completed a survey on remote meetings and also one on Government consultation on standards and encouraged other councillors to complete these surveys.

G. Clerks Report

She advised that the meeting with Cllr McInnes (leader of DCC) had been cancelled but another one would be arranged in this year. She will advise all councillors of the date. She had received a phone call from Bob Carter at Cat's Protection League regarding cats left in the Yarcombe Inn. This situation is being investigated along with attendance of RSPCA. Miranda Gudenian has been speaking with him and will keep the council informed of any progress. The clerk had also received a phone call from a lady who is keen along with her partner to run Yarcombe Inn. Cllr Tomkinson has been in contact with them.

7. IT update on Google drive and email storage

Cllr Thomson has been looking about the costs for a laptop for the clerk. This will cost between £400 – 500. It was agreed she would apply for a grant from DCC for this.

She also advised all councillors to review and delete any unnecessary email but it was agreed to keep any emails they had sent. The clerk was advised to keep all emails. This should keep us within the limit of 10GB for website and emails.

8. Local Government Standards and conduct

This was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Time of meeting in winter

It was agreed to continue meetings commencing at 8pm.

10. Donation for use of apple press

It was agreed any donation in the future for the use of the apple press would be decided at a Parish Council Meeting. It was agreed the current donation of £20 would be given to Yarcombe Voices.

11. Discuss final budget figures for 25/26 and agree precept for financial year 25/26

This was discussed at length and final figures agreed which should be covered by the precept without a need for use of reserves. Next year the employment committee will provide figures for the budget for wages in November. The final precept figure will be submitted by the clerk by the deadline.

12. Finance

- a. The money ringfenced for specific project/traffic calming will now be shown as shown specific project. Cllr Tomkinson will liaise with the clerk to amend and make more understandable.
- b. Payments for the month were all ratified.

13. Planning

Cllr Long advised this was all self-explanatory.

14. Public Session

Miranda Gudenian enquired about 80th anniversary of end of WWII. She was advised it was not a council matter. She was advised to contact Yarcombe Community Benefit Society. It was agreed this anniversary should be celebrated in the village.

The meeting closed at 21.10. The next meeting is to be held on Monday 3rd February at 8pm.

Signed by



Date

3 Feb 25