

**Minutes of Yarnscombe Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 26 August 2020**

Due to coronavirus lockdown this meeting was held over the internet using Zoom.

Taking part in meeting were: Cllrs. Brice (chair), Cooke, Pengilly, Williams, Clarke and Lock (Torrige District Council / TDC), Ian Newberry (chair of Yarnscombe Community Response Team) and M. Dymond (clerk)

20.56 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Farr, Saywell (Devon County Council / DCC) and PCSO Brown. There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensations had been received.

20.57 Public Participation and Feedback

Yarnscombe Community Response Team — Final Expenses

According to Ian Newberry, volunteers declined to claim for expenses. Clerk will update Tom Vanstone at TDC and inform him that Covid grant monies were not needed. The monies received earlier in the year will now be deducted from September precept.

Actions taken: None at present.

20.58 Representatives Reports

1) County/District Councillors

County — As follows, provided by email:

Coronavirus

We are still yet to see, fortunately, a case linked to tourists or visitors coming into the county. However, our number of cases in Devon have started to tick up slightly, mainly because the cases are being traced to local residents who have left Devon, gone on holiday, and have caught the virus while away. A recent spike in the Exeter / East Devon area was traced to a group of people returning from holiday in Croatia. Fortunately, these cases are still being caught and traced and the residents are isolating. We have not seen any spread into the community. The NHS Track and Trace Service appears to be working well in Devon. However, these new cases underline why we must remain vigilant. The latest number of cases in Devon is 1322. In Torrige the number is 57, with a single new case last recorded on 19 August; however, no further infections since then. North Devon District is on 128 positive cases.

School Transport

Details are now being finalised for school and college transport for September. This embraces contracted transport for both mainstream pupils and those with special educational needs, and public transport. DCC have made use of special Government funding and has arranged for additional dedicated school buses to duplicate some public bus services where social distancing would otherwise make it impossible to accommodate everyone.

Economy News

Some unambiguous positive news on the TV for a change with the announcement that Appledore Shipyard will reopen.

In other news, DCC are looking at establishing more rural 'work hubs' — essentially small mini offices that people can use as an alternative to working from home or travelling to a town/city office. Even if we do see a return to a relative 'normality' I suspect a lot more people will be working from home than before. I think this is an opportunity for us in Devon as it is no longer a 'given' that to get a highly paid or skilled job you have to leave the County and go to a large city. Having these work hubs along with improved broadband and internet coverage will be essential. I am working with Torrige District Council's Economic Development Team to look at a couple of potential work hub sites in Torrington Rural.

Highways

I am hoping that in early September Highways will be contacting the Parish to outline the local works and priorities for this year.

District — Steve Hearse has been appointed as new Chief Executive. Councillors confirmed reopening of Appledore shipyard. Regarding Corona virus, 30 new cases had been confirmed in Plymouth, underlining the importance of social distancing and regular hand washing.

Cllr. Clarke explained that Climate Change Subcommittee had discussed Diversity Plan in conjunction with DCC. Overall, subcommittee has 2.5 years left to add to Carbon And Biodiversity plan.

2) Village Hall / Social Club — due to current Covid policy of Village Hall / Social Club, it is presently not practical to use hall and councillors decided to use online platforms for now.

3) Youth Club — None

4) PCSO/Police Report — No crimes, one incident logged.

5) Playing Field

Invoice for repairs to play hut after storm damage — Not received yet.

Modification of goal posts and repositioning of basketball hoop — in process, within two weeks.

20.59 Minutes of Meeting from 22 July 2020

Minutes signed off and approved as a true record.

20.60 Matters arising from last Minutes

None

20.61 New Matters

Co-option of Ian Newberry — Co-option was proposed by Cllr. Brice, seconded by Cllr. Williams. All agreed. Ian Newberry accepted co-option.

Actions taken: Clerk to send relevant paperwork to Ian Newberry.

Co-option of Peter Jeffery to be put on September agenda.

Parish Online Renewal £36.00

Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Williams seconded. All agreed.

Actions taken: Cheque to be written out and countersigned by Cllrs. Brice and Pengilley.

Post-meeting Note: Cheque was signed and sent off on 1 September 2020.

20.62 Planning

Fodder Store, land at Bowling Green Farm, Yarnscombe, Barnstaple, EX31 3LW

Ref. No: 1/0695/2020/AGR — Application being considered

Councillors had no concerns and supported application.

Actions taken: Clerk to forward relevant comments to planning department.

20.63 Additional Planning

None

20.64 Accounts

Parish Online £36.00 — see item 20.61

Meeting closed 7.50pm.

3rd September 2020