

YARNSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 22nd April 2026

7.30pm, Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Brice (Chair), Ellison, Newberry, Pengilly, Cllr. Elliott (Torridge District Council/TDC) and M.Dymond (Clerk)

26.31 Apologies, Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllrs. Cooke, Farr, Jeffery and Cllr. Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (Devon County Council/DCC). Cllr. Cottle-Hunkin tried to join online, but was unable to do so. There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

Actions taken: Councillors remarked that Cllr. Farr had missed a number of meetings and should he miss six meetings without given proper reason for absence, he would cease to be councillor. Clerk to find out how many meetings were missed and to contact Cllr. Farr to resolve the issue.

26.32 Public Participation and Feedback

Parishioner had contacted chair complaining about broken/damaged finger posts along footpaths in the Tawstock area. He queried, whether parish council could repair/replace them. The council would be responsible for the cost, so at present there are no funds available.

Actions taken: Report repairs /replacements needed to DCC.

26.33 Representatives Reports

- 1) County/District Councillors
- a) COUNTY

Libraries:

We were really pleased to successfully receive grant funding from central government to support modernisation of many of our libraries. The £200k from central government was match funded with £100k from DCC and £100k from Libraries Unlimited

[Funding awarded to upgrade technology in Devon's Libraries – News](#)

The results of the extensive library consultation are currently being considered and a report will be going to cabinet 21st May where decisions will be made on the future of the service.

Train 4 Tomorrow:

More funding has been secured to deliver skills bootcamps across Devon. This opens up such fantastic opportunities for people looking to upskill or change career. Please do spread the word. [Extra funding will help more adults access Train4Tomorrow Skills Bootcamps - News](#)

Highways:

I have been out and about in the highways van looking at many of the issues across the area. I've even bought myself a hi-vis jacket for looking at potholes! Cllr Peter Jeffrey has been in touch regularly regarding the state of the road near him in Yarnscombe. The NHO has agreed to mark it up for "PIP patching"- small areas of resurfacing which should provide some improvements. For the long term though we have put the road forward for the "recycled road" scheme. This was done to a road in St Giles area a couple of years ago and was viewed as a successful and efficient way to deal with the very poor road surface. It's for roads which have got so bad they essentially get ploughed up and the

material is laid back down to create a new surface. It doesn't create the perfect road you would get with complete resurfacing but we think it could be a really good solution for some of our rural roads.

Local councillor grants:

Our locality budget is being increased to £10,000 this year which is great news for local communities. Please get in touch if there is a project or organisation which you feel could benefit from some funding. I am also pleased to say the youth grant is reopening next week with £160,000 available in the form of small grants to support groups and activities for young people aged 11-25

[Almost £400,000 went to community projects, local events and good causes last year – News](#)

Visit with North Devon MP to WM Ironwork Ltd, Newton Tracey:

I was pleased to visit WM Ironwork Ltd in Newton Tracey recently, alongside North Devon MP Ian Roome. Founded in 1977, this family-run business has grown from a small local workshop into one of the South West's leading steelwork companies, now employing over 100 people and delivering bespoke projects across the UK.

The company has evolved from its agricultural manufacturing roots—well known locally for products such as the sheep turnover crate—into a diverse operation, with around half of current production focused on balconies for the construction sector.

It was encouraging to hear about their apprenticeship programme, including meeting a female apprentice who is developing skills and working towards a manufacturing qualification. Opportunities like this are vital for young people in our rural communities. We also discussed challenges facing the business, including rising energy costs, difficulties recruiting skilled staff, and the importance of fast and reliable broadband—an issue I am actively pursuing. Although just outside my division, the business has strong ties to Torrington Rural, and I was delighted to support and highlight this important local employer.

b) DISTRICT

The new Crisis & Resilience Fund has been approved. Eligibility criteria can be found on the TDC website. Climate Change Committee in process of publishing report. West Park Yarnscombe Barnstaple Devon EX31 3LZ , Ref. No: 1/0039/2026/FULM, application has been called in to full committee. Cllr. Brice's report has been passed on to Environment department.

2) Village Hall / Social Club
None.

3) Youth Club
None.

4) PCSO/Police Report
Cllr. Elliott still trying to establish means of contact between councils and PCSO's. Clerk had received invitation to join meeting via Microsoft Teams every four weeks on Thursday evenings, 7.30pm. Clerk is unable to attend, due to work commitments.

Actions taken; Clerk can forward invitation to councillors, in case any of them is able to attend

- 5) Playing Field
Grass will be cut, if and when weather allows.
Actions taken: None at present

26.34 Minutes of Meeting of 25th March 2026

Minutes were approved and signed off as a true record

26.35 Matters arising from last Meeting

- 1) Amendment to Minutes of 25th February 2026 – In a follow up to problems with setting up payment limits when using electronic payments, it has been noted in March minutes that for now two councillors sign invoices and electronic payment schedule, clerk to add payment date to schedule once payment is made.
Actions taken: None at present.
- 2) Setting up of Community Hub – no news as yet, Cllr. Newberry is waiting for response from Village Hall Committee. The community hub needs to be identified first, before Cllr. Newberry can order info pack.
Actions taken: Cllr. Ellison to contact his daughter who is member of Village Hall Committee.
- 3) Assertion 10 – Councillor Profiles
All councillors happy with profiles posted on website, Cllr. Pengilly's profile had been slightly amended, as he is no longer website administrator.
Actions taken: None at present.
- 4) Grant for CAB as agreed at meeting in January 2026
Pay grant now, as council had decided to continue with signing of invoices and signatures on payment schedule.
Actions taken: Clerk to pay grant of £50-00 to CAB via BACS

26.36 New Matters

- 1) DALC Invoice for annual subscription 25/26 £141.48. Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Pengilly seconded. All agreed.
Actions taken: Clerk to pay DALC via BACS. Payment schedule and invoice signed and countersigned
- 2) Parish Salary Recharge £ 2009.19 Cllr. Brice proposed, Cllr. Pengilly seconded. All agreed.
Actions taken: Clerk to pay DALC via BACS. Payment schedule and invoice signed and countersigned.

26.37 PROW Monthly Report

Awaiting response.

26.38 Planning

None.

26.39 Additional Planning

1/0289/2026/FUL | Demolition of an existing agricultural barn and erection of 1no. replacement dwelling together with associated works in lieu of Class Q (1/0984/2025/AGMB) (Self-build)

Actions taken: None at present.

26.40 Accounts

- 1) Bank reconciliation January to March 2026
Bank reconciliation had been carried out.
Yearly bank reconciliation and signing of cash book
Actions taken: Yearly bank reconciliation had been carried out and countersigned by chair, chair signed cash book.

- 2) Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement 2025/26
Clerk read out Governance statements, councillors agreed.
Clerk presented Annual Accounting Statement 2025/26
Actions taken: Clerk and chair signed and dated Annual Governance Statement and Annual Accounting Statement.

- 3) Signing of Exemption Certificate as required by External Auditor
Actions taken: Clerk and chair signed and dated Exemption certificate.

- 4) DALC Invoice for annual subscription £141.48 see item 20.36

- 5) Parish Salary Recharge £ 2009.19 see item 20.36

Meeting ended at 8:20pm



Alphabet of Parishes

Yarnscombe