**RIVER YEALM & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION**

Registered Charity No 262929.

##

**MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE RYDA**

**Held at 39 Court Road, at 7.30pm Tuesday 9th January 2018**

1. **Welcome and Apologies**. The Chairman welcomed Robin Forrester to the meeting. Apologies were received from Alan Lomax and Suzanne Sparrow.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**. The Minutes of the meeting on 21st November 2017 were approved. The Chairman confirmed that he will be stepping down at the AGM in April 2018.

3. **Chairman’s Report**.

* Water Tower. SW Water will commence work in the next few weeks to improve the external appearance of the tower.
* The Community Shop & Post Office. David Stembridge has confirmed that the target of £10 000 has been achieved, thanks to the ongoing generosity of locals. This will allow the Post Office to continue offering services for the following year. RYDA will confirm the percentage of responses via its Newsletter. Helen Lancina to action.
* Harbour Clean-up. This year’s clean-up date will be on 31st March 2018 (Easter Saturday).
* Newton Downs Farm. CORE has confirmed that it has purchased the Solar Farm from Good Energy for £5.8M. The Yealm Community Energy Group (YCE) has 3 years to raise sufficient equity to buy it for total community ownership. NDSF expects to achieve an income for the community of £20K a year (£1M over 30 years).
* Reporting of Planning Applications. A South Hams Planning Officer has raised concerns regarding the potential breach of copyright when planning applications are presented in the newsletters. Chairman to action.
* South Devon AONB. South Hams has initiated a project to rectify the on-going difficulties with local amenity groups, in respect of the AONB doing insufficient to protect our local AONB. There are plans to coordinate the Neighbourhood Plan Groups, the AONBs (South Hams and Tamar) and SHDC/WDBC. Planning Officers will focus on matters such as access to housing and highway safety. The aim is to provide a ‘louder voice’ by coordinating the interested parties. The leading Planning Officer (Tom Jones) aims to bid for funds that the Government has set aside. This application is fully supported by RYDA, The Environment Group (led by Peter Brown) and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The aim is to employ 2 Planning Officers to facilitate the deciphering of plans protecting the waterfront and identify the relevant policies to be employed in Neighbourhood Plans. This will enable the production of Development Plan Documents which will apply across the relevant AONBS.

4. **Acting Treasurer’s Report.** Nothing to report.

5. **Secretary’s Report**.

* New Committee Member. Details to be passed onto The Chairman.

6. **Parking Study.**

* Parking in Newton and Noss. Following on from the Neighbourhood Plan regarding parking in the villages, the Committee discussed the possibility of creating and funding an independent ‘Community Action Group’. The Committee felt that it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to take ultimate responsibility and ownership of the outcome and for them to be kept informed and involved throughout the consultation process. The Committee discussed advertising, possibly at The Café and on The Green. Robin Forrester to action.

7. **RYDA Website**. The RYDA Website is up and running and accessible from all devices, providing a regularly updated local service for the community, thus having achieved its original aim. The focus is clearly on Newton and Noss, with links to follow to access clubs and activities in Yealmpton and Brixton that are unavailable locally. Website Administrator, Lesley Dempsey, suggested including footpaths along the River Yealm (Wembury area) within the remit of the Website, nearest alternative churches and further clubs that are available in other villages. The previously mentioned Website format has yet to be resolved. [www.ryda.org.uk](http://www.ryda.org.uk) which has been developed by Lesley and <https://rydamembers.wixsite.com/mysite> which is being developed by Peter, have a degree of duplication and, maybe, incompatibility. The possibility of altering the front page of the Website to include a calendar and booking system for clubs that do not have their own system in place was discussed, with the proviso that they are not in direct competition with local amenities. While the original plan was to provide a fully interactive Community Diary, the Committee raised concerns about introducing this in Stage 1 of the Website. At present, it is more appropriate to scan and insert a copy of the Diary at the beginning of each month and to introduce an interactive diary during the Stage 2 process. Once the Website has reached the point of just needing routine maintenance, Lesley will build on this foundation and develop it further. The Website will be addressed at the AGM in April, further advertised as live and the responses subsequently reviewed.

8. **Planning Report.** No detailed report as Peter Pritchard was absent.

* Briar Hill Farm. Planning Application to lift restrictions on 2 of the 3 houses to allow them to be put on the open market. No comments have been submitted to date, deadline for comment is imminent.
* Westerly/59 Yealm Road. Planning decision still awaited.
* 48 Yealm Road. Planning decision still awaited. The major issue appears to be the increase in roof height, with several local objections. This will be discussed on Thursday 11th January at the Planning Committee.
* Land opposite Thorndean. Nothing to report.

9. **AGM Arrangements.**

* Possible dates. Tuesday 10th /17th / 24th April. The Chairman will check the Community Diary and confirm the date with the Committee.
* Speaker. The Committee suggested: Challenges of a C21 Farmer / The History Book. Christopher Lunn to action.
* Wine and Nibbles.Helen Lancina to source.

10. **Any Other Business:**

* Air Ambulance. A possible location where the Air Ambulance can land at night.
* Honours. The Committee discussed the correct procedure to follow. As these relate to a Civil Recommendation, the first step is perhaps to engage the Lord Lieutenant as he has to sign it off.

11. **Dates of Next Meetings:**

* 20th March 2018 (Stuffing). Shore Steps House

\_\_\_th April 2018 (AGM)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Helen Lancina

Hon Secretary RYDA