

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Simon Paynter

Clerk: David Brough

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 17th March 2021 at 8pm using Zoom video conference

- 1 **Present:** Cllrs Simon Paynter (Chairman), Paul Alexander, Sam Edwards, Frank Morgan (arrived for item 13), Sarah Croft.
Apologies accepted: Peter Wilkinson (Vice Chairman).
Absent: Cllrs Craig Young, Robin Mackonochie (Unwell), Borough Cllr Martin Towler (Clash of meetings). No parishioners were in attendance.
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda** – None
- 3 **Requests to grant dispensation for declared interests** – None
- 4 **Public Open Session:** No parishioners were in attendance.
- 5 **Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting** held on 20th January 2021 and the extraordinary meeting on 3rd March 2021.
Resolved to approve both sets of minutes as an accurate record of the meetings.
- 6 **Matters Arising (Clerk's report on the Action List)**
 - Grant application for match funding for the parish council owned streetlights has been submitted to CBF; meeting expected towards the end of March.
 - Letter of support submitted to CBF on behalf of Melchbourne Parochial Church Council for their grant request for "stonework repairs to the tower" at St Mary Magdalene Church.
 - Five new trees for Yelden should be arriving at Cllr Alexander's house imminently for planting.
- 7 **Correspondence (requiring council attention):** (Names always withheld for Data Protection)
 - None requiring council attention.
- 8 **Crime report**
 - *Sanitised crime reports covering 30th December to 28th February showed one "Burglary – residential" High St Yelden 08/01/2021, and one "Criminal Damage" Knotting Rd Melchbourne 02/01/2021. No recorded actions.*
 - *Community Priority: The North Rural Community Policing have requested parish councils to put forward their next requested crime priority. Due to an increase in recorded incidents, the policing team have suggested Vehicle Crime as the priority.*
Resolved to put forward Burglary as the parish council's priority.
- 9 **Community Litterpick 2021**
Proposal from Cllr Young: To discuss/debate dates for a 2021 community litterpick.
To be moved to the next meeting in the absence of Cllr Young.
- 10 **Speed sign stickers for wheelie bins**
Proposal from Cllr Croft: To purchase "30mph – Please drive carefully" wheelie bin stickers for the houses on Knotting Road. Examples circulated to councillors.
To be moved to the next meeting due to the absence of multiple councillors.
- 11 **Grass cutting**
To allocate the grass cutting for Melchbourne and Yelden for the coming year.
Resolved to move forwards with RKR Estates as grass cutting provider on the basis that they are experienced in the nuances of the cuts for Melchbourne and Yelden, on the quality of the cuts, and on the basis that other providers have not been forthcoming in the past due to the size of the contract.

12 **Planning:**
New applications

None

Monitoring of applications and enforcement

- *APPLICATION NO: 20/02891/FUL Full Planning Application*
PROPOSAL: Erection of new grain store and access to public highway
LOCATION : Crowfield Farm Melchbourne Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1BH
MYPC response: Request for visual screening.
Bedford BC: Refused (due to the... harm of the development on the character of the surrounding rural landscape)
- *Reference: 18/00949/FUL TYPE: Full Planning Application (Amended)*
Location: The Chequers Inn High Street Yelden Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1AW
Proposal: Proposed extensions & alterations to Public House & residential development of 4 dwellings consisting of 2 three bed & 2 four bed dwellings with associated parking and access.
MYPC: Resolved not to object with a number of conditions (July 2019 & Nov 2020).
Bedford BC: Refused at Planning Committee.
- *Reference: 18/00253/UNAUTU (Previously 14/00103/UNAUTU)*
Location: Lot 3 at Tall Oaks Farm, Melchbourne Road, Riseley, Beds.
Details: Unauthorised use investigation and Enforcement Notice served by Bedford BC.
Permanent County Court injunction is now in place to prohibit residential occupation and the stationing of caravans/motorhomes for non-agricultural purposes. Entrance gates were required to be compliant by June 2020. Bedford BC require more time to follow this up. (Planning contact: Peter White) **No further update.**
- *Reference: 14/00392/UNAUTU. Location: Hill Farm, Melchbourne Road, Riseley.*
Details: Investigation regarding the right to live on the land. Planning Enforcement Notice served. Appeal to Planning Inspectorate dismissed & Enforcement Notice upheld.
Matter currently remains with Bedford BC Legal (Human Rights). (Planning contact: Peter White). **No further update.**

13 **Councillors' Reports and Updates:**

- Ward Councillor – Cllr Martin Towler
Report circulated to councillors and is available on request to the Clerk.
- Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Trust – Cllrs Mackonochie & Young
Councillors not in attendance and no CBF meetings have been held.
- Highways – Cllrs Mackonochie & Paynter
Noted that repairs to some, but not all, of the potholes had been carried out.
Noted that the works to repair the culvert under Knotting Road will be carried out during the summer holidays to minimise disruption as much as possible – the road will require 24/7 closure for an extended period.
- General update & Drains.
No issues noted.
- Streetlights.
No issues noted.
- Report from meetings attended by councillors
None known.
- Report on Speeding (VAS) – Cllr Morgan
Cllr Morgan is still to investigate a more westerly location for the Knotting Road speed sign – to encourage a reduction in speed earlier.
- Report on River Til/Yelden Flood group – Cllr Alexander
Noted the following items: A flood meeting with Bedford BC Resilience team is imminent – Cllr Alexander to report back the outcome. The Flood Group are building video evidence of issues. Vegetation is being cleared along the River Til to improve water flow.

14 **Finance**

- The following payments were approved:

				Payments
Date	Category	Payee	Description	Gross
24 February 2021	Yelden Tree Project	BBC	5 trees for Yelden	333.00
24 February 2021	Maintenance	BBC	Melchbourne Salt bin refill	93.70
10 March 2021	Section 137 (Grants out)	Stodden Church	Honeycomb grant	100.00
10 March 2021	Training: Councillors	Norfolk PTS	Planning training	275.00
17 March 2021	Yelden Tree Project	David Brough	Spacers and tree ties	22.59
17 March 2021	Staff Costs	HMRC	HMRC PAYE	225.80
17 March 2021	Staff Costs	David Brough	Salary Feb/Mar	583.12

- The following account balances were noted. The P&L variance to budget showed no material differences:

2020/21 - Balance Sheet - March 2021

		£
Lloyds Current Account	Current Balance (Forecast)	29,856
TOTAL at Bank		29,856
Funds allocated		23,326
General Reserve (estimated)		6,530
TOTAL Funds		29,856

- 15 **Any Other Business** (For future agendas – no decisions can be taken)
None.

- 16 **Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday, 19th May 2021 at 8pm – Annual meetings – Location TBC.