

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Simon Paynter

Clerk: David Brough

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 19th May 2021 at 8pm in Melchbourne Village Hall

- 1 **Present:** Cllrs Simon Paynter (Chairman), Paul Alexander, Sam Edwards, Frank Morgan, Sarah Croft, Craig Young, Robin Mackonochie, and one parishioner.
- 2 **Chairman's end of year statement for Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council for 2020/21**
Cllr Paynter provided a statement on behalf of the parish council. The full transcript can be found in the appendix.
- 3 **MYPC Treasurer's report – presented by the Clerk**
David Brough presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of the parish council. This can be found in the appendix.
- 4 **Matters raised by parishioners**
Public open forum: One parishioner spoke on behalf of Melchbourne Parochial Church Council to raise awareness of the poor state of the church building (Tower at St Mary Magdalene) and the ongoing fundraising; in particular the tower needs work to ensure it does not become dangerous. The PCC is £5-10k short of their target (c. £100k) that will show enough match-funding to unlock the remaining funds from a church grants body. The PCC receives no funding from the Church of England or the Government.

Date of the next **Annual Parish meeting:** Wednesday, 18th May 2022 at 8pm – Location TBC.

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman's End-of-Year Statement for 2020/2021

Your parish council

Like with other organisations, the year has been coloured by the restrictions imposed by Covid. Village life has been impacted but the parish council has managed to serve our community. Who would have thought that eighteen months ago that we would be conducting business on screens, but this has worked well and we have managed to keep on top of things. We've also had a tough year with flooding and our Flood Group have done a fantastic job of supporting the community through this – thanks especially to Cllr Alexander.

We remain a full council with 8 councillors. We said goodbye to Helen Bone during 2020 and were joined by Sarah Croft, so welcome to her. Your other councillors are me, Simon Paynter, Craig Young, Paul Alexander, Sam Edwards, Robin Mackonochie, Frank Morgan, and Peter Wilkinson.

Work this year

We have a **new website** where you can find all our agendas and minutes www.melchydpc.gov.uk We purchased a **new bench** for Yelden, which is due to be installed shortly. Cllr Alexander kindly **planted five new trees** – Field Maples and Hornbeams for us on the Yelden common land.

As ever, a number of **planning applications** have been reviewed during the year – the parish council is a consultee to the borough planning process. To ensure we are carrying out this function correctly we all attended planning training given by a professional planning officer. We have formed two planning committees to ensure we always review planning applications transparently, even when we don't have council meetings.

The parish council requested the **40mph buffers** at the entrance to both villages in an effort to bring speeds down. We also requested **horse warning signage** to be installed in Yelden and ensured that a **horse friendly gate** was installed at the top of Church Lane where anti-social behaviour was occurring.

The parish council worked alongside the borough council to ensure trees were maintained, drains were cleared and potholes were attended to – I thank them for their support despite challenging resource constraints.

There was no village **litterpick** in 2020 due to Covid but we are hoping we'll be able to have one in 2021 – watch this space.

This year we resolved to retain the **precept** at £7,365 so as not to additionally burden residents during a difficult year. We provided a small grant to the Honeycomb publication for printing costs and for their new media package.

Two of the four speed feedback signs were placed in permanent locations this year, and we have been collecting data to determine if we have a speeding problem, as well as using the signs to encourage speed reduction. Of note were the high levels of speeding at the Melchbourne Knotting Road speed sign, with 32% breaking the speed limit. Thank you to Cllr Frank Morgan for his dedication to routinely changing all the batteries.

Coming up...

One of our largest projects is about to come to fruition with the **upgrade to LED of 13 parish council streetlights**. We've selected a supplier of heritage lanterns at a higher cost so as not to detract from the streetscene; however, we have been fortunate to receive a grant of over £9,000 towards this upgrade from the Chelveston Benefit Fund, to whom we are extremely grateful.

We expect the coming year to involve progress from the borough council on the **Local Plan 2040**, for which two sites have been put forward in the Yelden area: Industrial development at Chelveston Renewable Energy Park, and a proposed 70 dwellings at Church Field with access on to Church Lane. These will need to pass stringent validation with the borough council, including consultation, before being admitted to the Local Plan. This does not bypass the normal planning application process; full planning applications will still be required.

I look forward to what the coming year brings; let's hope for a marked improvement on the last one... I'd like to thank the councillors and the clerk for their dedication and hard work.

Simon Paynter Chairman – Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council
Treasurer's report

2020/21 P&L (Adjusted for VAT) - As at March 2021

<u>Income</u>		YTD (Actual) Net	Annual Budget	Budget (Part year)	Variance
Precept Income		7,365	7,365		
Grass Cutting Income		3,324	3,324		
Other Income		0	0		
VAT Refund		0	0		
Allotment Income		13	13		
CiL Receipts (Section 106)		0	0		
Bank Interest		0	16		
Total Income		10,702	10,718		
<u>Outgoings</u>					
Employment Costs	Staff Costs	4,177	4,000		
	NJC Living Wage increase	0	400		
		4,177	4,400	4,159	-18
Admin	Village Hall Hire	0	90		
	Payroll fees	48	0		
	ICO - Annual Data Protection	40	35		
	Membership BATPC	93	93		
	Training: Clerk	0	0		
	Training: Councillors	335	60		
	Clerk Expenses	0	16		
	Internal Audit	135	135		
	Website running cost	163	270		
		814	699	661	-153
Insurance	Insurance	213	319	250	37
Parks and open spaces	Maintenance	274	700		
	Yelden Tree Project	356	0		
	Grass Cutting	2,059	2,100		
	Streetlights: Elect & Maint	1,160	1,300		
		3,848	4,100	3,875	27
Section 137 (Grants out)		100	500	473	373
Capital Expenditure		0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	Laptop for clerk	654			
	Defib Maintenance & Speed sign accrual	0	700		
		654	700	662	8
Total Outgoings		9,805	10,718	10,079	274
Year To Date Net P&L		897	-0		

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

2020/21 - Balance Sheet - March 2021

Lloyds Current Account	Current Balance (Forecast)	£
		29,856

Allocation of Balance Sheet

Remainder of non-project budgeted expenditure	-913	
Budgeted accrual for Defib and VAS maintenance	-300	
River Til Reserve	-12,256	
Allotments Reserve	-1,422	
VAT refund due (Approximation)	704	
Streetlights	-9,139	
General reserve	-6,530	Balancing figure
TOTAL	0	