

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Simon Paynter

Clerk: David Brough

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 18th May 2022 at 8pm in Melchbourne Village Hall

- 1 **Present:** Cllrs Simon Paynter (Chairman), Sarah Croft, Jason Gordon, Sam Edwards, Frank Morgan, Craig Young, Peter Wilkinson, David Brough (Clerk), and one parishioner.
- 2 **Receipt of minutes from the Annual Parish meeting on 19th May 2021**
The meeting minutes were received and acknowledged to be accurate.
- 3 **Chairman's end of year statement for Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council for 2021/22**
Cllr Paynter read the statement on behalf of the parish council. This can be found in the appendix.
- 4 **Matters raised by parishioners**
One parishioner spoke about the following topics:
 - The condition of the local roads and the number of potholes. One of the potholes between Melchbourne and Riseley had damaged his car.
 - The output of the Chelveston windfarm which was reported to be running at a 24% capacity factor compared to the 30% that was quoted at the planning stage.

Date of the next Annual Parish meeting: Wednesday, 17th May 2023 at 8pm – Location TBC.

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman's End-of-Year Statement for 2021/2022

Your parish council

It has been another unusual year due to the pandemic, but in May 2021 we returned to physical meetings rather than using videoconferencing. I'm pleased that we have a full house of 8 councillors again for the year. One of our long-time councillors, Robin Mackonochie, stepped down when he moved away from Melchbourne and Jason Gordon took the vacancy. Jason had previously been on the parish council some years ago, so fitted straight into the role. Your current councillors are: Simon Paynter (Chairman), Peter Wilkinson (Vice Chairman), Paul Alexander, Sam Edwards, Frank Morgan, Sarah Croft, Craig Young, and Jason Gordon.

Work this year

I'm pleased that one of our largest projects (and most expensive) was completed with the **upgrade to LED of 13 parish council streetlights**. We selected a supplier of premium heritage lanterns for the benefit of the streetscene and were very fortunate to receive a grant of over £9,000 towards this upgrade from the Chelveston Benefit Fund, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Another high-profile piece of work was increasing the capacity of the Yelden pond and the building up of the south bank of the River Til for **flood prevention** reasons. The borough council's actions from their Section 19 Flood report, driven by the Christmas 2020 flooding, will take longer to action – we await details of their progress with a Natural Flood Management (NFM) solution – essentially retaining flood water upstream. A funding application will be placed with the Environment Agency for a feasibility study. It is felt that the funding of feasibility studies for the smaller actions, such as investigating the levels of the northern riverbank and watercourse crossings' capacity would be detrimental to the funding of the NFM scheme, so these are on hold at the moment.

Five **new trees** for Yelden were planted by Cllr Alexander on the Common land, and we thank him for that.

We issued a **community engagement survey** to allow us to receive feedback from our residents and to discover whether residents wished the parish council to apply for funding for any projects, such as playground improvements. The results will be considered during future decisions.

The Melchbourne **litterpick** was well attended in March this year. Thank you to all involved with that.

The new **Yelden bench** was installed by me (Simon Paynter) in 2021 – the location gives a great view of the village.



Councillor Paul Alexander also kindly **refurbished the bench** opposite the pond in Yelden, so you are now spoiled for choice in where to sit.



The parish council worked alongside the borough council to ensure drains were cleared and potholes were attended to – the roads are still in need of some work, but I thank them for their support despite challenging resource constraints. They installed a **new drainage pipe** under Knotting Road to resolve the flooding of the road, which was a significant piece of work carried out to a high standard. They also agreed to place a **“No through road” sign** in Yelden to deter large vehicles from incorrectly accessing Church Lane from the High Street, which does not allow access towards Chelveston.

In January we set the budget for the coming year and increased the **precept**. A Band D household saw an annual increase from £36.94 to £40.00. The increase relates to a loss of grant income from the borough council for grass cutting, which we no longer carry out, and we are accruing for River Til maintenance works.

We continue to use the four **speed indication devices** to discourage speeding, and we thanks Councillor Frank Morgan for his dedication to routinely changing all the batteries.

That was a fairly quick overview of the highlights of this year's work. I look forward to what the coming year brings for our villages. I'd like to thank the councillors and the clerk for their dedication and hard work.

Simon Paynter Chairman – Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council