

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Simon Paynter

Clerk: David Brough

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 15th November 2023 at 8pm in Yelden Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Simon Paynter (Chairman), Frank Morgan, Mark Fitzsimmons, Sarah Croft, Peter Wilkinson.

In attendance: David Brough (Clerk) and two members of the public.

- 1 **Apologies for absence:** Apologies accepted from Cllrs Paul Alexander (Away), Jason Gordon (Prior Commitment), Craig Young (Prior Commitment).
- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None.
- 3 **Requests to grant dispensations for declared interests:** None.
- 4 **Public Open Session:** No members of the public addressed the council during this part of the meeting.
- 5 **Approval of the minutes of the parish council meeting** held on 20th September 2023.
Resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 6 **Clerk's report on the Action List**
 - Melchbourne street scene works update: new coronation bench has been received but not yet installed. Verge works, dog waste bin relocating, and bench repairs have not yet taken place. Grant for half of the costs (£1313) was approved by Chelveston Wind Farm Trust and the funds have been received.
 - 20mph for Church Lane/Spring Lane: requested by the parish council with the following response from BBC Highways: *"We have added this request for the review of the speed limit to our list of similar requests from across the Borough. We currently do not have a budget for speed limit reviews, but this request will be considered for funding if monies are made available."*
- 7 **Finance**
 - **Resolved** to approve the payments listed in the appendix. Balances were noted, and Spend vs Budget report showed no concerns (see appendix):
 - *To receive the outcome of the 2022/23 external audit from Mazars: "...is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."*
The council received and noted the outcome of the external audit.
- 8 **Melchbourne Village Hall CCTV**
Proposal from Cllr Morgan: To consider placing an ANPR CCTV camera on the village hall in response to recent burglaries in the area.
Following a discussion about the logistics of installing a system and data protection concerns, it was agreed not to move forward with this item at this time.
- 9 **Footpath diversion consultation**
To agree a response to a borough council "Pre-Order Consultation" for the potential diversion of part of footpath Y17 in Yelden.
The council considered views from the landowners about the current siting of the footpath: the issue of dangerous dogs straying onto private property and constraints on the usability of a field divided by a footpath. It was **resolved** to support the proposal to divert the footpath as outlined by the pre-order consultation from the borough council.
- 10 **Crime report**
No reported crime since the last meeting.

David Brough, Clerk, Melchbourne & Yelden Parish Council
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11 **Planning:**

New applications received since the last meeting (to include any received after the agenda is issued up to the date of the meeting).

- APPLICATION NO: 23/02188/OUT Outline Application
PROPOSAL: Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved except for access and scale, for a proposed agricultural workers dwelling on land at Hill Farm, Riseley
LOCATION : Hill Farm Melchbourne Road Riseley Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1BY
Consultation expiry date: 8th November 2023. Extension granted until 16th November.

Resolved to object to this application on the following grounds:

- The parish council objects to the use of agricultural land for residential purposes, which is contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan.
- The parish council considers the application to be contrary to Local Plan Policy 7S for development in the open countryside; the application does not recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and will have an adverse effect on the environment/biodiversity.

Monitoring of applications and enforcement

The following is a long-standing item of enforcement and was noted by the council:

- Reference: 14/00392/UNAUTU. Location: Hill Farm, Melchbourne Road, Riseley.
Details: Investigation regarding the right to live on the land.
Update from BBC: Planning application 22/01571/MAF was refused by BBC Planning in November 2022 and 23/01212/FUL was refused in August 2023. BBC Planning Enforcement action will be dependent on the latest application above.

12 **Councillors' Reports and Updates:**

- Ward Councillor – Cllr Martin Towler
Ward Councillor Towler could not attend due to a clash with a borough council meeting.
- Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Trust
No items to note. Cllrs Young and Gordon, the CBF trustees, were not present to provide an update.
- Highways, drains and streetlights
 - The condition of road surfacing in Yelden was raised. Cllr Fitzsimmons is to send the Clerk a picture and location of the issue.
 - Cllr Wilkinson raised a concern over the blocking of the grill at a culvert on Knotting Road in Melchbourne. Cllr Wilkinson is to send the Clerk pictures of a potential solution that he noticed in use in another village.
- Report on Speeding (VAS) – Cllr Morgan
Cllr Morgan is still monitoring the state of the speed sign batteries, which appears to have improved. It was agreed that Cllr Morgan would ask the Clerk for new batteries as required.
- Report on River Til/Yelden Flood group – Cllr Alexander
Cllr Alexander was not present. However, Cllr Fitzsimmons, who is also a member of the Flood Group, confirmed there were no current issues and water had been draining away effectively.

13 **Business for future agendas – no decisions can be taken**
No items for future agendas.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday, 17th January 2024 at 8pm – Melchbourne Village Hall.

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council
Payments & Receipts - Nov 2023

Date	Category	Payee	Description	Receipts	Payments Gross	Payments VAT
26 September 2023	Chelveston Grant for Street Scene Works	CBF		1,313.00		
28 September 2023	Precept Income	BBC	Precept Part 2	4,055.50		
16 October 2023	Streetlights: Elect	NPower	NPower Streetlight (Qtrly)		34.89	
08 November 2023	Website running cost	CloudNext	.Gov Domain (Paid by clerk)		132.00	22.00
08 November 2023	Election costs	BBC	Admin costs for May 2023 election processes		91.46	
Not yet paid	Street Scene Works	D Ogilvie Engineering	Coronation bench		1,557.60	259.60
Not yet paid	Street Scene Works	J Gordon	Bolts		15.00	
Not yet paid	Website running cost	Eyelid	Website support		100.00	
Not yet paid	Staff Costs	Multiple	PAYE & Net Salary		876.53	
Not yet paid	Website running cost	CloudNext	.Gov Hosting		119.98	19.99
Not yet paid	Village Hall Hire	Yelden VH	Yelden Village Hall hire		20.00	

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

2022/23 - Balance - Nov 2023

	£
Lloyds Current Account Current Balance (Forecast)	20,212

Allocation of Balance Sheet

Remainder of budgeted expenditure	2,763	
Budgeted accrual for Defib and VAS maintenance	0	
River Til Reserve	9,956	
Allotments Reserve	1,422	
General reserve	6,071	Balancing figure
VAT refund due	426	Not yet received

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council
Spend vs Budget report

2022/23 P&L (Net of VAT) - As at Nov 2023

<u>Income</u>		YTD (Actual) Net	Annual Budget	Budget (Part year)	Variance
Precept Income		8,111	8,111		
Other Income	Chelveston Grant for Street Scene Works	1,313	0		
		1,313	0		
VAT Refund			0		
Allotment Income		0	13		
CiL Receipts (Section 106)		0	0		
Bank Interest		0	16		
Total Income		9,424	8,140		
<u>Outgoings</u>					
Employment Costs	Staff Costs	3,506	5,173		
		3,506	5,173	3,458	-48
Admin	Village Hall Hire	80	90		
	Payroll fees	39	0		
	ICO - Annual Data Protection	35	35		
	Membership BATPC	0	93		
	Training: Councillors	0	60		
	Clerk Expenses	55	16		
	Internal Audit	150	135		
	Website running cost	310	270		
	Election costs	91	0		
		760	699	467	-293
Insurance	Insurance	342	265	177	-165
Parks and open spaces	Maintenance	0	1,174		
	Streetlights: Elect	81	500		
		81	1,503	1,005	924
Grants out	Grant Honeycomb	100			
		100	200	134	100
Miscellaneous	Defib Maintenance & Speed sign accrual	588	300		
	Street Scene Works	1,313	0		
		588	300	201	-288
Total Outgoings		5,377	8,140	5,442	230