

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Peter Wilkinson

Clerk: David Brough

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 18th September 2024 at 8.15pm in Melchbourne Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Peter Wilkinson (Chairman), Sarah Croft, Paul Alexander, Jason Gordon, Simon Paynter, Frank Morgan, David Brough (Clerk).

1 **Apologies for absence:** Craig Young (Away), Mark Fitzsimmons (Unwell).

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 were present.

5 **Approval of the minutes of the parish council meetings** held on 26th June 2024 and 17th July 2024.
Resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

6 **Clerk's report on the Action List**

Update on Yelden playground grant application: The BBC UKSPF fund have confirmed their offer of a £20k grant still stands, despite the reduction in playground size due to Chelveston Benefit Fund not agreeing to the full grant request of £20k; only £10k was granted. The installation will now proceed.

7 **Finance**

- *To approve payments and note receipts.*

Resolved to approve the payments listed in the appendix.

- *To review the bank balance and the "Spend vs Budget" analysis.*

The council noted the balances and analysis with no concerns. There is an underspend of £1003 due to a resident carrying out the cutting of the common land and the allotment hedge not requiring a trim this financial year. See appendix for reports.

8 **Crime report**

Councillors noted the crime statistics report.

Crime Category	Crime Sub Category	Offence Start Date	Recorded Date	Offence	Address 1	Address 2
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	STALKING AND HARASSMENT	22/07/2024	01/08/2024	MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS	Park Road	Melchbourne

9 **Common Land trees**

Proposal from Cllr Alexander: To consider replacing the trees on the common land that have been cut down. These were new trees planted by the parish council.

It was agreed to support Cllr Alexander in his kind offer of replanting the trees at his own cost.

10 **Yelden High Street footway**

Proposal from Cllr Alexander: "To level the grass verge to create a safe roadside footway between Spring Lane and halfway up the High Street in Yelden".

Following a discussion of what work might be required, it was agreed that the parish council could not proceed with these works due to the high cost involved.

11 **Planning applications and enforcement:**

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

None at time of agenda issue.

David Brough, Clerk, Melchbourne & Yelden Parish Council

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- **Monitoring of applications and enforcement (for information)**

The parish council noted the following items:

- The below application, to which the parish council objected, has been **refused** by Bedford Borough Council.

APPLICATION NO: 24/00466/FUL

PROPOSAL: Erection of a temporary agricultural workers dwelling.

LOCATION : Hill Farm Melchbourne Road Riseley Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1BY

- The below application, to which the parish council provided support, was **refused** by Bedford Borough Council and is now being taken to **appeal** with the planning inspectorate.

PLANNING NO: 23/01311/FUL Full Planning

PROPOSAL : Conversion of existing barns to residential to create 6 No. new dwellings, with new access, car parking, landscaping and associated works

LOCATION : Woodleys Farm House Knotting Road Melchbourne Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1AG

- The following is a long-standing item of enforcement:

Reference: 14/00392/UNAUTU. Location: Hill Farm, Melchbourne Road, Riseley.

Details: Investigation regarding the right to live on the land.

History: Planning application 22/01571/MAF was refused by BBC Planning in November 2022, 23/01212/FUL was refused in August 2023, 23/02188/OUT in December 2023, and 24/00466/FUL in September 2024.

12 Councillors' Reports and Updates:

- Ward Councillor – Cllr Martin Towler
Cllr Towler was not present due to a clash of meetings.
- Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Trust
Cllr Gordon discussed the latest meeting of the trust (31st July), where this parish council only received half of the requested grant; the trustees had to consider the weighting of historic grants between all of the parishes.
- Highways, drains and streetlights
To receive any updates in relation to the water leak on Church Lane. This issue has now been resolved by Anglian Water.
- Report on Speeding (SIDs – Speed Indication Devices) – Cllr Morgan
To consider any costs and actions involved in maintaining the current SIDs.
Following a discussion of the issues with the two SIDs in Yelden, it was **resolved** to allocate up to £1200 to fix them. One SID had a cracked screen and the other had a potential issue with the radar system as it was temperamental in showing speeds. All four SIDs required new batteries. Clerk will make an application for £500 (Minor Awards) to the Chelveston Benefit Fund to partially offset the cost; if the application fails then the parish council will proceed with the fixes anyway.
- Report on River Til/Yelden Flood group – Cllr Alexander
Nothing to report.

13 Business for future agendas – no decisions can be taken None.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday, 20th November 2024 at 8pm – Yelden Village Hall.

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council
Payments & Receipts - September 2024

Date Paid	Category	Payee/Payer	Desc	Transfers	Receipts	Payments Gross	Cashbook Balance	Bank balance
Lloyds Bank							£ 19,592.63	£ 19,592.63
05/08/2024	Chelveston Fund Grant - Playgrc	CBF			£ 10,000.00			
13/08/2024	Streetlights: Elect	NPower	NPower Streetlight			£ 33.89		
02/09/2024	Ward Fund Grant - Playground	BBC			£ 1,000.00			
12/09/2024	Precept Income	BBC	Precept Part 2		£ 4,356.50			
16/09/2024	Streetlights: Elect	NPower	NPower Streetlight			£ 34.37		£ 34,880.87
NotYetPaid	Village Hall Hire	Melchbourne VH	Melchbourne Village Hall hire - May			£ 20.00		
NotYetPaid	Village Hall Hire	Melchbourne VH	Melchbourne Village Hall hire - Sept			£ 20.00		
NotYetPaid	Staff Costs	Multiple	Salary & Qtrly PAYE			£ 1,278.80		
NotYetPaid	Clerk Expenses	David Brough	A4 paper			£ 10.00	£ 33,552.07	

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council
Spend vs Budget report

2024/25 P&L (Net of VAT) - As at Sept 2024

<u>Income</u>		YTD (Actual) Net	Annual Budget	Full year (Est)	Variance
Precept Income		8,713	8,713	8,713	0
	Ward Fund Grant - Playground	1,000	0	1,000	
	Chelveston Fund Grant - Playground	10,000	0	10,000	
Other Income		11,000	0	11,000	11,000
VAT Refund			0		0
Allotment Income		0	13	13	0
CIL Receipts (Section 106)		0	0	0	0
Bank Interest		0	16	16	0
Total Income		19,713	8,742	19,742	11,000
<u>Outgoings</u>					
Employment Costs					
	Staff Costs	2,630	5,483	5,483	
		2,630	5,483	5,483	0
	Village Hall Hire	60	90		
	Payroll fees	14	80		
	ICO - Annual Data Protection	35	35		
	Membership BATPC	0	110		
	Training: Councillors	0	15		
	Clerk Expenses	10	16		
	Internal Audit	155	160		
	External Audit	0	0		
	Website running cost	0	270		
	Election costs	0	30		
Admin		274	806	801	5
Insurance					
	Insurance	379	450	379	71
	Maintenance	0	1,003	0	
	Streetlights: Elect	214	500	500	
Parks and open spaces		214	1,503	500	1,003
Grants out					
	Grants	0	200	200	0
Miscellaneous					
	Defib Maintenance & Speed sign accrual	0	300	300	
		0	300	300	0
Total Outgoings		3,496	8,742	7,663	1,079

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

2024/25 - Balance - Sept 2024

	£
Lloyds Current Account Current Balance (Forecast)	33,552

Allocation of Balance Sheet

Remainder of budgeted expenditure	4,357	
River Til Reserve	9,956	
Allotments Reserve	1,422	
Playground grants	11,000	
General reserve	6,818	Balancing figure
VAT refund due	13	