

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Peter Wilkinson

Clerk: David Brough

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 15th January 2025 at 8pm in Melchbourne Village Hall

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

- 1 **Apologies for absence and Introductions:** Simon Paynter (Away), Mark Fitzsimmons (Away), Craig Young (Work commitment).
Borough Councillor Martin Towler (Clash with BBC Full Council meeting).
- 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 attended.
- 5 **Approval of the minutes of the parish council meetings** held on 20th November 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 installation: The Village Hall Committee have now confirmed they are satisfied with the installation works, following some due diligence, and will be making the final payment to the supplier. This will then allow the parish council to make the second and final grant claim from the borough council's UKSPF fund.
- 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 still an underspend of approximately £1k due to a resident carrying out the cutting of the common land and the allotments hedge. See appendix for reports.
 - *To set the budget and precept for 2024/25.*
Councillors considered the draft budget prepared by the Clerk, which had a minor increase for inflation on maintenance costs. **Resolved** to set the precept at £8,910, which is a 0.6% increase in the parish-council portion of council tax, which equates to an extra 23 pence a year for a Band D property. Full budget is available upon request.
- 8 **Crime report**
No reported crime.
- 9 **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.
 - **Monitoring of applications and enforcement (for information)**
The below application, to which the parish council provided support, was **refused** by Bedford Borough Council and has now been **dismissed on appeal** by 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

*David Brough, Clerk, Melchbourne & Yelden Parish Council
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The below applications were **refused** by Bedford Borough Council and have now been taken to **appeal** with the planning inspectorate.

APPEAL BY: Mr L Collyer

PROPOSAL : Erection of single storey rear/side infill extension and internal alterations

PLANNING NO: 24/01241/LBC Listed Building Consent

LOCATION : Apple Tree Cottage 35 Knotting Road Melchbourne Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1BE

APPEAL BY: Mr and Mrs Hodson

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

PLANNING NO: 23/02188/OUT Outline

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

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 (now at appeal), and

24/00466/FUL in September 2024.

10 **Councillors' Reports and Updates:**

- Ward Councillor – Cllr Martin Towler

Not available for an update due to a clash with a borough council meeting.

- Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Trust

No meeting had taken place – nothing to report.

- Highways, drains and streetlights

It was reported that:

- The borough council's pothole team had been out very recently.
- The drain cover on Church Lane Yelden was once again leaking water and causing a hazard with ice – Clerk will report this to BBC Highways to raise with AWA again.
- A road safety barrier on the way towards Swineshead remained broken despite being reported some months ago – Clerk will chase with BBC Highways.
- There was a significant amount of mud on Church Lane – reported to BBC Highways.
- Report on Speeding (SIDs – Speed Indication Devices) – Cllr Morgan
Cllr Morgan reported that the SID by Trailly Close in Yelden had been fixed by Morelock (supplier) and was to be put back in place shortly. The second Yelden SID was still in the process of being repaired and had been sent back to the manufacturer in Germany.
- Report on River Til/Yelden Flood group – Cllr Alexander
Cllr Alexander noted a narrowing of the River Til along the High St. Cllrs Alexander and Paynter will aim to contact the adjacent landowner to request action.

11 **Business for future agendas** – no decisions can be taken

None recorded.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday, 19th March 2025 at 8pm – Yelden Village Hall.

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council Payments & Receipts - January 2025

Date Paid	Category	Payee/Payer	Desc	Transfers	Receipts	Payments Gross	VAT	Cashbook Balance	Bank balance
Lloyds Bank								£ 5,620.18	£ 5,620.18
15/11/2024	Streetlights: Elect	NPower	NPower Streetlight			£ 40.58	£ 1.93		
25/11/2024	Village Hall Hire	Yelden VH	Yelden Village Hall hire			£ 20.00			
25/11/2024	Grant Honeycomb	Stodden Church	Honeycomb grant			£ 150.00			
25/11/2024	Allotment Income	Yelden Allotments	Annual Allotment Income	£	13.00				
13/12/2024	Payroll fees	Red Shoes	Expenses Clerk: Qtrly payroll fees			£ 16.20	£ 2.70		
13/12/2024	Website running cost	CloudNext	.Gov Hosting (Paid by clerk)			£ 119.98	£ 19.99		
16/12/2024	Streetlights: Elect	NPower	NPower Streetlight			£ 47.48	£ 2.26		£ 5,238.94
Not Yet Paid	Website running cost	Eyelid	Website support			£ 100.00			
Not Yet Paid	Staff Costs	David Brough				£ 474.26			
								£ 4,664.68	

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

2024/25 - Balance - Jan 2025

	£
Lloyds Current Account Current Balance (Forecast)	4,665

Allocation of Balance Sheet

Remainder of budgeted expenditure	1,500	
River Til Reserve	9,956	
Allotments Reserve	1,422	
Playground grants (To be received)	-10,000	
VAT refund due (To be received)	-6,264	
General reserve	8,051	Balancing figure

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council
Spend vs Budget report

2024/25 P&L (Net of VAT) - As at Jan 2025

<u>Income</u>		YTD (Actual) Gross	YTD (Actual) Net	Annual Budget	Full year (Est)	Variance
Precept Income		8,713	8,713	8,713	8,713	0
	Ward Fund Grant - Playground	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	
	BBC UKSPF Grant	10,000	10,000	0	20,000	
	Chelveston Fund Grant - SID	500	500	0	500	
	Chelveston Fund Grant - Playground	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	
Other Income		21,500	21,500	0	31,500	31,500
VAT Refund		930		0		0
Allotment Income		13	13	13	13	0
CIL Receipts (Section 106)		0	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest		0	0	16	16	0
Total Income		31,156	30,226	8,742	40,242	31,500
<u>Outgoings</u>						
Employment Costs	Staff Costs	3,980	3,980	5,483	5,483	
		3,980	3,980	5,483	5,483	0
	Village Hall Hire	80	80	90		
	Payroll fees	65	59	80		
	ICO - Annual Data Protection	35	35	35		
	Membership BATPC	0	0	110		
	Training: Councillors	0	0	15		
	Clerk Expenses	10	10	16		
	Internal Audit	155	155	160		
	External Audit	0	0	0		
	Website running cost	220	200	270		
	Election costs	0	0	30		
Admin		565	539	806	801	5
Insurance		379	379	450	379	71
	Maintenance	0	0	1,003	0	
	Streetlights: Elect	350	335	500	500	
Parks and open spaces		350	335	1,503	500	1,003
Grants out	Grant Honeycomb	150	150			
		150	150	200	200	0
	Yelden Playground	37,200	31,000	0	31,000	
	Defib Maintenance & Speed sign accrual	286	238	300	1,385	
Miscellaneous		37,486	31,238	300	32,385	-32,085
Total Outgoings		42,909	36,621	8,742	39,748	-31,006
Year To Date Net P&L		-11,754	-6,395	0		494