

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Simon Paynter

Clerk: David Brough

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Melchbourne & Yelden Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday, 15th May 2024 at 8pm at Melchbourne Village Hall.

- 1 **Present:** Cllrs Simon Paynter (Chairman), Jason Gordon, Frank Morgan, Paul Alexander, Craig Young.
In attendance: David Brough (Clerk).
Apologies: Cllrs Peter Wilkinson (Away), Cllr Sarah Croft (Away).
- 2 **Receipt of minutes from the Annual Parish meeting on 17th May 2023**
The minutes of the previous meeting were received and agreed to be accurate.
- 3 **Chairman's end-of-year statement for Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council for 2023/24**
Chairman Simon Paynter presented the end-of-year statement – available in the appendix.
- 4 **Public open forum for groups and individuals**
No members of the public were present.

Date of the next Annual Parish meeting:

Wednesday, 21st May 2025 at 8pm – Melchbourne Village Hall

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman's End-of-Year Statement for 2023/2024

It's been a year now since the council elections – time flies. More recently, we were pleased to coopt Mark Fitzsimmons for Yelden to fill our final vacancy. Your eight councillors are therefore: Simon Paynter, Paul Alexander, Craig Young, and Mark Fitzsimmons for Yelden. For Melchbourne, Sarah Croft, Peter Wilkinson, Frank Morgan, and Jason Gordon. I thank them for their efforts during the year.

Councillors Craig Young and Jason Gordon represented the parish council for another year as trustees for the Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, which distributes funding to local village groups as part of the planning consents for the wind farm. The fund generously donated £1300 to the streetscene works in Melchbourne, which included the installation of an attractive bench for the coronation.

As ever, we provided responses to the borough council in relation to many planning applications in the parish. There were a number of domestic and agricultural applications, including an application related to Melchbourne Park, which is a listed building. We've also comment on bridleway and footpath diversions to support residents.

The parish council worked alongside (and pestered) the borough council to ensure drains were cleared and potholes were attended to – the roads are still in need of significant work, but I thank them for their support despite challenging resource constraints. They also repaired the wooden footbridge over the River Til at the bottom of the High St. We also had Mayor Tom Wootton attend our January meeting to update us on happenings at the borough council.

In January we set the budget and precept for the coming year; it was increased from £8,111 to £8,713 to account for rising costs, including the insurance premium. An average household would see this as a £2.79 increase for the year, so a fairly modest rise.

We continue to use the four speed indication devices to discourage speeding, and we thank Councillor Frank Morgan for his dedication to routinely changing all the batteries; a time consuming task.

I look forward to what the coming year brings for our villages.

Simon Paynter Chairman – Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council