

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Peter Wilkinson

Clerk: David Brough

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Melchbourne & Yelden Parish Council hosted the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday, 21st May 2025 at 8pm at Melchbourne Village Hall.

- 1 **Present:** Cllrs Craig Young (Vice Chairman – chaired this meeting), Paul Alexander, Jason Gordon, Sarah Croft, Frank Morgan, Mark Fitzsimmons, Simon Paynter, David Brough (Clerk).
Apologies for absence: Peter Wilkinson (Chairman – Away).
- 2 **Receipt of minutes from the Annual Parish meeting on 15th May 2024**
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 2024/25**
Vice Chairman Craig Young 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, 20th May 2026 at 8pm – Melchbourne Village Hall

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman's End-of-Year Statement for 2024/2025

It's been another busy and productive year for the parish council. Firstly, I'd like to thank all our councillors for their commitment and support: representing Yelden we have Craig Young, Paul Alexander, Simon Paynter and Mark Fitzsimmons; and for Melchbourne, Sarah Croft, Jason Gordon, Frank Morgan, and me. I'd also like to thank our Clerk, David Brough, for his hard work behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly.

One of the most notable achievements for the community this year was the installation of the new playground at Yelden Village Hall. While the project was led by the Village Hall Committee, the parish council was pleased to assist by applying for the grants and coordinating the necessary payments to help bring the project to completion. We are grateful to the Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (£10,000) and the borough council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (£20,000) for their generous support.

Planning continues to be a key focus. The council responded to several applications over the year, including residential extensions and developments in both villages. Notably, the ongoing appeal and enforcement history concerning Hill Farm. We also monitored outcomes of applications that progressed to the Planning Inspectorate.

Highways and drainage remain pressing concerns. We've continued to raise road maintenance issues with Bedford Borough Council, including potholes and a persistent water leak on Church Lane in Yelden, which was eventually resolved by Anglian Water Assets. I thank Cllr Alexander for his efforts in monitoring the River Til through the Yelden Flood Group and Cllrs Gordon and Young for representing the parish as trustees for the Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

On the matter of speeding, our four Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) have been invaluable – though not without their challenges. Two of the Yelden SIDs required significant repair this year, with one sent to Germany for servicing. Thank you to Cllr Frank Morgan for continuing to manage the time-consuming task of changing the batteries and monitoring the equipment.

We were pleased to support several community initiatives. We awarded a grant to the Honeycomb newsletter, supported local grant applications, and assisted in facilitating the Melchbourne litterpick event, following discussions with our insurance provider.

In January, the council set the precept for 2024/25 at £8,910 – a modest 0.6% increase, which equates to just 23 pence extra per year for a Band D household.

As ever, our work relies on collaboration and persistence. I thank all those who've engaged with us, raised concerns, or attended our meetings. Your input helps us better serve the needs of Melchbourne and Yelden.

Craig Young on behalf of Peter Wilkinson
Chairman – Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council