

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Mrs. Kate Gelder

Clerk: Mrs. Cheryl Ellis
Tel: 01933 314365

Minutes of Meeting for Electors followed by Parish Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 21 March 2018 in Melchbourne Village Hall at 8.00pm.

Please note that the public and press were excluded from items 18.42, 18.43 & 18.44.

Present: Borough Councillor Towler (MT) (late PSPC), Councillors Bone (HB), Franklin (AF), Mackonochie (RM), Paynter (SP), Prescott (PP).
Councillor Gelder (KG) was in the Chair.
There were no members of the public present.

18.22 Apologies for absence.

- Councillors Morgan (FM) (unwell) and Sizer (PS) (ill).

Meeting for the Electors.

Minutes of the Meeting for the Electors 2017 were confirmed and signed as correct.

A. Chairman's report presented APPENDIX 3. Report accepted HB/AF unanimous.

B. Treasurer's report presented APPENDIX 4. Report accepted RM/HB unanimous.

C. Discussion of matters raised by members of the public. There were no issues raised.

Parish Council Meeting.

18.23 Requests to grant dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interest.

- None.

18.24 Declarations of Interest in any agenda item.

- AF - item 18.42 The Chequers (family).

18.25 Approval of Minutes of 17 January 2018 meeting.

- Already circulated by email and signed as correct. HB/RM resolved unanimous.

18.26 Approval of minutes of Special Planning Meeting held on 15 February 2018 and Appendix 1 re Local Plan 2035.

- Already circulated by email. MYPC formulated response as per 4th consultation. Full comments as per Appendix 1 approved. Noted: deadline moved to 29 March & financial viability added to BBC website. HB/SP resolved unanimous.

18.27 Correspondence for discussion.

- Anglian Water Pumping Station, Melchbourne. Appearance of site, foliage screening & recently fenced off area. Report from HB - problems with joints & leaks found. Pipes either side of Knotting road to be dug up & relayed. Trees coming up. Site & storage cabins housed in fenced area. Work to take approx. 6 months.
- Installation of defibrillators. Site assessment by electrician 23 January. Both village hall sites suitable but now delayed due to an accident. Volunteers coming forward including a First Aider, Yelden. Arranging training when fully installed. Monitoring.
- Broadband - BBC developments following fibre optics to new Melchbourne cabinet installation, to be enabled Q2. Speed at properties, generally superfast up to 1.2km from cabinet as copper & speeds drop off. Hoped all in place end Q3 to Christmas.

Yelden, to be fibre to premise but work to start re new structure, dates TBA, structure survey carried out end January.

- Review of site appearance & hedge damage at cabinet site Melchbourne. Meeting BBC & Openreach 21/3 - photos to contractors - awaiting comments & action.
- Property damage & crime statistics. data reports & recent activity, Yelden intruders, Cottage on Green & thefts Brickyard Barns etc. Opportunist & avoided CCTV cameras. Car stolen in Swineshead but abandoned with baby inside. Advise on Newslane, be aware.
- Social media options and Data Protection requirements. Reviewing - clerk training 26/3
- Police, Community Priority Setting meeting 7 Feb. - review of notes, MYPC unable to attend. Speeding Enforcement plan with community Speedwatch. Patrols Plan of areas with follow up reports. Attending summer fetes plus crime prevention literature. Better reporting re burglaries etc. - publicise details. Not much reported for community, speeding still an issue.
- Noted: PCC Community Annual Survey re Police priorities. Publicise.
- Noted: new Police Officer Kerry Jones now assigned to area. Invite to May meeting.
- Consultation & review of Code Of Conduct - no suggestions or comments but noted.
- Parish & Town Council Network. Next meeting Tuesday 1 May. No-one able to attend but noted. Issue: big vs small parishes, differing issues.
- Neighbourhood Watch stickers requested - not sent. Village interest sought, no interest & no volunteers. Small community - happens naturally, information etc.
- Noted: Community Litter Pick 2018 - rearranged 7 April 2018 due to weather. Arrangements as before. Volunteers thanked.
- Community Orange Sack distribution. Permission given to leave sacks in church porches/ inside church. Suitable containers needed. KG to look in discount stores.
- Discussed & considered National Planning Policy Framework consultation, briefings sent by email. HB & clerk to look at & comment.
- Note interim report from MT - already circulated by email. Extra budget towards roads & ave. speed cameras. Local Plan, delayed decision re Bedford & Luton & Dunst. Hospital services. E. Eng Ambulance providing non emergency transport. St. John's housing scheme for homeless & Shared Lives voluntary scheme for adults with learning difficulties. Network Rail, electrification, bridge works. Thank you.
- Noted: annual Bulky Waste collection Saturday 5 May 2018. Publicise.
- Commemorative event 11 November 2018 to mark end of WW1. Silent Soldier scheme, life size silhouettes costing £100 (basic) favoured. Ask church wardens if can erect in church yards. Ask CRE if funding for two village projects. Link with Remembrance events. Review May.
- General Data Protection Regulation 2018. Developments, live in May, information toolkit now received.
- Noted: BBC Sustainable Drainage System Supplementary Planning Document now adopted.

18.28 Speeding.

- Police speeding data for Melchbourne & Yelden. FM pursuing with Highways - review progress at May meeting.

18.29 Church Lane, Yelden - anti-social behaviour.

- Legal process & consultations carried out. AP, Highways advises several important responses/observations: Horse Society suggest road a restricted by-way for carriages but not motor vehicles. Suggestion that top of Church Lane was a through road not a bridleway: will need more research. Can gates be placed further up? AP investigating & considering, will advise outcome.

18.30 Correspondence for information only.

- BATPC Bugle for March 2018 sent by email & marketing literature on table.

18.31 Planning.

- 14/00103/UNAUTU Lot 3 at Tall Oaks Farm, Melchbourne Road, Riseley, Beds. Unauthorised use investigation by Planning Enforcement. Enforcement Notice served. No appeal & clock stopped. Planning Enforcement progressing.
- 16/00431/UNDEV, Primrose Nurseries, Swineshead Road, Melchbourne. Unauthorised use investigation re containers on site. Planning application submitted see below. Enforcement case remains open until resolved.
- 14/00392/UNAUTU Hill Farm, Melchbourne Road, Riseley. Permission for erection of agricultural machinery store. Investigation re right to live on land. Planning Enforcement Notice now served. Appealing to Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/K0235/C/18/3192535. Resolved: send comments to Inspectorate - supporting Enforcement Notice, development creeping across area without planning applications being made. Very worried re effect on environment.
- 17/02538/S73 Huntingdon DC. Land at Top Farm & Little Staughton Airfield, Little Staughton. Variation of condition 3 & 4 of application 15/00940/FUL to extend life of solar farm from 25 to 40 years & amend wording re substation retention. MYPC no comments. HDC permission granted. Also 18/70010/SCRE EIA Screening Opinion, HCD not a EIA development.
- 11/02627/S73A St John Arms, Knotting Road, Melchbourne. temporary planning permission for toilet block 5 years now expired. Applicant reviewing renewal with new residents. Monitoring.
- 18/00280/S73A Primrose Nurseries, Swineshead Road, Melchbourne. Retrospective planning permission, retention of existing container building & installation of external timber cladding & windows/doors. Status of application, MYPC queried, not retrospective as application not for what is in situ. BBC: application is retrospective. MYPC resolved no objections to proposals but queried: why widows on storage unit?: development intrusive in rural area, need limits: site appearance review needed.

18.32 Poultry Buildings & Farm.

- 17/01328/FUL (ENC) land: North east of Westwood AD Plant, Bedford Road. Rushden. Erection of 10 poultry buildings & associated infrastructure. MYPC objected strongly. ENC to Planning Committee - Planning Officer recommended refusal, significant adverse landscape & visual effects & contrary to ENC Planning Policy. Withdrawn by applicant.

18.33 Chelveston Airfield.

- Community Fund Four Parishes Trust. Report from RM & AF, no developments.
- Review of revised wording to the Trust Deed objectives as recommended by the Charity Commission. Wording as per Appendix 2. Agreed & accepted **HB/SP resolved unanimous.**

18.34 Finance

Approval granted for the following payments HB/SP (signed KG/AF) unanimous:

- Clerk's salary for period 18/01/18 to 21/03/18 £724.95. Includes staff costs of setting up website & loading required data. (L.G.A. '72 s.112).
- Clerk's expenses £8.00. (s. 112).
- Rental - Melchbourne Village Hall March 2018 £10.00 (L.G.A. '72 s. 133).
- Rental - Yelden Village Hall special meeting, paid February 2018 £10.00. (s.133).
- Data Protection training for clerk BATPC 26/3 £10.00 already paid. (s.111).
- Yelden Growers for allotment hedge cutting £60.00 (Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908 s.26)
- Clerk reported bank reconciliations on all accounts completed successfully:

• Current Account	£12,924.70 (Projected £12,111.75).
• Reserve A/C (Allotments)	£ 1,420.38
• Reserve A/C (R. Til)	£ 12,239.49

18.35 Grass cutting contract.

- To review cutting in both villages and Yelden Common Land CL40. Hedges not yet done, not cut too much off.
- Contracts for 2018 - quotations from 2 contractors requested. Need 3rd - Henry Saunders suggested. Request quote.

18.36 Highways.

- Melchbourne. Report from HB - nothing to report.
- Melchbourne: review of drainage & flooding problems in Knotting Road. Pipes under cottage not sufficient & pipes along hedge congested with willow roots, same land owner. BBC drainage engineer to have a chat with land owner to discuss possible improvements & solutions. Review.
- Yelden. Report from SP - 1. Pot holes in Church lane to be repaired. 2. Top of hill, bus veered into ditch on RHS, some of ditch collapsed. 3. Need more 'horse rider' warning signs - to request signage from AP at top corner bend.
- Street lights. Review progress of survey from BBC engineers in May, new budget.
- Rubbish collection requested from new Yelden bin. Requested emptying & regular collection. Now emptied.
- Green bin collections frequency, review. Stopped 2 weeks before December, started middle March 2 weeks after some - losing out both ends. Write to BBC, please review & ensure same number of collections for all communities.
- Consider suggestion: additional roadside bulb planting programme in villages. SP - daffodils not native, a rural countryside area, need uncut areas for wildlife, need to consider where planting as grass cutting contractors cut verges and can create difficulties. Would prefer bluebells (native variety not Spanish), cowslips, primroses & wild flowers. Could dig out some patches & seed but can be costly eg £180 - 200: suggest CRE Fund. Elm suckers need more attention & removing from Yelden wild area (common land). Review bramble cutting, flora & fauna to encourage wildlife on common land. SP - will also advise Melchbourne & will liaise with volunteer. Thanked.

18.37 Frequency of Parish Council meetings.

- HB - suggests increasing the frequency. Meetings getting longer as more business & also more work for clerk. BBC using PC networks to offload more services & projects & more consultations etc. Agendas now too long, suggest 1 or 2 more meetings to cut down length. **HB/AF resolved unanimous - increase frequency to 6 per annum** - ie January to July as before then September & November. Amend Standing Orders for re-adoption at May meeting.

18.38 Ward Councillor Funding.

- Consider suggestions for projects 2018/19. Budget not set until April. Melchbourne: considering entrance gates at each village. FM to report & requesting costings. Review next meeting.
- Yelden: suggestion for salt bin, end Trailly Close but wild flower seeds & planting preferred.
- Noted: project funding deadlines: mid Sept - highways/green spaces: end Nov - litter & salt bins: end Dec - project for outside organisations.

18.39 River Til, Yelden & area flooding.

- River Til. To review the drainage capacity. Summary overview - nothing to report.
- Received & accepted various meeting notes & progress reports from Flood Group.

Standing Orders suspended & resumed.

18.40 Open forum for members of the public for future agenda.

- No members of public & no comments.

18.41 Confidentiality Resolution.

- It was discussed and agreed that items 18.42 The Chequers Inn, 18.43 Yelden Flood Group and 18.44 Clerk Salary will be treated as confidential business under the terms of Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.2. The public and press were excluded from the discussion of these items. **HB/KG resolved unanimous.**

18.42 The Chequers Inn, Yelden.

- Discussed feasibility documentation and costings, already sent by email. MYPC position unchanged and still in support. Proposed, pub open but not happen. NDP - resolved not to do, write to Design Architect, resolved at present time not to prepare NDP. Melchbourne - not do NDP & no SPA - community not want. Yelden - can still do NDP, many discussions, grant available & need village meeting. MT to send available details. Can be no compulsory purchase of pub.

18.43 Yelden Flood group.

- Consider of legal obligations and structure of Parish Council & clerk participation. Concerns, clerk doing more & more, KIV PC duties - suggested meeting notes prepared & follow up actions by others. Group under jurisdiction of BBC as Lead Flood Authority - Environment Agency CCTV camera installation under review following site survey. Flood Group to do letters re CCTV camera etc to community. Parish Councillors considered Code of Conduct as members of a community group - Yelden Councillors will support Group but as personal members rather than Councillors. **Resolved unanimous.** Clerk to advise.

18.44 Clerk Salary.

- Discussion and review the clerk's salary and hourly commitment. Increasing demands on time and extra meeting. Offered increase of £300 to £3,300 pa (between 6 meetings) wef May & next tax year. Clerk accepted & very grateful, thank you.

Meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

The next meeting will be on a Wednesday 16 May 2018 in Yelden Village Hall at 8.00pm and will be the Annual Council Meeting.

THIS WILL BE AN OPEN MEETING AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Signed _____

Date _____