

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUES. 8TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM

In the chair: Mr. P.J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. K. Chapman, Mrs. R. K. Marsh, Mr. D. Patient and Mrs. M. Pearce
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)

Together with 2 (two) members of the public

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. A. Gardiner, Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th March 2020 were read by the Clerk, confirmed and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4) BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2022

It was resolved not to enter the Best Kept Village Competition because some areas of the village are in need of improvement. Thanks were recorded to Mr. R. W. and Mrs. A.L. Gardiner for new planting along the Little Yeldham Road and other areas of the village. The result should look good in a couple of years when consideration can then be given to entering the competition.

5) GREAT YELDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

In the absence of Mrs. I. Parker no Great Yeldham Primary School report was given.

6) LITTLE YELDHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mr. P. Gentry gave a report covering the previous two years because Covid had prevented a meeting in 2021. A copy of his written report accompanies these minutes as appendix one. Arising from point 7 in the report, Mrs. K. Chapman stated that she will announce on Social Media, that new Trustees are being sought for the Village Hall. It was considered that if management of the hall changes then more support is expected.

7) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mrs. I. Parker was read on her behalf and circulated. A copy of her written report accompanies these minutes as appendix two.

8) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

In the absence of Mr. P. Schwier no report was given.

9) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. J. Gentry gave a report covering two years because Covid has prevented the Annual Parish Meeting taking place in 2021. A copy of his written report accompanies these minutes as appendix three. Arising from the report Mrs. K. Chapman reported that the late

Mr. W. P. Clayton and Mr. C. Chapman had repaired the bus shelter and that her husband had since re-painted the pump house at North End. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman expressed grateful thanks for the work carried out. In addition the volunteers who continue to pick up litter particularly around North End were thanked for their work and dedication.

10) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm and was followed by a Parish Council meeting.

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(Date)

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(Chairman)

APPENDIX 1 - LITTLE YELDHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting – Village Hall Committee Report

1. Due to Covid preventing the 2021 annual meeting from taking place, this report covers 2 years - 2020 and 2021.
2. One VH committee meeting was held in 2020 prior to lockdown and three were held in 2021, one over Zoom and the others face to face later in the year. Meetings have now resumed normally.
3. Covid prevented AGMs happening in 2020 and 2021 however an AGM is scheduled on 20th May this year.
4. Bookings have not recovered following Covid, which is a concern and Katie has agreed to promote the Hall on social media for both new bookings and involvement of new trustees and volunteers.
5. The bank balance is healthy and expenditure is low so the current lack of bookings and income is manageable at the moment.
6. The building is sound with no significant maintenance issues requiring attention at this point.
7. The VH Committee asked the PC to consider becoming the sole trustee as three existing trustees are expected not to seek re-election at the next AGM and it will be difficult to find new trustees to take their place. The PC consulted the RCCE (Rural Community Council of Essex) and were advised that although possible, it was viewed by the Charity Commission as a last resort. The PC will review the position following the VH AGM in May.

APPENDIX 2 - BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Report from Cllr Iona Parker for Parish Councils – March 2022

- BDC approved its **Budget** for 2022/23 at its Council meeting on 21st February. Highlights of relevance to parish councils in my ward are:
 - The budget gap over the medium (4 year) term is £1.2m, an improvement from the financial position identified last year of £1.6m. This reduction has been achieved through additional savings and opportunities for increased income. BDC is continuing to look at opportunities to close this gap.
 - The budget provided for a substantial increase in funding for planning enforcement in order to provide the service that BDC and residents expect.
 - Resources have been allocated to advance the Council's climate and cycling strategies.
 - The Councillor Community Grants Scheme will continue with each councillor allocated £1250 to award to community projects. In future, funding for this scheme will come from the extra Council Tax that is collected as a result of higher than assumed increases in property numbers. In the case of villages in my ward, the amount of Council Tax that has been refunded to parish councils under this system has been very small and I am pleased the Council has decided to keep the CCG scheme.
 - The Budget provided funding to ensure that the Council's IT systems are secure and protected and new capital funding for critical IT infrastructure.
 - Given the budget gap, the Council has agreed to increase the BDC element of Council Tax by 2.68%, which represents an increase of less than 10p a week for a band D property. It is also significantly below the rate of inflation.
- Essex County Council has set out its own plan for **levelling up**. It has identified 5 locations for focus. One of these is rural Braintree. Whilst income levels may not suggest the area is deprived, there are certainly lack of opportunities in terms of e.g. transport, distance to major centres and educational opportunities and also increased cost of living. If you would like to give me examples of the ways in which residents living in this area are disadvantaged, please let me know.
- We are awaiting the inspectors final comments on Section 2 of the Local Plan but hope the **Local Plan** will be adopted at the Council meeting in May, or even possibly March. This will put BDC in a stronger position as regards speculative housing applications but we will also need to have a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites (i.e. that we can prove will be built within 5 years). At the moment our supply is 5.1 years but is constantly being challenged by developers at planning appeals. So the situation remains tenuous.
- The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is conducting a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. Major changes are proposed for the Braintree constituency with my ward falling into a new Haverhill and Halstead constituency. The Conservative Party has opposed the changes and have put forward a counter proposal which would see the constituency remain largely

as it is. The other parties support the BCE's proposals. The secondary consultation on the proposals and counter proposals has now opened and closes on 4th April. If you would like to comment, you can do so at <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

APPENDIX 3 - PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting – Parish Council Report

1. Due to Covid preventing the 2021 annual meeting from taking place, this report covers 2 years - 2020 and 2021. Parish Council meetings continued during this period and were held via Zoom.
2. Regrettably I first have to report the sad death of Peter Clayton in February 2021. Peter was a former Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council and will be remembered for his untiring work in the community. The Parish Council have placed a bench in the grounds of St John the Baptist Church in his memory and a dedication service is being held on Friday 18th March at 11.00am.
3. In May 2021 the Chairman and Vice Chairman interchanged. A special thank you to Robert Nott for his service as Chairman and now Vice Chairman and for the continued support he gives me.
4. The budget and precept for 2021-2022 was agreed at £8,000. Due to Belchamp St. Paul Community House and Little Yeldham Village Hall suffering loss of bookings and income because of Covid, the Parish Council doubled their grants from £400 to £800 for this budget and precept period only.
5. The budget and precept for 2022-2023 is agreed at £7,800 which is £200 less than 2021-2022 but includes a £100 increase on the normal £400 contribution for Belchamp St. Paul Community House and Little Yeldham Village Hall.
6. The BDC Local Plan for 2013-2033 is nearing completion. Section 1 (strategic plan for North Essex) was adopted in February 2021 and Section 2 (policies and sites for development) is planned for adoption in the next month or so. Both sections have been subject to public consultation and intense Planning Inspectorate review and comment since its submission to them in 2017.
7. The Planning Advisory Group continues to inform the Parish Council on responses to BDC consultation requests. Major applications were:
 - a. Rear single storey extension at 90 Mill Lane Supported and Granted
 - b. New detached dwelling at 70 Little Yeldham Road Objection and Granted
 - c. Extension rear of garage at Wagtails, North End Road Supported and Granted
 - d. New detached dwelling at Hyde Farm Objection and Refused
 - e. Two storey side extension at 7 School Road Objection and Granted (Objection accepted)
 - f. Two new detached dwellings at 72 Little Yeldham Road Objection and Pending Decision

8. Comments were provided to BDC, at their request, regarding proposed changes to the delegation scheme but the changes were implemented without incorporating any of our comments.
9. Issues with blocked drains in Little Yeldham and North End have been reported to ECC Highways using their online reporting tool and continue to be pursued with Highways and Peter Schwier, the new ECC Councillor.
10. ECC made a curious offer to take ownership of the bus shelter owned by the Parish Council. This offer was considered and rejected.
11. The skips had been well used and no issues reported however a different weekend for Little Yeldham and North End will be considered after reports of significant amounts of commercial waste being deposited on the first day.
12. The Parish Council is now fully GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliant and our Data Controller is Daren Patient. Thank you to Daren for leading this initiative and for all his hard work establishing the required policies and procedures.
13. Tree surgery work was completed in July 2020. Thank you to Robert Nott for arranging the quote and liaising with the tree surgeon.
14. Repainting of the playground equipment and cleaning of the surface mats was completed in May 2020.
15. BDC's trial of cutting verges only once a year was completed and feedback requested. The Parish Council responded requesting that verges should be cut fully twice a year in May and September.
16. Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC) has been resurrected and the Parish Council has formerly joined. I have been voted onto the Executive Committee (9 councils) which affords me a voice at the top table and there are currently 34 of 52 councils who have joined.
17. A project to improve the Recreation Ground play equipment has been agreed and an Advisory Group established to manage the project. Thank you to Mary Pearce for leading this project and for the significant progress made so far in identifying a preferred supplier and seeking the necessary funding.
18. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be celebrated on Sunday 5th June on the LY Recreation Ground. A working party has been set up to organise the event. Details to follow. Thank you to Katie Chapman and Rosie Marsh for leading this.
19. A community policing initiative, which could provide a trained individual with the same powers as a policeman to be on call for at least 16 hours a month, has been supported by the Parish Council and the position is being advertised in the 4VM and on social media.

20. Finally, thank you to Amanda Gardiner and Rosie Marsh for their work on the PROWs.
21. Thank you to Robert Nott, Parish Councillors and Adrian Corder-Birch for all their work for Little Yeldham and North End.
22. Thank you also to Iona Parker and Peter Schwier for their support and work for Little Yeldham and North End.