

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUES. 14TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

Present: Mrs. A. Gardiner, 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. K. Chapman, Mrs. R. Marsh, Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 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 2023

It was resolved not to enter the Best Kept Village Competition in 2023, but to review entry next year when the work on Little Yeldham Recreation Ground should be complete.

5) LITTLE YELDHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mr. P. Gentry gave the annual Village Hall Committee report, a copy of which accompanies these minutes as appendix one.

6) BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

A written annual report from Mrs. I. Parker was circulated and a copy accompanies these minutes as appendix two.

7) ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

A written annual report from Mr. P. Schwier was circulated and a copy accompanies these minutes as appendix three.

8) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. P. J. Gentry gave the annual Parish Council report a copy of which accompanies these minutes as appendix four.

9) LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. M. Pearce gave the first annual Little Yeldham Recreation Ground Committee report a copy of which accompanies these minutes as appendix five. Arising from this report, at the following Parish Council meeting, consideration will be given to placing an order for new playground equipment. Notwithstanding the Lottery funding, fund raising events will need to be continued to raise money for the costs of future maintenance of equipment. Mrs. A. L. Gardiner raised questions about funding, which Mrs. Pearce clarified. It will be necessary to continue raising funds not just for future maintenance

costs, but also for pathways, new entrance and seats. Playdale had offered a five year maintenance contract and to comply with insurance conditions safety inspections must take place at least annually. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Pearce for her report and hard work and also thanked everyone who had served on the Committee and helped with fund raising events.

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)

.....  
(Chairman)

**Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting – Village Hall Committee Report**

1. At the AGM in May 2022 three members of the Management Committee stood down and two new members were elected.
2. Roles and responsibilities were established and a new Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Bookings Manager were appointed, with new roles established for an Events and Funding Manager, a Marketing Manager and a Property Manager.
3. The new team is working well together and meet regularly every two months.
4. The bank balance is healthy, buoyed by increasing bookings and the events held in 2022. Events for 2023 are already planned and published.
5. A recent grant from the National Lottery and the Community Initiatives Fund has provided the money necessary to re-surface the car park, make essential drainage changes to protect the fabric of the building and also provide necessary access improvements to the main hall and the John Gardiner room entrances.
6. Funding opportunities continue to be explored for further improvement works necessary to the heating system, kitchen and toilets.
7. Considerable improvements have been made to the Village Hall's presence on Social Media, in the 4VM and on the VH and North End notice boards.
8. An exciting 2023 is in prospect.

## APPENDIX 2 - BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

### Report for Annual Parish Meetings 2023

#### Cllr Iona Parker

I am sorry I cannot be with you this evening. Here is a written report for the meeting. Do get in touch if you have any questions.

#### 1. Council Tax

BDC recognises the cost of living pressures faced by residents and have tried to keep the increase in Council Tax as low as possible. The Council Tax increase for the next financial year will be 2.5% which is less than the maximum allowed. In addition, BDC will be giving Council Tax payers a £25 rebate which will result in a reduction in the overall amount of money due, with the greatest percentage reduction afforded to those in the lower tax bands (bands E and F). This money has come from a fund set aside to contribute to a slip road project in Braintree which now looks unlikely to receive funding from Government

#### 2. BDC budget

The BDC budget for 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Strategy for the next 4 years was agreed by the Council at its meeting in February. The budget was set against a background of inflation of more than 10% and staff pay increases which were higher than anticipated. This had led to a large budget gap over the MTFS of £2m which had to be addressed.

Main highlights of relevance to my ward are:

- £1m to be distributed through community organisations such as foodbanks to help those facing serious difficulties with the increase in the cost of living;
- £400k to deliver a plan for economic growth and a housing strategy;
- Councillor Community Grant Scheme to continue;
- No reduction in Street Cleaning grant to parish councils for the forthcoming year;
- Recycling calendars to be withdrawn as information available on BDC website (paper copies will be available for those without access to the internet);
- Investigation into the possibility of making a small charge for garden waste collection to help meet budget gap (the majority of councils now charge for garden waste collection).

#### 3. Local elections

Elections for Braintree District Council will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Voting in person will require presentation of Voter ID. Acceptable ID includes a UK or EU passport, a photocard driving licence, a blue badge, a bus pass or a PASS card. If residents do not have ID, they can request a Voter Authority Certificate from BDC.

#### 4. Main achievements for BDC over the last year

- Adopted a new Local Plan for the District, helped communities deliver Neighbourhood Plans, set up Planning Forum to enable earlier input from planning committee members and parish councils on larger developments, in 2021/22 delivered 417 affordable homes against a target of 250 (figures not available yet for 2022/23).
- Pedestrianised Braintree town centre, developed Horizon 120 business park and Plaza enterprise centre in Gt Notley to encourage businesses to set up in the District, part of North Essex Economic Board which supports businesses and skills.
- Investment in new all weather surfaces for sports pitches in the District, ran activities for those with dementia.
- Sound financial management of the Council and Investment Development Programme to generate income for the Council from programmes which also provide community or economic benefit.

#### 5. Health

A Community Diagnostics Centre will be opening in Braintree which will be able to provide CT and MRI scans amongst other things. The ward space which has opened in Halstead Hospital is also to become permanent.

## APPENDIX 3 – ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

### Essex County Council - Heddingham Division

#### Cllr Peter Schwier – 2022/23 Annual Report

It is now almost two years since I was elected to Essex County Council; serving the residents of all the villages – and 33 parish councils - that make up the Heddingham division has been a real privilege. The year that has passed since your last annual meeting has gone very quickly but has proved extremely busy and filled with activity and achievement.

The passing of those two years also means we are half-way through the current four-year term, and we are starting to see many positive outcomes from the ambitious work the county council set in train back in May 2021.

The following is a small sample of the key numbers, landmarks and achievements from a busy year – many are necessarily Essex-wide but, where possible, I have tried to focus purely on issues relevant to our local communities.

#### **Budget / Council Tax 23/24**

In the toughest and most uncertain and inflationary financial climate the county has known for many years, ECC agreed a budget which prioritised support for adults' and children's social care, road maintenance, improving infrastructure and helping people with the cost of living.

Over the course of the next year, the county council will spend a total of £2,281m (gross) and £1,164m (net) through its revenue budget – 7% higher than had been planned last year, as a result of inflationary pressures

There will also be £275m of capital spending in 23/24.

Budget points of note include:

- £58m increase in the adult social care budget
- £7.5m extra to deliver 340 additional school places
- 9% increase in fees for foster carers
- Community supermarkets to be rolled-out – providing essential household goods at lower cost for hard-pressed families
- £200m spending on climate change remains in place, with new and existing cycle routes and active travel schemes are also being built and maintained to enable people to walk and cycle.

#### **Highways**

The council will be spending nearly £145m on highways maintenance and sustainable transport over the coming year and, as ever, will prioritise the areas by severity of need.

By way of context, the county looks after:

- 5,100 miles of carriageway;
- 4,000 miles of footways / cyclepaths;
- 130 miles of safety barriers;
- 131,000 street lights;

- 14,000 illuminated highway signs;
- 80,000 non-illuminated signs;
- 36,000 items of Public Rights of Way infrastructure.
- **7,002 – the number of potholes repaired in Essex over the course of 22/23 so far.**

Over the last year, in terms of calls to our contact centre around highways issues, we received the following numbers:

- 1,899 – average daily number of calls to the Contact Centre in January 2023;
- 432,711 - total calls to Contact Centre;
- 47,904 - total calls to Highways (new faults and general) service.

Meanwhile, the average answer waiting time for highways calls was 03:10.

### **Levelling Up**

In late 2021, ECC launched its own Levelling Up White Paper, aimed at raising living standards for people in particular cohorts and locations. One year on, a great deal has already been achieved. This includes:

- 12,000 more homes and businesses connect to Superfast Broadband
- Over 6,600 devices donated to schools across Essex, to support students with getting online and enhancing their learning.
- 250 new entry level jobs created through our social value scheme.
- The Essex Opportunities website launched to provide access to more flexible job roles. In its first year the website has had more than 90,000 visits and 6,500 clicks to apply for jobs
- The Essex Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Service supported creating 240 new apprenticeships across Essex Businesses. Expanded our completely free holiday activity and food programme, ActivAte, which over the last two years has provided over 500,000 free meals and supported over 30,000 young people
- An almost £2million boost provided to social care in Essex under our Nightingale Care Bursary, which will support people from the most deprived communities in Essex to achieve social care qualifications or support existing care workers to achieve further qualifications.
- Our working families programme has been in contact with 960 families to provide support to those seeking information on upskilling or retraining for a new career
- Parkplay has now been launched in 16 areas across Essex and had over 2,000 unique people attend, with 16,000 attendances in total so far! Parkplay will be launched in more areas throughout 2023.
- The physical and mental wellbeing of 130,000 school children and young people supported at Essex Outdoors sites, where they learn a range of skills through outdoor pursuits.
- 60,000 new library members have signed up since Jan 2022
- 150,000 new recyclable library cards distributed to every primary school child in the county as part of the 'Essex Year of Reading' celebration. 74 new literacy areas have been created across Essex (one in every library).
- Almost 24,000 children took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. This is an increase of 36.4% on 2021.
- 'Multiply' launched - a new initiative that will offer over 14,000 Essex residents free access to maths and finance training

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### **The environment and climate action**

As the county council's Climate Czar, I've been front and centre with much of the work around our support for the environment and the drive towards net zero. I am delighted that it remains a central ambition of the council's work, despite the financial pressure. Progress has been made, along with our partners, over the last year, and key achievements include:

- 138,349 trees planted across Essex on our way to target of 375,000 by 2025. This amounts to 52.73 hectares of trees, and 16,492m of hedgerows
- 36,681 LED streetlamps now installed across the county.
- 1,222 fuel-poor households receiving support, helping them claim an additional £2.4 million in benefits via our Warm Homes Essex project
- £100,000 awarded in the last 12 months to local cycling groups and charities
- SuDS advice provided on 850 major planning applications a year
- 62,500 new properties receiving flood reduction expertise
- Green Flag award status retained across seven country parks welcoming one million visitors during the year
- £500,000 awarded from the Climate Action Challenge Fund to more than 30 local organisations and schools taking action on key climate change issues
- Several retrofit projects completed on the ECC estate
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- £17.2m secured jointly with partners to provide fuel-poor households with grant funding of up to £10,000 to improve energy efficiency and heating systems in their homes
- A new North Essex Farming Cluster supported, which will help with information-sharing across the farming community, helping farmers move to more sustainable farming methods and protect sustainable agriculture
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- Through Solar Together Essex, we have led a scheme enabling Essex residents to benefit from a significant discount on solar panels and battery storage from a reliable supplier. The scheme in Essex has now delivered over 1,300 installations and enabled over 1,100 tonnes of avoided carbon emissions annually. There have been 6,600 registrations over this year, more than any other year. The deadline to apply has been extended so people can register until 21/4/23.
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### **Waste and recycling**

We continue to work closely with district councils to promote recycling and efficient waste management that minimises the harm to the environment:

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**52% of household waste in Essex was recycled in 2020/21** – higher than the national average of 44%



The household **recycling rate varies from 40% - 58%** across the different district, borough and city areas

On



average, each resident in Essex produces around 463kg of waste per year, that's **16% more waste than the national average.**



Approx 700,000 tonnes of household waste are generated in Essex per year – with a recycling rate of 52%, that means **circa 330,000 tonnes of general rubbish to landfill each year**



**Over £100m is spent each year** on the cost of collecting, treating and disposing of household waste in Essex



There are around **1.5 million visits to our 21 Recycling Centres each year**

### Locality Fund

Once again, it has been a pleasure to support local communities through my Locality Fund. The details of schemes supported are as follows:

Organisation	Amount
The Birdbrook & District Community House	£310
Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council	£600
Mens Shed Great Yeldham	£1,000
Sturmer Parish Council	£700
Gestingtorpe Parish Council	£825
Birdbrook Bowls Club	£800
Helions Bumpstead Community Benefit Society	£803
Belchamp Otten & Belchamp St Paul Parish Council - Belchamp St Paul Community House	£300

I hope the above gives you an idea of the work that has gone in over the last year to develop our plans and deliver on them for the people of Essex.

Meanwhile, my work as Climate Czar has been extremely rewarding: meeting people across Essex and beyond; championing the work and achievements of people throughout our county; lobbying government on environmental causes – including the East Anglian Green proposals which I and colleagues across the region are steadfastly opposing.

On top of the above, I have also continued my busy work as a Braintree District Councillor, including membership of various bodies, such as the Planning Committee.

Most of all, it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve the residents of all the villages, both large and small, within the Hedingham division. I look forward to continuing to do so in the next year and beyond.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Schwarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small red dot above the letter 'i' in "Schwarz".

**Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting – Parish Council Report**

1. The budget and precept for 2023-2024 is agreed at £7,916 which is £116 more than 2022-2023. The Parish Council as always, endeavours to keep the precept under control, whilst maintaining its current service to residents.
2. The project to improve the Recreation Ground play equipment progressed in leaps and bounds in 2022 with fund raising events organised and funding applications made, which has culminated in sufficient funds being raised to deliver the project. Without a substantial grant from the National Lottery this could not have been achieved. Thank you to Mary Pearce for leading this project and to the Councillors and the two residents on the project Sub-Committee, for the significant progress made so far.
3. A Memorial for H.M. Queen Elizabeth II will be part of the Recreation Ground project.
4. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in the Village Hall on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately plans to hold it on the LY Recreation Ground were scuppered by bad weather. The Village Hall was packed and everyone had a good time. Thank you to Rosie Marsh and her team of volunteers for organising this celebration.
5. The Community Policing initiative, which could have provided a trained individual with the same powers as a policeman to be on call for at least 16 hours a month, was supported by the Parish Council and the position advertised in the 4 Villages and on Social Media. Unfortunately no volunteers could be found to take part in the scheme. Thank you to Rosie Marsh for exploring this initiative.
6. As part of BDC's anti-litter signs trial along main roads, the Parish Council requested three signs to be placed at the following locations: Little Yeldham Road, Little Yeldham in the vicinity of Hyde Farm; the entrance to Jays Lane, off Mashey Road; and Clare Road, Ovington. These were deployed but unfortunately their effect was questionable.
7. The use of BDC Amenity Vehicles and drivers for Little Yeldham and North End, instead of the skips previously provided, was very successful and will be considered for this year.
8. The Parish Council has taken responsibility for the maintenance of the defibrillator at the Village Hall and following a recent replacement of the battery and pads, are happy to report that it is in full working order.

9. At the November meeting, the Parish Council was pleased to welcome Cllr. Peter Davey, Chairman of the Essex Association of Local Councils who presented Long Service Awards to Cllr. Robert Nott for his 65th year as a Councillor and to Adrian Corder-Birch for his 52nd year as Clerk.
10. The Planning Advisory Group continued to inform the Parish Council on responses to BDC consultation requests. Major applications were:
  - a. Two new detached dwellings at 72 Little Yeldham Road      Objection and Refused
  - b. Two storey rear extension at 76 Hyde Wood Road      Supported and Granted
  - c. First floor side extension at 8 School Road      Supported and Granted
11. Issues with blocked drains in Little Yeldham and North End continue to be reported to ECC Highways using their online reporting tool and continue to be pursued with Highways and Peter Schwier, our ECC Councillor.
12. The Parish Council continues to be fully GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliant and our Data Controller is Daren Patient. Thank you to Daren for his sterling work monitoring our compliance and maintaining the policies and procedures as necessary.
13. Your Chairman continues sit on and provide input into the Executive Committee (9 councils) of the Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC).
14. Thank you to Amanda Gardiner and Rosie Marsh for their work on the PROWs, thank you to Rosie Marsh for her work as our tree warden and thank you to Daren Patient for his work on highways.
15. Thank you to Robert Nott, Parish Councillors and Adrian Corder-Birch for all their work for Little Yeldham and North End.
16. Thank you also to Iona Parker and Peter Schwier for their support and work for Little Yeldham and North End.

## APPENDIX 5 - LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT TO LITTLE YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MARCH 14 2023

ON LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND REFURBISHMENT

In March last year we started with nothing but a brief that the Parish Council would support us in our endeavour to improve the Recreation Ground providing there was no cost to the Parish Council.

Throughout the last year we have held fundraising events and have also applied for various grants with mixed fortune. We received grants from both the Bruce Wake Trust for £2,000 and the East of England Co-op Community Cares Fund for £3,000. We also applied to the National Lottery Community Fund and after a fairly long process were delighted to receive on 2 February this year a funding offer of £58,000 which was duly accepted.

The Sub-Committee have unanimously voted to recommend acceptance by the Parish Council of Playdale's revised quotation in the sum of £57,714.10.

We are obtaining plans of statutory services crossing the site which the contractor will require.

Our fundraising total is in the region of £66,000 but fundraising continues because we need to fund a Notice Board, Seating, additional Pathways and Maintenance. Our next event is a Spring Fayre on Saturday 25 March.