

MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUES. 12TH MARCH 2024 AT 7 PM

In the chair: Mr. P. J. Gentry

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

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs. I. Parker and Mr. P. Schwier

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of Little Yeldham Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 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 2024

It was resolved not to enter the Best Kept Village Competition in 2024, 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

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

8) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

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

9) LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. M. Pearce gave the annual Little Yeldham Recreation Ground Committee report a copy of which accompanies these minutes as appendix four. 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) HIGHWAY ISSUES

In view of the large number of highway issues, many of which have been outstanding for a considerable length of time, an invitation had been sent to Mr. P. Schwier and Mr. T.

Cunningham, ECC Cabinet Member for Highways to attend a Zoom meeting with Parish Councillors to specifically discuss highway issues, to include the following:

- a) Mud on the highway at Mashey Road, Little Yeldham
- b) Proposed weight and width restriction limits for heavy lorries
- c) Many other issues in Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington

11) PLANNING ISSUES

Councillors expressed concern about the following planning issues:

- a) The removal of a hedge and the erection of a gate to a field along Little Yeldham Road without planning permission. Enforcement action was being taken by BDC, a retrospective application for permission had since been made and a decision is awaited.
- b) A building for a swimming pool at 72 Little Yeldham Road, which is being built under permitted development. In view of the previous planning history of this site there was concern about possible future change of use for another purpose. Planning legislation is being carefully investigated.

12) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm and was followed by a Parish Council meeting.

.....  
(Date)

.....  
(Chairman)

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

1. At the AGM in May 2023 one member of the Management Committee was not re-elected and in August 2023 one member stood down. There are now five Trustees forming the Management Committee.
2. The management team continue to work well together and meet regularly every two months.
3. The bank balance remains healthy, buoyed by increasing bookings and the events held in 2023. Bookings so far for 2024 are encouraging and Event planning is well advanced. A Talk and Social Evening is arranged for Friday this week and a Quiz Night is arranged for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Future events are being discussed and will be published when more details are available.
4. A Safeguarding Policy and an Equal Opportunities Policy have been implemented to support the day to day operation of the VH and for use when applying for funding.
5. Work on re-surfacing the car park, making essential drainage changes to protect the fabric of the building and also providing necessary access improvements to the main hall and the John Gardiner room entrances was completed in May 2023 with funding received from the National Lottery and the Community Initiatives Fund.
6. Funding opportunities continue to be explored for further improvement works necessary to the heating system, kitchen and toilets.
7. The Village Hall's presence on Social Media, in the 4VM and on the VH and North End notice boards is well established and a recent marketing addition, is an entry on the 'Find a Village Hall' facility on the Rural Community Council of Essex's website.
8. An exciting 2024 is in prospect.

## APPENDIX 2 - BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

### Report for Parish Councils from Cllr Iona Parker, Braintree District Council – Feb/March 2024

1. The Council's budget for 2024/2025 of £19.6m was approved at the meeting of Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Despite ongoing cost pressures and increased demand for services, the Council remains in a sound financial position for the forthcoming year compared to other councils.
2. There remains a forecast deficit over the medium term to 2027/28 of £2.3m. The Council will be looking at ways to address this and will be developing a "Fit for the Future" transformation programme to look out how resources can be used more effectively and how we can work better with other partners. A sum of money has been set aside for this work from the New Homes Bonus the Council receives from the Government. A further sum has been set aside from the NHB to add to the risk reserves to recognise the uncertainties over future costs and demand.
3. Full Council also passed a resolution on Council Tax for the forthcoming year. The Braintree District Council element of Council Tax will rise by 2.96% which represents an increase of 11p per week for a band D property.
4. The main highlights from the Budget as far as my ward is concerned are:
  - Councillor Community Grants to continue – each Councillor to be allocated £1250 to award to community projects in their ward.
  - Street cleansing grants to Parish councils to continue.
  - The garden waste subscription service has proved more popular than anticipated with a take up of over 50% bringing in an income to the Council of around £900k.
  - The Council is looking to charge a Council Tax premium of 100% on second homes in the district with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
5. The Council has updated its Livewell Health and Wellbeing strategy in conjunction with partners in the health services. The aim of the strategy is to focus on prevention and early intervention and to move beyond simply treating health conditions after they have arisen. The intention is to create an environment where everyone has the right facilities available to them to actively participate in improving their own health and wellbeing. The data shows a strong link between deprivation and poor health and we are particularly conscious that parts of Braintree and Halstead feature in the 20% most deprived areas in the country.
6. I have been trying to find out what is happening about the new health centre in Sible Hedingham. I am told the Integrated Care Board is due to consider the final business case very shortly. Once it is approved the land can be transferred to One Medical who can then start construction. We are continuing to keep the pressure on the ICB.

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

1. The budget and precept for 2024-2025 is agreed at £8,975 which is £1,059 more than 2023-2024. The reason for this increase is a one off provision for the installation of protective posts for the Village Green at North End and a provision for an increase in grass cutting costs for the Village Green at North End and the Church Yard in Little Yeldham as a new contractor needs to be appointed. Be assured, that the Parish Council will always endeavour to keep the precept under control, whilst maintaining its current service to residents.
2. Following Councillor elections in May, we welcomed Ms Nicola Wookey as a new Little Yeldham Councillor filling the position left by the resignation of Councillor Rosie Marsh and at the Parish Council Meeting following the May elections, Councillor Daren Patient was voted in as Vice Chairman, filling the position left by the resignation of the Ovington Councillor Robert Knott.
3. The project to improve the Recreation Ground play equipment progressed in leaps and bounds in 2023 culminating in the installation of the new play equipment, improvement to the School Road entrance and provision of an accessible pathway to the Millennium tree and seat. Fund raising events continue for ongoing maintenance costs and funding applications are being made for further improvements to provide an accessible pathway from the Church Green entrance to the Millennium tree and a community garden. Thank you to Councillor Mary Pearce for leading this project and to the Councillors and the two residents on the project Sub-Committee, without whom, none of this would have been possible.
4. Memorial trees for H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and for John Gardiner have been planted on the Recreation Ground.
5. The Coronation of King Charles III was celebrated in the Village Hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The Village Hall was packed and everyone had a good time. Thank you to Councillor Mary Pearce and her team of volunteers for organising this celebration.
6. 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 continued this year.
7. Your Parish Council continues to take responsibility for the maintenance of the defibrillator at the Village Hall and are happy to report that it remains in full working order.

8. The Planning Advisory Group continued to inform the Parish Council on responses to BDC consultation requests. Major applications were:
  - a. Rear extensions and Orangery at Homefield House No objections and Granted
  - b. Various improvements at Red House, Mashey Road No objections and Granted
  - c. Single storey extension and pergola at 1 The Birches No objections and Granted

All planning applications dealt with by the Planning Advisory Group can be viewed on the PC website.

9. 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.
10. Your Parish Council implemented a Safeguarding policy for the Recreation Ground in January 2023 and this can be viewed on the PC website.
11. Your 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.
12. Your Chairman continues sit on and provide input into the Executive Committee (9 councils) of the Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC).
13. Thank you to Councillor Amanda Gardiner for her work on the PROWs and as our tree warden and thank you to Councillor Daren Patient for his work on highways.
14. Thank you to our Parish Councillors and Adrian Corder-Birch for all their work for Little Yeldham and North End.
15. Thank you also to our District Councillor Iona Parker and our Essex County Councillor Peter Schwier for their support and work for Little Yeldham and North End.

## APPENDIX 4 - LITTLE YELDHAM RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE REPORT

### LITTLE YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL RECREATION GROUND END OF YEAR REPORT 2023/24

The Committee now has eight members, five Councillors and three residents and I would like to thank them all for their continued support.

As stated in the Chair's report, Phase I of the refurbishment saw all the new equipment installed in good time for the children's Summer holiday with the refurbishment of the entrance and the creation of the new pathway being completed soon after. The Park has been well used all through the ensuing months not only by our own residents but also visitors from neighboring villages.

Two Memorial trees have been planted by Robert and Amanda Gardiner and Ernie Brooks and Rachel Chandler have agreed to keep them watered should it be necessary. Our grateful thanks to them all.

Residents have suggested the formation of a Gardening Club and the inclusion of a Table Tennis Table which have both been approved by the full Parish Council. Phase II now includes an allotment style vegetable garden, raised beds, top pathway extension, seating, litter bins, notice board and table tennis table and funding is being sought to cover the outlay.

We have a small cushion of funds to cover annual maintenance charges and emergencies but are continuing to fund raise to add to this cushion and any grants awarded.