

**MINUTES OF LITTLE YELDHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT
THE VILLAGE HALL, LITTLE YELDHAM ON TUESDAY, 21st MARCH 2017
AT 7.30PM**

Present: Mr. K. R. Nott (Chairman)
Mr. W. P. Clayton
Mrs. A. L. Gardiner
Mr. M. Graham
Mrs. J. Lushington
Mrs. R. K. Marsh
Mr. D. Patient
Mr. A. Corder-Birch (Clerk)
Mrs. I. Parker (District Councillor)
Together with two members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr. D. Finch

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th March 2016, 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 2017**

It was decided not to enter the Best Kept Village Competition 2017.

5. **GREAT YELDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

Mrs. I. Parker gave the annual Great Yeldham Primary School report and stated that an Ofsted Report was imminent. The upper and lower ends of the school were doing well but the progress of the middle classes was disappointing. This was probably caused by staff changes because some teachers move elsewhere for better promotion prospects and one class has two part time teachers, which is not ideal. Mrs. Parker was thanked for her report.

6. **LITTLE YELDHAM VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Mr. M. Graham gave the Village Hall report and following the installation of the new floor, bookings had improved as had the bank balance which was between £7,000 and £7,500. The former Social Club area is awaiting refurbishment and a grant will be sought for outside lighting, which is required. Mr. Graham was thanked for his report.

7. **BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Mr. I. Parker reported upon the following:

- a. The BDC budget, including the forthcoming loss of government funding and the retention of business rates to compensate.
- b. The possible future cuts in funding for community transport.
- c. Improved investment arrangements by BDC.
- d. Council Tax will increase by 3% in 2017-2018.
- e. The Local Plan process is coming towards an end and the final plan should be presented to the Inspector later in the year. Inspectors had recently upheld appeals for isolated houses in Blackmore End and Gestingthorpe, which had previously been refused by BDC.
- f. New routes for the A120 were being considered by BDC.
- g. At a recent meeting with the Police it was reported that London Drug Gangs were moving into the area particularly near the railway stations.

Mrs. A. L. Gardiner enquired about progress for the new Doctor's Surgery at Sible Hedingham and if there would be sufficient parking. It was confirmed that 0.25 hectares of land had been given free of charge on the former Rippers site, to include sufficient spaces for parking. All Doctors had signed a letter to the NHS about three years ago supporting a new medical centre, in which they were all happy to practice together. Their detailed requirements had been provided and a business case prepared. All parties were waiting for the NHS to provide funding for the building.

Mrs. Parker was thanked for her report.

8. ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

A written report from Mr. D. Finch had previously been circulated.

9. PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. K. R. Nott reported on the following:

- a. The skips had been well used at Little Yeldham and North End and will continue.
- b. All proposed site allocations in Little Yeldham had been opposed and refused namely Bridge Cottage, Mousetraps and Hyde Farm, where no development can take place until 2036 or later. A proposed site allocation for Sewells Farm was withdrawn.
- c. Little progress had been made with improved Broadband.
- d. The Localism Grant had been reduced and the PC precept was increased to cover the loss.
- e. Mr. J. Bright will cut all hedges in Little Yeldham in future.
- f. The PC is seeking to purchase the telephone kiosk at North End.
- g. The PC had supported the application by the Village Hall for a grant towards the cost of the new floor.

The Chairman concluded his report by thanking Mr. W. P. Clayton the Vice Chairman, all Councillors and the Clerk for all their work during the year. Mr. Clayton thanked Mr. Nott for chairing the meeting. Mrs. E. Clayton reported that last year builders had misused the

skips and suggested different dates for hiring them, which will be considered by the PC.

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)