# YETMINSTER’S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

# MINUTES

# Held At St Andrew’s School at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15th April 2015

**Present**: Cllr Gould, DCllr Lawrence, Cllr Kellar, Cllr Torrance, Cllr Knight, the Clerk.

 and 10 members of the public,.

### **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Cllr Gould introduced the meeting. He explained that the Minutes of 16th April 2014 had been on the website and available for review. It was resolved that the minutes were agreed unanimously and these were signed by the Chairman.

### **APOLOGIES – None Received.**

### **3. REPORT BY THE CHAIR**

Cllr Gould covered the most important items discussed or agreed at Council Meetings, in no particular order.

**PARISH PLAN** – This is now complete and will be formally launched on May 18th at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall. Prior to that the Council’s Statement of Commitment to the Plan will be distributed to all households. It is hoped that our MP and others will be able to attend. Refreshments will be available. During the coming months the Council will be discussing the plan and taking action where necessary and possible. A report to resident will be made in the autumn.

Whilst I shall thank David Torrance and his team for all their hard work on producing the plan and indeed all residents who made comments at the launch. I would like to record my thanks here for the record.

**SPEED CAMERAS** - These are now up and running and numerous speeders and users of mobile phones have been reported to the police. The scheme would be more effective if more volunteers came forward to help. Then the camera could be used more often.

**WEBSITE** – This has been much improved and includes a community forum and village diary which I would encourage everybody to use.

**PLANNING** – The 15 affordable homes to the west of the Thornford Rd are almost complete and it is hoped that occupation will start in May. The name of the development if ‘Frylake Meadow’ which is the old name for the field.

 As of today there is still no decision on the very controversial application for two houses behind Croft Cottage in the High Street.

 The new West Dorset District plan – which has still not been formally accepted – does not require any significant developments in the village for the duration of the plan – 15 years. I have been assured by the Leader of WDDC that there is no intention to alter this whilst the plan is in force. However this does not mean that there will not be applications for development but unless they are very small – individual houses – they are unlikely to agree.

**PRECEPT** – After 4 years of no rises it has been necessary to raise the precept by £1200 this year. This is approximately £1.75 per household. The rise was necessary to cover extra expenses which arose last year and anticipated extra expenses.

**DOG FOULING** -It gives me no pleasure to include this in the report but this perennial problem will not go away. As I have said before there are obviously some very anti-social residents who not only will not control their dogs but also have e no consideration for other residents. I can only reiterate what I said last year ‘Please clean up after your dog’. If you feel your neighbourhood could do with another litterbin (it does not have to specifically be for dog litter) please ask the Council. They will be provided but – as always – subject to funding.

If anyone has any ideas how to get through to these residents please let me know.

**COUNCILLORS** – Cllr Pyke and Vickers resigned from the Council and Mrs Michaela Plaice was co-opted onto the Council. Cllr Lawrence has decided not to stand again. We are still short of Councillors!

**COUNCIL LAND** – The Council has taken steps to formalise ownership of the Sports Field, Allotment and Scout Hut.

**OAK HOUSE STORES** – Despite much research into how it could be financed and allow the owners of the Bradford Abbas stores to take it on; it became clear that no suitable financial deal was available. So regretfully it is unlikely that the Stores will reopen.

**YETMINSTER YOUTH CLUB** - The Youth Club closed some years ago with a balance of £3953.87 ont eh books. The Club Committee has kindly handed the money to the Council with the proviso that it can only be spent on projects for the young. A grant of £325 was given to a member of the Scouts for a summer expedition from this fund.

### **4. REPORTS FROM GROUPS WITHIN YETMINSTER**

4.1 **Police report** –. Police Officer listed all the crime in the last year within Yetminster. This was approximately 15 incidents ranging from cigarette theft from the Spar to damage to types in Eastlands. A spate of burglaries stopped after one individual was caught from DNA evidence. At the moment there are a large amount of fraud calls, particularly with regards to accessing computers. 174 reported offence in March with £174,000 losses. Total Dorset loss of one million pounds in March. These are reported offenses so true number is higher. It is a cross section of people who are being conned, not just the elderly. If you have any concerns report to 101 Dorset police. The Police provide a Crime update – **dorsetalert.co.uk**, individuals and organisations can go on the website and register to get alerts. Due to the 20 million cuts in Dorset Police they are no longer going to process lost and found property apart from cash, items with personal data and high value items. The Police will subscribe to a universal service **reportmyloss.com**. If you lose something please go to this website and report.

DCllr Lawrence indicated that the 101 number was responded to faster.

The Police Officer and David Torrance collaborate in on the Beat for the Wriggle Valley Magazine and the police also attend the Coffee Beans meeting.

Mark praised the very active community speed watch group and thanked Brian Knight for his hard work.

**Coffee Beans** – Mrs Williams reported from the group. They hold a monthly coffee morning for about 40 people. She felt humbled by generosities of the member who keep giving and supporting events such as flu clinics within the community. They have been running every month for 10 years. They have followed the excellent example from the Methodist friends by supporting the Lords Larder. It was noted that the rent they pay to the church hall over the last 10 years could have supported a homeless family for a year. For a community group whose only objective is to help others they feel unsupported.

**West Dorset District Council** - DCllr Lawrence reported on the activities of WDDC – this is now a Tri-partnership, the first in the county, each Council will keep its identity, decision making powers and continue to set their own budget and policies autonomy and sovereignty would be guaranteed. What the district is responsible for and how you can contact them online [www.dorsetforyou.com.contactus](http://www.dorsetforyou.com.contactus) or in person at SWH Dorchester. DCllr Lawrence gave an overview of all the activities and responsibilities that are undertaken by WDDC.

DCllr Lawrence spoke about the new houses at Fry Lake Meadow and has viewed them recently and was very impressed.

Dog fouling was mentioned and that dog waste can be bagged and put into little bins.

May 7th is the General election, District and parish but no parish election for Yetminster & Ryme. Ward Boundary changes the District will have 42 elected members instead of 48. Yetminster & CamVale Ward will be the new name with 2 members to represent the parishes. Bradford Abbas, Clifton Maybank, Thornford Beer Hackett, Yetminster, Ryme, Chetnole, Stockwood, Lillington, Leweston, Longburton, Folke and Holnest.

April 21st a public meeting at Yetminster in “The Jubilee Hall” 6.30pm will be held with Oliver Letwin.

Questions were asked about S106 and flood defence, DCllr Lawrence would discuss with Tony Hurley.

**Yetminster Fair Association -** There have been some changes at the Association and Barbara Driver has taken on the role of Secretary with Karen Case becoming our Treasurer. Unable to keep my arm down I have volunteered to be the Chairman so hopefully an old dog can learn new tricks!

  We now have 10 Committee Members but ideally we still need two more people. We need to address a number of issues (date of the event, capacity, type of entertainment etc.) and we will, hopefully, be resolving these over the next months. A suggestion is that the Association nominate the various organisations and activities it wants to support before the Fair so that people can see what they are being asked to contribute to. A further idea is for the Association to operate a hot food stall itself although we realise that we will be relying heavily on the good will of one of our Committee members to do this.

 As you may know we have investigated the potential of using the sports field as a venue. However, unfortunately, it is evident that there are difficulties with this and realistically we feel that the Fair will have to evolve in some other way.

  Whilst we are concerned that it will mean a gap of two years (and I know it's not a good start to my Chairmanship!) we feel that it is unrealistic now to try to organise a Fair for this year. However we are confident that with our new found enthusiasm we will be able to hold a revitalised Fair in 2016. Notwithstanding this we have asked the Yetminster Community Project to organise our traditional YFA Quiz and this will take place in July.

  The 50 Club Lottery continues to generate funds and is our financial mainstay when there is not a fair - forms are available if the Council members would like to show their support by joining.

 The Association continues to support local organisations and projects and to date has given in excess of £15,000 in grants in the last ten years. The cost of insurance and of the road closure licence is increasing and help with these in 2016 would be appreciated and release funds for us to use to help the community.

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**Yetminster Parish Walkers** - David Fogden reported -“We continue to attract new members from Yetminster and the surrounding villages. An annual programme of monthly walks is arranged for February to November. These are usually of about 4 miles with a longer one in September – morning and afternoon, 7 miles – to coincide with the annual cycle ride in support of the Historic Churches Appeal.

We usually manage to get a different leader for each walk who chooses where to go from the wealth of paths leading from the Village, some 30 from Yetminster and 4 from Ryme. Numbers vary for each walk, average between 10 to 12. At least four new members this year. During our walks we do come across broken and sometimes dangerous stiles and we ask if the Parish Council have a member to whom we can report. The Clerk advised reporting directly online on the dorsetforyou website, there is an interactive map and individuals can report direct.”

**Hundred of Yetminster History Society – report from David Fogden**. A successful Society with 70 members. Each year a programme provides for 5 interesting Speakers for the monthly meetings held Sept to March, and 4 organised visits to places of historical interest, April to July. We have just had a most successful and interesting visit with Talk to the Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum.

From time to time we arrange displays depicting appropriate occasions and Dates; these are usually held in the Church,, the Sherborne History Centre, the Coffee Shop and the Sherborne Library. We are currently working on a Magna Carta display to start in the Church from June 14th. Please take time to come and see this appropriate work marking 800 years. You may be supposed at the facts you do not know about this major event in our history.

Finally I will just add a personal comment to publically thank my committee for their work and support. We have serv3ral new members who bring new ideas for our successful programme.

**Barbara Driver – Secretary for Methodist Church**. It was reported that the chairs had replaced the pews and therefore the church was more able to hold events. One such event was the Yetminster Youth Church to be held 19th April 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Everyone is invited. There is a new Minster and he and Rev Simon Bignell have joined together for these extra services. The congregation is small but very welcoming. The Christmas service is particularly popular.

Valarie Rowsell- **St Andrew’s Church** Simon Brignall will be leaving in September, there will not be anyone to replace him as they cannot advertise as yet. The Church has a lot of support from people within the community however only one Church Warden. Brian Rowsell does the bells ringing and is always looking for new bell ringers. Graham Plaice works very hard to raise money for the church. AGM Saturday 18th April at 8pm. Anyone can attend but to vote needs to be on the church electoral role.

**Jubilee Hall** remains as a Church Hall but with the new name. There are two trustees Tony Gilbert and the Church Warden. The cost of rent for the hall only covers day to day expenses. The Church over the next couple of years will find that repair costs will increase. They have already received a quotation for £27,000 on work required. Parish Office is not open at present but hope that it will return to being open 2 morning per week. John Parfitt mentioned that the cost of running a church is in the region of £200 per day.

Valerie Rowsell reported that the **Mothers Union** has always been the Wriggle Valley Mothers Union and that they are hoping to get people from outside the area involved. All welcome, including men. Chairman of union is Margaret Shipman.

**5. comments from ELECTORS, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE PARISH PLAN.**

Mrs Jubb commented that she was saddened by the lack of reports from other organisations in the village such as the Scouts etc. Cllr Gould explained that as organizations change it is not always possible to contact the right people to report at this event.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Carinna Vickers

Clerk to the Council