

# **YETMINSTER'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES**

**Held At St Andrew's School at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Present: Cllr Goater, Cllr Plaice, Cllr Lafferty, Cllr Hentley, Cllr Torrance, Cllr Kellar, Cllr Knight, Cllr Parfitt, DCllr Lawrence, CCllr Penfold. 16 members of the public and the Clerk.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Cllr Goater welcomed the community and thanked them for such a splendid turn out.

## **2 APOLOGIES -Cllr Perlejewski.**

## **3. APPROVE MINUTES OF VILLAGE MEETING 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017**

The minutes were approved by those present. Proposed: Cllr Goater. Unanimously agreed.

## **4. REPORT BY THE CHAIR**

The past year has witnessed an increased workload for councillors and the clerk. This is due largely to the decisions made in recent years by central government that local issues affecting parish and town councils should become the responsibility of local councils rather than district and county councils, who in turn are being reorganised. Whilst on many counts this reorganisation is to be welcomed, it follows that more responsibilities will now fall on parish and town councils and clerks. In addition, whilst all parish councillors offer their services on a voluntary basis, increased costs will have to be met via the parish precept, hence the higher than normal increase in the precept for financial year 2018/19.

The good news is that until fairly recently, and for the first time in many years, the parish council has had a full complement of councillors. Currently however, following a resignation, there is one vacancy. A person with an interest in finance, whilst not essential, would be particularly welcome to fill the casual vacancy until May 2019 when the next round of elections is due. During the past year, in addition to the usual housekeeping duties, councillors have given much attention to the following, which in turn give an accurate picture of the responsibilities held by parish councillors.

- 1 Finance: Whilst every effort has been made to keep any increase in the precept to an absolute minimum, nevertheless the increased responsibilities scheduled for 2018/19 necessitated the increase as approved by the full council meeting in December 2017.
- 2 Bus Transport: Following the withdrawal of previous bus services, a working party led by Cllr Torrance explored many options and came to the conclusion that Nordcat was the best viable option to provide a less frequent but reliable bus service for the village. Parishioners who have signed up with Nordcat are generally pleased with the new service arrangements which are still subject to on-going negotiation. In addition, increased use has been noted with the train to Pen Mill Station followed by the town bus service to Yeovil town and shopping centres.
- 3 Speedwatch : Cllr Knight and the group of volunteers have maintained a regular monitoring of the speed of vehicles through the village. The police have reported that legal action has been taken against a number of drivers, whilst others have received an official warning. Cllr Knight has decided to step down after many years and a big vote of thanks is due for his work. We welcome any new volunteers who wish to help out.
- 4 Website: Cllr Perlejewski has continued to work with the Parish Website throughout the year. The number of hits has averaged 330 per month. Cllr

Perlejewski continues to remind parishioners however that the website only works if input, information and requests come from them.

- 5 Children's Play Area: the play area continues to provide a useful and popular venue for young children in the village. However, it has become clear that a major rethink will have to take place in the near future if the play area is to meet modern demands and safety regulations. Councillors, led by Cllr Kellar will consider some options during the coming year. The cost of this however is likely to involve a five-figure sum and funding will have to be sourced.
- 6 Allotments: Whilst the majority of allotments are well tended, concerns have been at intervals on matters concerning the state of some plots. When vacating plots, allotment holders do not always inform the clerk of their intentions, resulting in delays in re-allocation plus a corresponding lack of good husbandry. Currently a working group led by Cllr Kellar is engaged on the revision of terms of occupation.
- 7 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Torrance and the Neighbourhood Plan team continue to make progress on the creation of the Plan. This is a very important document concerning the future of the village and once accepted by the Secretary of State will give the Parish Council greater influence over any future developments in the village. In addition, once the Plan has been accepted, 25% of any future CIL monies will automatically accrue to the parish for improvements to amenities in the village.
- 8 Telephone Kiosk : The village now owns the former BT telephone kiosk and various suggestions have been received for its future use as a village amenity, including a village library similar to the one created in Ryme Intrinseca, as a home for a defibrillator or as a village notice kiosk. The kiosk is in a sad state and Cllr Knight is leading a working party looking at future use and organising a refurbishment group.
- 9 Defibrillator: Cllr Lafferty is leading a working group to consider the desirability of and options for procurement and placement of a defibrillator for the village.
- 10 Planning Applications: These continue to occupy much time and consideration by the working group led by Cllr Hentley. Following the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan, the workload of the group is likely to expand at some point in the future as we assume greater control of planning matters and will be of vital importance on matters concerning the organic growth of the village.
- 11 Sports Club: Sadly, the Sports Club went into voluntary liquidation at the end of February 2018 and the lease held by the Club was surrendered. Currently, the Parish Council is in the process of appointing a successor (an individual or local organisation) to take over the running of the facility and promote sports use on the playing field. In the interim, the Parish Council assumes responsibility for the maintenance of the playing field in conjunction with the Tennis and Croquet Clubs who will continue to use the facilities by agreement with the Parish Council. The clubs will have to negotiate a new agreement with the successor tenant when appointed.
- 12 Road Closure in Ryme Road: Wessex Water have laid a new water main up Ryme Road and through Ryme Intrinseca. This has been ongoing since October 2017 but thankfully is now almost complete and the road has been re-opened. The closure caused real inconvenience to the residents of both villages. The work was however necessary to replace the 1960s cast iron system which was prone to corrosion and bursts, cutting off the water supply to properties. Cllr Knight headed the liaison with Wessex Water and kept residents informed of progress and plans as the work progressed. Following

the completion, it is hoped that Ryme Road will be resurfaced sometime in 2018/19.

- 13 Spar Shop and Post Office: Following protracted discussion with the Spar site owners led by Cllr Parfitt, the car park adjacent to the shop was resurfaced in January 2018 much to the relief of customers.
- 14 Highways and Footpaths : Whilst highways through and around the village are in a satisfactory state, there are certain residential streets in a very poor state of repair, particularly Coles Lane, Uplands, Mill Lane and Birch Lane. The Parish Council will continue to press DCC for remedial work. Also, some footpaths are overgrown and require attention. It would be helpful if regular walkers would bring any footpaths that required attention to the notice of the Parish Council for appropriate action.
- 15 Parking in the Village: There have been several comments made by residents concerned about parking in the village, particularly in the High Street. A bottleneck has appeared recently in Melbury Road. The Parish Council contacted DCC to try to arrange a meeting to see what options might be available but it was apparent that Yetminster had much less of a parking problem than many other villages in Dorset and DCC could not offer any hope of remedial work. We intend to monitor the situation and will have to wait until the new Unitary Authority is in place when we will try again to get something done, with the help of our County Councillor and hopefully, MP.

## 5. REPORTS FROM CLUBS / SOCIETIES / INSTITUTIONS

### **Angela Alston reported for “Coffee and Cake”.**

This was originally run by 6 ladies for 10 years under the name of Coffee Beans. With changes Angela was asked by Tony Gilbert to take over the organization of this event. The name was changed by agreement to Coffee and Cake and those involved previously, kindly agreed to volunteer to help run the event on a rota system. It has been successful for the last 3 years in this new format. Everybody donates money into a bowl and this covers the running costs. Any money left over is donated to charities. So far £1065.00 has been donated. Different volunteers support sorting the money, organizing the rota, supplying tea, coffee and cakes. Each month different speakers are invited to attend. All new members welcome.

### **Team Rector - Tony Gilbert report extracts read by Cllr Goater.**

This last year has continued to be somewhat turbulent but we have managed with the help of a stipendiary Team Vicar. However this situation will be rectified in September with the appointment of George Moody. The support from Sherborne Abbey team and Rev Nigel Thomas has been appreciated. Anne and Keith Budgell have officially retired and moved to ‘Permission to Officiate’. I am grateful to them that they both continue to support the benefice just as they always have. Michael Anderson continues to be a great support and is recovering from his major operation. He expects to be fully functioning by the end of April- if not before.

The absence of a stipendiary Team Vicar has affected Yetminster School and our work in it but Richard, John and I have met with the Head teacher and have worked out how to continue a reasonable clerical input. Unfortunately, Jane the head teacher decided to move on last September and her successor will not start until the beginning of the summer term. This had added another dimension to the pressure of our work at Yetminster. The other schools in the Benefice continue to manage well and the clergy are involved in all of them.

John Summers was priested on the 1/7/18 in Salisbury and he celebrated his first Mass at Holwell Church which was packed. Unfortunately for us he will be expected to move on in his 4<sup>th</sup> year so must now start looking for a suitable post.

To all who perform various roles in the church – Lay Ministers, Churchwardens,

Treasures, Secretaries, Organists, Choir coordinators, Sides people, Vergers, flower arrangers, fund raisers, cleaners, coffee makers. All very valuable ministries.

All in all despite the stresses outline above there are great signs of hope and work progresses. Thank you all for your continued dedication and hard work which is much valued.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Yetminster Cub Park delivered by Paul Hollick**

The Cubs are now a group of talented 18 members, when previously there were 4. They have been completing numerous badges throughout the year. There was a residential weekend at Osmington PGL with other Club members from the District where adventurous activities took place. They have spent the night with Beaver and Scouts under the wings of Concorde at the Fleet Air Museum. The troop were joint winners of scrap heap challenge and represented the District at the County final. Fund raising actives completed. Busy helping school clear the wooded area. Attend annual St Georges day in Dorchester and Remembrance service in Yetminster – handmade wreath. Important part of community. Thanks other leaders, committee member's parents and kids. Fair and community fund thanks for donation.

### **Yetminster & Garden Craft Society report from Pandy Brown read by Cllr Goater**

The aim of the Society is to promote the enjoyment of gardens and gardening , arts and crafts. Membership is open to all on payment of an annual subscription. There are currently 70 members. The Society meets monthly, either for talks given in the Jubilee Hall, or for outings to gardens or other outdoor venues.

Last year the programme included talks on Galanthophilia – snowdrops; 'The Answer Lies in the Soil' – growing healthy plants; 'Reach for the Sky' – on climbing plants and a Question & Answer session with the judges on 'Preparing for the Summer Show'. There was a demonstration on trug making and a talk from Castle Gardens on Building their Christmas Display. There were visits to the Wetlands Willow Centre, West Dean Gardens in Sussex and a private visit to a specialist plant nursery in Devon where members were able to buy at trade prices.

For 2018 there are talks on the Iris competition in Florence, the National Garden Scheme and Paul Atterbury form the Antiques Roadshow talking on The Making of the English Countryside. Demonstrations include Iconography, a willow sculpture and preparing winter hanging baskets. Outings are planned to the Bath & West Show and to RHS Rosemoor in Devon.

The Society is a member of the Sherborne Castle Gardens Gold Club which offers all members a discount buying afternoon in the spring where they can purchase anything at a 25% discount. In May we visit Peachey Fields near Bradford Abbas where members can purchase summer bedding plants at trade prices. The Society has become an affiliated member of the RHS. This entitles free entry for our members to one of the RHS gardens annually.

The Society organizes the Village Plant Sale, The Summer Show, Open Gardens, the Members' Summer Garden Party and their Christmas Party which includes entertainment and dinner.

### **Yetminster Book Club report from Frances Burton.**

When I moved to the village in November 2016 I was keen to find a book club to join as I had been a member of one where we lived previously. Unfortunately, there wasn't one in the village or any of the surrounding villages so I decided to start one up myself. The Yetminster Book Club has been up and running for a year now since April 2017. We meet every 6 weeks in The White Hart and take it in turns to choose books. We are a friendly, sociable group with 7 members currently. We respect the choices of all members and have some lively discussions about the books chosen. We spend almost as much time talking about things too. We had a Christmas meal at the pub and had a book based Secret Santa. We are planning to have a summer meal this

year. For a book club to run successfully there needs to be a maximum membership of around 12, so there are some places if anyone is interested.

### **100 of Yetminster History Society report from Anthony Brown.**

The Hundred of Yetminster History Society is primarily concerned with local history, the historic Hundred of Yetminster being an administrative area which included Yetminster, Ryme Intrinseca, Chetnole, Leigh, Melbury Osmond and Melbury Bubb. The Society has in the past published books or leaflets on the history of Yetminster and the neighbourhood and put on displays on subjects such as Magna Carta. We currently have some 75 members from the area and beyond.

The Committee organizes regular meetings and visits. In the Society's current year (ending in September) these include talks on the railway line from Bath to Weymouth; the lives of our 17<sup>th</sup> century ancestors; Sir Ernest Debenham's model estate at Briantspuddle; Tsar Nicholas the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Russian Revolution; and the Country house Weekend; the meetings are held in the Jubilee Hall and followed by tea. Visits in the current year are to Lyme Regis museum; Exeter; Brympton House near Yeovil; the Russell Cotes museum in Bournemouth; and Breamore House near Fordingbridge.

In the Society's next year we are planning some five talks and four visits, both near and far – details will be available in September.

Our AGM is held in September, accompanied by a talk, and in December we hold a Christmas Party with supper and entertainment. New members are always welcome.

### **Yetminster Short Mat Bowls Club reported delivered by Pat Smith.**

The club was formed in 2000 and has been active for over 17 years.

Short mat bowls is a completely mixed sport where men & women compete equally together and which can be enjoyed by all the family between the ages 9-90 and sometimes older. Our oldest member at the present time is 97.

The club currently participates in 3 leagues: The Yeovil summer league where we gained promotion from division 2 to division 1 in 2017; the Yeovil winter league division 2 where we have just completed the season ending 2<sup>nd</sup> in the table; finally the Blackmore Vale winter league division 4 ending in mid-table position.

We currently have 32 club members of which only 17 live in Yetminster.

New members are always welcome and we are happy to give instruction & explain the rules of the game to those who may not have played before, bowling equipment can be supplied and the first 3 trial sessions are free.

Our club sessions take place in the Jubilee Hall at 7pm on Wednesday evenings and 3pm on Thursday afternoons.

If anyone would like to join us please contact me Pat Sims at [pat.sims@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:pat.sims@mypostoffice.co.uk) or just come along to the Jubilee Hall on a Wednesday or Thursday.

### **Jubilee Hall reported delivered by Clr Goater**

The Jubilee Hall was planned in 1919 and was built on the site of the existing Vicarage largely by soldiers returning from the First World War. It was completed in 1921. The land was given by Salisbury and is still vested in them and St Andrews Church Hall was redesignated the Jubilee Hall in 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The building was extended earlier this century with the help of a generous bequest from the Trim family for which we are very grateful.

The Hall is run by a committee, headed by the Rector and quite lively meetings are held bi-monthly. The committee has the usual secretary and treasurer posts and 6 other members. June Goss retired as a committee member during the year after a long service and is much missed. Antony Brown joined the committee

recently and we are glad to have his wisdom and dry sense of humour on board. The governing document of the committee is still the Conveyance dated 1919 which names The Rector and Churchwardens as Trustees.

The Hall has to stand on its own feet and continues to run with the income from bookings and some very helpful grants and donations. There are many regular users of the Hall for meetings and social/leisure activities which form the backbone of our income and also a small but steady stream of external bookings which make a very valuable contribution. We were sad to lose one of our oldest groups who used the Hall every Saturday, the Yetminster Irish Dancers who moved their practice location to Yeovil as most of their dancers actually live there. It was a sad loss but we wish them well under their new name, Black Rock Dancers and we hope to see them again this year at the Fair in July.

Finances are stable with a small reserve for emergencies. The Hall is not run to make a profit, it is there to serve the community but we have to be realistic because the running costs with light heat insurance maintenance and cleaning costs are quite high and it's always gratifying if we make a small profit in the year to be ploughed back into improved facilities

The décor in the Main Hall is showing its age and we will be redecorating it after the Fair in July. A group of volunteers repainted the Trim Room and Lobby recently and we hope to complete the decoration in the toilets when the weather improves.

The Hall is coming up to its centenary and we hope to mark the occasion with some really good events,

Finally, the Hall relies on its volunteers who do a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes and it is invidious to name names but these people know who they are and deserve our heartfelt thanks. We could always do with more volunteers (gentle hint !) We can't leave without saying heartfelt thanks as well to the Yetminster Community Project who do so much to support the Hall by organising fun events and making grants for many of the facilities and improvements in the Hall

### **WDDC reported by DCllr Lawrence**

#### **District Council report for Annual Parish Meeting 2018.**

Last year I reported of possibility of **Unitary Council**, since that time a lot of waiting and finally The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and local Government, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP has agreed 26/2/18 to the creation of two new unitary councils for Dorset. The two authorities will replace Dorset's 9 councils. One will cover Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, and the other will serve the residents of the rest of the County, Each will deliver all local government services in their respective areas / the two new councils are due to go live in April 2019, and from that date North, West and Weymouth and Portland District Council will cease to exist.

The name will be DORSET COUNCIL WITH 82 members   Sherborne 2 Members and Sherborne Rural 2 members.

BOURNEMOUTH CHRISTCHURCH & POOLE 75 members.

At the next election in April/May 2019 for the new councillors will serve for a period of 2 consecutive 5 years and then a 4 year (this will line up for election every 4 years)

Town and Parish Councils will also be on the same day in 2019 and serve 2 – 5 years then 4 years.

**Ward boundaries for the New Unitary Councils** members to have a briefing in April, the session will discuss the next steps in the electoral review process that will be developing the ward boundaries for the new unitary councils, members will be given advice on what they should consider when drawing up proposals , speakers from Local Govt Boundary Commission.

**WDDC councillors have agreed the budget for 2018/2019** an increase of £5 in the council tax. The council forecast a balanced budget despite challenges, since

2015 the government grant has been reduced each year and there will be no government support grant in 2019/2020

For the coming financial year the council's aiming to balance its budget against savings of £710,000.

WDDC charges one of the lowest council tax in England

Efficiencies will come from continually improving how the council works. The new arrangements for the Gryphon Sports Centre which is now managed by Gryphon School.

## **20,000 NEW HOMES to meet demand by 2033**

### **Home Ownership Register**

It is for anyone seeking a new home in N Dorset, W Dorset or Weymouth & Portland whether it is open market affordable shared -ownership or rental, by signing up you'll receive a newsletter about all the latest developments in the property market locally – including new schemes with planning consent or properties released for sale by house builders as well as government developments or shared ownership initiatives.

The easiest way to sign up to the new Home Ownership Register is to go on line or <https://www.doesitforyou.gov.uk/articles/425582/Accelerating-Homebuilding>

### **OPENINGSDOORS**

A move is part of the council's innovative open doors campaign, which aims to meet housing need at a local level when faced with a lower number of active developers that can typically be found in larger urban areas.

It comes 25 years after the District council transferred its housing stock to the then West Dorset Housing Association in 1993. That organisation has since become Magna Housing. the council recognises that local housing association do a great job but the area still needs more housing provision with 1,572 people on the council's register.

The name set up as a LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY to be finalised, with initial funding of £4 m from council reserves.

The new company will target areas that are not currently being served by local – based housing developers.

Work with community land trusts to deliver smaller sites.

Acquire sites that have been granted planning consent for housing but not brought forward.

In addition to increasing the supply of housing locally, receipts from the sale of properties and rents would create revenue, that in the longer term could be reinvested in further housing provision.

OPENING DOORS aims to encourage construction of a total of 20,000 houses, by 2033 across the areas covered WDDC NDDC and Weymouth & Portland Borough DC

**February 2018 Sky lanterns and helium balloons** a ban has been introduced by local councils, the rules will apply to all council owned land and leased premises the ban will be reviewed in two years, the move follows concerns that lanterns and balloons can harm animals and cause damage to property.

**Leisure Development Fund Budget** in January 2018 grants were awarded to Small Arts or Small Sports Development fund. As there will be changes to WDDC from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 there will be only two panel meetings held in 2018/2019 one in May and the other in September 2018 applicants to/recipients of the Leisure Development Fund are being advised that their project must have an end date which will allow their grant to be claimed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 tel 01305 252250

Email [mippard@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:mippard@dorset.gov.uk) [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

### **The West Dorset Anti-social Related Public Spaces protection order 2018**

**Feeding of gulls banned under new order** this will come into force 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

The rules of on consuming alcohol in public places remain largely the same but the feeding of sea gulls is new.

After considering 579 responses the council WDDC decided to simplify the existing regulations and replace the two existing orders . the new rules aim to reduce the problem of aggressive gulls and ensure anti-social behaviour remains low in West Dorset

**Council Tax** paying council tax, make the digital switch and the council will donate £1 for each new person who signs up to pay their Council Tax by direct debit or signs up to e-billing. This will run to the end of April 2018, when all money raised will be split two local charities Weldmar Hospice and Julia's House.

Dorsetforyou/planning/search is now much easier for those that wish to keep an eye on local applications. Once on the page you may not know the number just put in the name of Town or Village where it says parish, and the application will appear.

For any other issues roads/ transport/rubbish collection etc go to dorsetforyou.

### **The Gallery report delivered by Sarah Hedlin**

Sarah reported that this was the 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the café today. The Aim of the Old School Gallery and Café was to provide a warm friendly space for people to meet and enjoy company while providing a variety of Art. It is all inclusive and aims to provide a caring, supportive environment for those on their own. The Gallery is an asset to the community and works to improve life within the village. Numerous events are run from the Gallery to incorporate members of the community.

### **Yetminster Community Project reported delivered by Ray Drewett**

The aim of the organisation is to organise events for the Jubilee Hall. If there is any profit from these events then the money is donated to organisations around the village. In May the Fat Marrow Blues Band is due to play, there have been Quiz evenings, Musical concerts, folk music, 2 visits from Farmer Malting's Theatre company, a rural touring group. Finally a bold new venture has taken place— Potato Day, which was a joint venture with Yetminster Garden and Crafts Society and was very well attended. Money that has been raised is given to a number of organisations including, the Scouts, Guides, Art for All, Beavers and Bowls.

### **Moviola report delivered by Ray Drewett**

Mr Drewett reported that that Moviola was continuing to be successful with 6 films each season. The films shown were described and highlighted.

### **The White Hart – report read by Cllr Goater**

Since March 2017 The White Hart has come on in leaps and bounds! Wanting to become the central hub of the village, we aspired to hold meetings, music events, quizz and much more and....

Our diaries are always full these days with Live music on the last Sunday of the month and are well attended by all ages (could always do with more though!!): Our quiz nights are generally booked up for the last Tuesday and normally average about 30 for the first Tuesday: We regularly have meetings here from the PTA to the South West Dressage Club and many in-between:

We hold a monthly senior's lunch club which offers a selection of smaller plates at reduced price which is a great get together for meeting new people. We support 4 skittle teams and the alley has been re-decorated with a Yetties Memorabilia theme and is now used for parties and get togethers as well as team games.

We offer a one bedrooomed apartment on a self-catering or B&B basis for one night or a longer break which can be booked through our website as well as in person. Food wise, we offer a full menu every day including snacks and roasts on a Sunday along with our special boards. Our takeaways run alongside our normal meal orders, offering fish and chips, burgers, sausages and more and are served 7 days a week.

A loyalty card scheme we run, now has over 160 members and offers holders' discounts throughout the week along with the chance to win money in our weekly prize

draw. So as you can see there is always something going on here.....our website is updated regularly and every day our Facebook posts will keep people up to date with things, as will our boards outside the pub.

In the first year we have won the title of 'Commended' in the Coun6try-side Alliance Rural Pub awards (an award that you cannot enter yourself, you have to be nominated for it) – one of only 4 in the South West to reach the finals – for our contribution to the community and for what we offer, so you see you have an award winning pub in the village!

In the next 12 months we are hoping to continue to grow our reputation and trade – it would be lovely to see some new faces coming to see us – we serve coffee as well!

We also aim to grow the B&B business and our 'Britstop' offer which is a UK based stopover scheme for motorhomes – giving people a chance to stop for a night and eat/drink with us and review us, hopefully bringing more trade in !

We are bringing BBQs in on Bank Holiday Sundays to co-inside with our music afternoons and are working on attracting more parties and get togethers in our Skittle Alley. A great band is booked for the evening of Yetminster fair and we are hoping to bring even more people to this heart of the village for that day – being actively involved in helping wherever possible and raising funds for the committee.

If you have any clubs or get togethers that you feel would like to use our facilities – from the pub to the skittle alley – please don't hesitate to talk to us. All age groups welcomed and all ideas or requests – I was thinking about a village slimming club but have no idea how to set it up – any takers to organise it!??

We all look forward to welcoming you and thank you for your continued support.  
Blanche, Alex, Karen and the team.

### **Yetminster Fair Association reported by Barbara Driver**

The history of Fair and its origins were outlined. There was a lapse in the yearly event between 1947 and 1975. It has carried on since then as a day of entertainment for the community. The committee had a good year last year and has support from the community. But if there is anyone who is interested in helping please come along and give us good ideas. Support comes from Derek Mott with the 50 Club draw. The fair is a day in the village centred around the pub and field and tries to incorporate the Scouts and creams teas and other organisations in the village. Any money raised is distributed to numerous organisations over the year, with £1800 being distributed last year.

### **Pat Simms reported on the Table Tennis Club**

The Club was formed in early 2004. Currently there are 12 members of the club the highest number for some now. Our ages range from the mid-60's to the late 80's so being athletic and over competitive is not our top priority. We all enjoy the exercise along with a good social atmosphere when we swap village gossip while having a reviving cup of coffee half-way through the morning.

We meet every Monday morning at the scout hut between 10.00am and 12 mid-day. We pay a fee of £2.00 per week to cover the cost of hiring the scout hut and catering costs.

Newcomers are always welcome to join us and do not have to pay anything for the first two weeks. We also supply bats if you do not have your own.

If anyone would like to join us please contact me Pat Sims at [patsims@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:patsims@mypostoffice.co.uk) or just come along at 10am on a Monday morning.

### **Wriggle Valleys Mothers Union report delivered by Margaret Shipman**

This is a world wide non profit Christian volunteer group for both males and females, single or married. They meet in the Trim room. It follows a yearly programme based in the footsteps of Mary Sumners, who was a Vicars wife who found there was nothing in the community for mothers and children. She set up a meeting which

was inundated with people joining. The AGM is in January and meets once a month. They raise money for different causes, so far having given £250 for refugees, £60 mothers refugee. £460 distributed to different charities. All new members welcome.

### **Wriggle Valley Women's Group reported by Pat Smith**

The Wriggle Valley Women's Group was started in the 1980's after a suggestion by the Rev. Peter Hooper, who was concerned for the young wives and mothers then in the area. The monthly meetings were at first headed by Jean Woodford of Chetnole and as many as 18 might attend, getting together in someone's house, at The Friary, in Ann Partridges, or Frances Moules house. Now, we are lucky to be able to meet in Gable Court, Yetminster, kindly lent to us by Judy and Boney Pyke. We have a mixed agenda of interesting speakers and discussion groups, of craft evenings and we often support some charity dear to one of our group. Some of the charities we have supported are Books for Fiji, Julia's House, Home Farm Trust, St Margaret's hospice, and this last year we have supported growing girls in Kenya through the Girl Guides Association. Each year we have a walk or visit somewhere out of Yetminster and we always have a Christmas dinner at a hostelry or at a group member's house. We've visited Sutton Bingham reservoir, walked around Cerne, Dorchester, Milborne Port and many others as well as having Afternoon Tea with Lesley Waters and we even had an outing to Highgrove, Prince Charles' home. We are not a church group, have members from any area around and welcome anyone who would like to just call in. Contact Ruth on 10935 872973 or Philippa on 01935 873892 for more information.

### **David Gould reported for the Church**

The Church continues to serve the community, although the shortage of priests in the 17 church benefice has made it difficult for them to provide as much support for church services and for those in need as they would like. Hopefully this will improve in the Autumn as: a new Team Vicar - Rev George Moody – has been recruited and will live in the Yetminster Vicarage, with his wife and four children. He is currently a teacher at Abingdon School and so will not move here until the end of the school year in July. He will be licensed to officiate on September 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Yetminster Sunday service rota has been changed slightly and now an 'all age' Holy Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month, resulting in an increased attendance.

It was pleasing to see the Easter Day service so well attended by residents from all over the village.

The Church Benefice Office is now open every weekday, pm Tuesday and am on other Days. Bookings for the Jubilee Hall are now done through this office

Jane Robotham the Choir Master has decided to retire from this duty. She has done a wonderful job and we thank her for all the hard work. The Choir is actively looking for a new leader.

Last year the Church was rewired and fitted with new lighting and heating. Both are a great improvement although we did have some teething problems with the heating.

The Clock was also repaired.

Fund Raising for the Tower repair and internal changes of the Church continues with a full programme of events as you will have seen. We had a number of successful events last year the best being a drinks party with access to the Clock which attracted some 100 residents many of whom had never been in the Church before. In November the Jo Burt concert attracted over 170 people. The next event is the Antiques Valuation Day this Saturday with 3 experts from Dukes, two of whom have been on the Antiques Road Show.

Up to now we have raised some £20,000 towards the target of £200,000. We have had two very generous donations and others including from the YCP and Fair, for which we are most grateful. We currently await the Architects building specification for the work needed. Once that is received we can obtain quotes and apply for faculties (church

planning permission) from the Diocese. Once these have been granted we can apply for grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and grant giving charities. When we have raised sufficient money with grants and our own efforts, we can get the work done hopefully in the autumn.

Many of the Church fund raising events take place in the Church which has two advantages over the Jubilee Hall, one its ambience and acoustics and the second its capacity which – at a pinch – is 50% more than the legal limit of the Hall. Now something possibly slightly controversial. In principle there is no reason why a non-church organization should not hold an event such as a concert in the Church if they so wished. The internal changes planned are designed to make the use of the Church for such an event more versatile.

### **Graham Plaice reported on Helping Hands**

Helping Hands was set up in 2011 and to date has carried out over 600 requests for assistance from the local community.

We originally set up the organisation to offer assistance to the local community for specific tasks, which have included: transport and assistance to medical appointments at the health centre and hospitals, shopping, gardening, attending church and various other tasks. Since then the organisation has widened its remit to offer befriending and companionship, a most worthwhile and rewarding experience. Ninety per cent of our requests are for transport.

Our main and virtually only asset is our volunteers, who have provided a lifeline to many in the local community. They continue to amaze me at their ability to go the extra mile, displaying immense understanding and compassion when dealing with some very vulnerable and lonely people.

Graham Plaice – coordinator Helping Hands. 01935 872921 – [gplaice@gmail.com](mailto:gplaice@gmail.com)

### **Sherborne Rural division reported by CClr Penfold**

CClr Penfold tries to come to PC meeting as much as possible to support the community. She briefly outlined that new Local Government reorganisation will be clearer in June. With regards to complaints of pot holes, she recommended logging onto the dorsetforyou website and using the interactive reporting tool. If this is not successful then please contact her directly and she will liaise with Paul Thatcher from Highways. . CClr Penfold reported that Fly tipping is on the increase and residents should report any activity. Road works at Barton, Sherborne should be completed by end of June.

## **6. PARISHIONER'S QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL**

Mrs E Judd thanked the Chairman for organising a very illuminating meeting. She hoped however that in the future this would be more widely publicized. The Clerk indicated that email circulation was not possible due to data protection restriction and that it would be helpful for organisations would send information to the website for inclusion.

Mrs Judd raised concerns at the outdated website and that the community had given up on the website as the Parish Council were not maintaining it properly

It was reported that there would be a Village clean up on Saturday 14/4/18 at 10am - Volunteers welcome.

Cllr Kellar asked if a Badminton Club could be initiated and agreed to investigate.