

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 12th April 2018 at 6.30pm in The Reading Rooms, High Street, Great Yeldham.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Marlene Broomfield, opened the meeting by welcoming residents and local clubs/groups. She referred to the Annual Report of the Parish Council, copies of which were available for everyone and which is also reproduced in full on the Parish Council website (<http://www.essexinfo.net/great-yeldham-parish-council/>). The report covered topics as diverse as Highways to Burial Ground, Actions taken during the last year were reported, and the key actions for 2018/19 include plans for the regeneration of Recreation Ground and the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Broomfield asked attendees to take advantage of the information on display and to enjoy the refreshments that were available.

Later in the Assembly County Councillor David Finch gave the parish an update on the work of Essex County Council and attendees took the opportunity to speak with him. Report by Cllr Finch

Two students of the Sophie Allen Dance classes performed a contemporary dance piece, everyone enjoyed the originality of the dancing.

Display's this year included the Ladies' Club, the Cottage Garden Society, the Carpet Bowls Club, St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Mind, Sophie Allen Dance Group, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Sports and Recreation Ground Management Committee, Gt Yeldham Reading Room and Great Yeldham Parish Council. Exhibits were very informative, and members of each group were in attendance to answer any questions from attendees.

The Recreation Ground Management Committee took the opportunity to display the regeneration plans for the Sports and Recreation Ground prepared by Sheilsflynn. Plans include a new bespoke gate and signage wall to the sports ground to reinforce the sense of community ownership, MUGA (multi-use games area), 2 football pitches, a cricket wicket, Children's play hill with seating area with long 'railway seats' and play diggers which children can climb on, a 600m jogging/walking track with exercise machines located at strategic intervals, a zip wire, extended skate park, revamped BMX track and 3 tennis courts, extended car park and new pavilion. Everyone agreed these were exciting and ambitious plans that focus on the young people in the village but will also provide facilities for the older residents who want to keep fit. Copy of plan can be viewed here

One of the main announcements at the Assembly was the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and how residents can get involved. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. If anyone resident in Great Yeldham would be interested in learning more about the Neighbourhood Plan or taking part in this project, please contact Cllr Rachel Buckenham, Cllr Philip Rawlinson or the Parish Clerk for further details.

The Parish Council also invited comments from residents in obtaining a community defibrillator, residents thought that this was a much-needed facility for the village with the Reading Room and the phone box being identified as a suitable location for a defibrillator.

The Assembly was well attended by 22 local residents. There were no questions directed to the Parish Council from the public.

The meeting officially closed at 8.00pm.

The Parish Council thanked all those who took part in providing entertainment, refreshments and information, and looked forward to another exciting year ahead.