

GREAT YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7.30pm, Reading Room, Gt Yeldham

Present: Cllr Philip Rawlinson (Chairman) joined the meeting at 8.05 pm
 Cllr John Marks (Vice-Chairman)
 Cllr Anne Burrows
 Cllr Phil King
 Cllr Mark Lovell
 Cllr Barry Sargeant
 Cllr Gary Theobald

In attendance: Tracy Wigmore (Parish Clerk). 2 members of the public.

23/163 Welcome and apologies for absence.

Cllr Marks, Deputy Chairman, opened the meeting and reported that Cllr Rawlinson would join the meeting later. Apologies received from Cllr Burr and Cllr Chahal.

23/164 Declarations of Interest.

Cllrs King, Lovell and Marks declared a non-pecuniary interest at item 23/170 Men's Shed.

23/165 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October were a correct record. All in favour. Deputy Chairman signed the minutes.

23/166 Public Participation Session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters of mutual interest.

Two members of the public present. Young person stated he had an interest in politics and how Parish Council meetings were conducted. Cllr Marks welcomed the young person to the meeting and provided a brief outline of how the meeting would be conducted, any questions and information could be given/emailed after the meeting.

23/167 Invitation to Cllr Peter Schwier, Essex County Council and Cllr Richard van Dulken, Braintree District Council to address the meeting on matters of mutual interest. The maximum time allowed for this item is 10 minutes but may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman.

Cllr van Dulken

Apologies. Report circulated (available on website).

Cllr Burrows had received reports of someone living at 'The Slipe' (believed to be a relative of previous owner). A Butlers Way resident whose garden backs onto the Slip needs a tree branch removing but the tree trunk is located on the Slipe. Not able to gain access to the property to undertake tree works. The Chairman reported there are ongoing 'Probate' issues, unfortunately not able to do anything until resolved.

Cllr Rawlinson joined the meeting at 8.05 pm.

Cllr Peter Schwier

- Flooding concerns raised by residents. ECC do not supply sandbags. Grants are available to protect properties against flooding with a Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant worth up to £8,000. Grants can be used to fit flood protection products such as: automatic flood doors, de-watering pumps, barriers; airbrick covers. Report blocked on the ECC Tell Us website at <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us> . Emergencies or risk to public safety, do not report it online, call 0345 603 7631.

- Winter Service - gritters and crews on standby. The 49 gritters, plus two mini electric gritters in the service, cover approximately 2,000 miles of roads across Essex. Last winter, around 20,500 tonnes of salt were used on Essex's roads, with the gritters out on the network approximately 70 times.
- Third bi-annual Climate Summit took place recently. The summit focused on how to improve nature and build climate resilience in Essex. The aim was to support collaboration between local and national experts. During the event, several climate change experts who delivered key-note speeches including Rt. Hon. Lord Deben. Watch the climate summit in full on YouTube [ECC Autumn Climate Summit: Restoring Nature, Building Resilience, October 31st 2023 - YouTube](#)
- Budget and priorities for next year - Local authorities across the country are facing financial pressures. This is from high inflation, rising interest rates and the cost-of-living situation. ECC has a history for strong fiscal management. In fact, £235 million has been saved in budgets over the past five years. ECC will spend over £2bn, this will include funding for essential services and investment in our county's infrastructure and future growth. Will have to make difficult choices about where we spend, and where to make savings, looking at better financial control and frontline services. Adult and childcare services cost £600m every year and increasing.
- Locality Fund community organisation to submit applications by February 2024.
- Consultation on the draft Waste Strategy for Essex sets out the vision, targets and priorities of the Essex Waste Partnership (EWP). The draft strategy covers how ECC propose to manage waste from homes and businesses in the county for the next 30 years. The aim is to reduce waste, protect the environment and save resources. A 10-week public consultation open closes on 22 November 2023. Opportunity for residents, businesses and organisations to have their say on our proposals.
- RAAC 14 schools identified. Programme identifying priorities to ensure building safety and Essex children back into school; immediate plans in place to enable face to face learning either on site or at alternative locations, or to support them put hybrid learning in place; work with schools to put in mitigations in place – either structural mitigations or temporary accommodation in order to get pupils back on school sites as quickly as possible; ensure all maintained schools have had intrusive RAAC surveys; support academies with commissioning survey work if required
- Essex Explorer Magazine – Autumn/Winter 2023. <https://www.explore-essex.com/culture/essex-explorer>
- Questions. Cllr Rawlinson thanked Cllr Schwier for ECC's quick reaction to the flooding on Bridge Street/North Road. However, jetting the drain has exposed the drain framework and is extremely dangerous, causing damage to vehicles, most locals know it's there but visitors don't. Has been reported, any way it can be expedite. Send follow up email to Cllr Schwier. Unfortunately, the drainage infrastructure is old and cannot cope with the torrential rainfall/flooding.

23/168

Planning Applications – Received as at 03/11/23

23/02453/FUL | Proposed commercial development of 8 light industrial units (B8) and associated parking and access provision | Land Northwest of The Old Council Yard, Heddingham Road, Great Yeldham. Consultation

RESOLVED: General discussion held on the benefits the commercial development would bring to the local area. Application was supported.

23/02579/FUL | Erection of No.2 two storey two-bedroom semidetached houses | Land South Of, 4 Little Hyde Close, Great Yeldham. Consultation End Date:

RESOLVED: The Parish Council noted the consultee comments submitted by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service regarding insufficient access for Fire Services and therefore objected to the application.

23/169 Planning Decisions as at 03/11/23

22/00552/HH Retention of 1.8m boundary fence adjacent to highway. Canie Hall, Toppesfield Road. **PENDING**

22/01781/HH Retention of single storey rear extension to outbuilding | Canie Hall Toppesfield Road. **PENDING**

22/02812/TPOCON Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a conservation Area: Yew (T1) Crown reduction of 1.5 metres. Oak House, Church Rd. **PENDING**

23/01028/OUT | Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of 1240 Sqm of B1, B2 and B8 commercial space with associated parking. | Gt Yeldham Water Treatment Works, Hedingham Road, Gt Yeldham. **PENDING**

23/02030/HH & 23/02031/LBC Upgrading insulation and retiling kitchen roof, rebuilding kitchen gable end wall; upgrading insulation and alterations to porch roof, replacement of modern single glazed doors and windows in kitchen and rear gable with Slimline double-glazed joinery. The Rookery, Poole St. **PERMITTED**

23/02142/TPO | Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO - 23/2011. Ash (T1) To Remove the large lead that grows towards the house. Reduce the height by 4 m. Crown lift over the neighbour's shed for 3 m of clearance and over the playing field for 2.5m of clearance. This tree has a large injury at the lower main union. Ash (T2) Height reduction of 4 m. This tree has dropped 3 or 4 large branches recently, it wants to be reduced out of the wind throw to reduce further risk. | Birch House, Toppesfield Road, Gt Yeldham **PERMITTED**

23/02278/OHL | UK Power Networks are proposing to install a new pole and stay within an existing line on the eastern boundaries of the site to terminate the overhead line at this point, the proposed pole will be 10m tall which is equivalent to all other existing poles in the existing line. | Scotneys Farmhouse Scotneys Lane Great Yeldham Essex CO9 4HG **Deemed Permitted**

23/02328/TPO Notice of intent to carry out works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order Oak (T3) Prune back the crown that is overhanging the garden to the property line (1.5 metres) | Birch House, Toppesfield Road. **PERMITTED**

23/02307/FUL | Change of use of land for the stationing of 2 x storage containers (retrospective) plus 1 additional container for storage purposes for the use by the Gt Yeldham Men's Shed project. | Recreation Ground Pavilion, Toppesfield Road, Great Yeldham **PERMITTED as at 9th November 2023.**

23/170 Men's Shed

Update report by Cllr Lovell. Planning has now been approved with a couple of conditions. Cladding will commence in the spring; bench installation and landscaping need to be completed within 6 months. Third container will be delivered within 2 weeks followed by the generator. Electrical works required to feed the electricity supply to the containers. Quiz night was held, 71 tickets were sold, the event raised over £700. Once works have been completed and project running, would like to extend the community facility to other groups e.g. Scouts, Youth Club but will need to review the operating times as the current restriction limits the use of the shed. Potential partnership with the pending bus museum at Pool Farm, owners keen to work with the project. Have offered the use of heavy-duty tools. From 1st January 2024 the project will operate independently from the Parish Council with its own bank account, insurance and policies this will enable the project to access further funding opportunities.

For note.

23/171 Bowtells Meadow

Update by Cllr Theobald. 3 companies were invited to submit plans to help shape the future refurbishment of the play park, only 2 submitted formal proposals. Caloo had expressed an interest in submitting plans, as 1 company declined the group agreed to accept a proposal from Caloo and extended their deadline to December. With recent

floods on meadow will need to ensure any new proposals are future proof. Collaborating with the Men's Shed to identify furniture that could be crafted i.e. picnic benches to include wheelchair access.

For note.

23/172 Sports & Recreation Ground – Disability Access

Update by Cllr Lovell. A request has been received to install a handrail to the steps at the front of the pavilion, the steps are not easy to use for people with disabilities. The grass ramp to the side of the building is quite steep, nor does it have a handrail. The site was assessed, access does not meet current legislation. Installation of a ramp would cost between a £4-6K, in the short term, side handrails on either side of the steps could be purchased for £200 (excl. installation). Longer term would need to investigate whether there are significant users of the pavilion, who have mobility needs, to make an application for grant funding for the ramp.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council agree to purchase the handrails. Cllr Lovell to obtain costs for installation.

23/173 Clerks Report

Councillors to review actions list, update and report progress to date (Rpt circu).

- Legal Briefing: Fire Safety Regulations into force as at 1st October 2023. Trustees for Reading Room MC and Sports Ground MC need to review the current Fire Safety procedures for the RR and SG to ensure compliance with the new Regulations.
- PC's and Charity Bank Accounts – Bank undertaking a review of the accounts if found that these accounts were incorrectly set up (i.e. business accounts but should be for non-profit-making entities), they will be closed and new ones opened.

23/174 To approve the monthly invoices and accounts due for payment. (Rpt circu).

The Clerk presented the list of payments. The Deputy Chairperson reported that the Men's Shed would need imminent payment of 2 invoices for the generator £6,200 and for the 3rd container £2,040.00. **RESOLVED: that payments be approved of £5119.76. All in favour.** Cllrs Marks and Burrows signed the Accounts for Payment.

23/175 Receipts and Payments for the period ending 31st October 2023 (rpt circu.).

The Clerk presented the Receipts and Payments report. There were no queries or comments **RESOLVED: That the report is approved. All in favour**

23/176 Information Exchange/Communication Received/Next Agenda Items Only

- Youth Club/Bus - seeking views on whether to re-establish the Youth Club (Year 6 and above) which ceased operation due to Covid. Discussions have been held with the Youth Bus Co-ordinator to explore bringing the Youth Bus back.
- The Friendly Bench Project - purpose is to bring people together, to reduce loneliness and to boost wellbeing. Specially designed outdoor seating spaces are not just benches, but meeting points and social hubs, hosting regular activities and events for people of all ages and abilities. Design a 'Friendly bench' scheme for Bowtells Meadow in partnership with the Men's Shed.
- Foodbank Outreach Worker to attend the next meeting, keen on working with villages.

23/177 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. Exclusion of the press and the public.

In accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Parish Council is invited to RESOLVE that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item 23/178 owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

23/178 **Transfer of Bowtells Meadow to Great Yeldham Parish Council, S106 Agreement relating to the South West side of Church Road, Gt Yeldham, Essex dated 14th January 2020**
No updates.

23/180 **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**
Re-admittance of the press and the public.

23/181 **Date and time of next meeting**
The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 7th December 2023 at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed: 8.40 pm.

Scheduled Meeting Dates:

The dates for all meetings are subject to change having regard to the business needs of the Council. Should it be necessary to revise the Timetable of Meetings, the amended Timetable will be re-published on the Council's website. (*Please check the website/notice board for Agenda for confirmation of meeting*):

- Thursday 7th December 2023
- January 2024 - no meeting (unless required to set the precept)
- Thursday 1st February 2024
- Thursday 7th March 2024