

# PARISH OF YOULGRAVE

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Youlgrave on 29 April 2014

**Electors Present** Parish Council Vice Chairman Has Oldham in the chair and 13 other electors

**In Attendance** 2 members of the public

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**1 Appointment of Clerk** The meeting appointed Matthew Lovell to take the minutes.

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**2 Apologies** Councillors Graham Elliott, Glenys Moore and Brian Wardle + PC Hyde + District Councillor David Frederickson + County Councillor Simon Spencer

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**3 Minutes** **Resolved** That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 April 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

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**4 Statement of Accounts** The Parish Council has maintained its spending within plan this year and has increased the precept for next year to cover our expanded commitments to £17523. The accounts for 2013/14 will be finalised at the April Council meeting and are being audited on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

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**5 Chair's report** Has Oldham, Vice-Chair presented the report on behalf of Brian Wardle and highlighted points from the following:

It has once again been a busy year for the Parish Council, which continues to work hard for the benefit of all residents.

After reviewing the distribution of grit bins around the village, and in light of problems in previous winters, we decided to go ahead and install new grit bins in 12 key locations including Conksbury, Grove Place and Bradford that were not sufficiently covered. Six of these bins were provided by Derbyshire County Council, the rest by us. In addition, we arranged a bulk purchase of bags of rock salt for domestic use that went on sale via Youlgrave Garage at a heavily discounted price for residents.

Our long standing efforts to obtain funding to redevelop the Alport Lane playing fields tennis courts finally paid off when we were awarded a grant of over £22,250 from the SITA Trust, made possible because we had dedicated the grounds a Queen Elizabeth II sports field the previous year. The Parish Council was required to match the award with £6850 of our own money, and this has helped convert one of the two courts into an all-weather, multi-use games area (MUGA) complete with football goals and basketball hoops. The remaining court remains dedicated for tennis. The MUGA is already well used by local youngsters and should be a durable and popular facility, which we also hope that the school, football team and others will find useful. The Parish Council would once again like to thank the Tennis Club for their understanding and cooperation in this matter.

The Parish Council continues to arrange the upkeep of the playing fields and Coldwell End car park and play area. In addition to the public toilets we own and manage at these two sites, we have now taken on the well-used and strategically important public toilets on Holywell Lane, opposite the village hall, having agreed a legal transfer from the District Council. We are in process of modernising and improving these facilities and will be installing a donations box for visitors to contribute towards their upkeep.

Our Coldwell End allotments remain popular and almost all are once again taken; and we continue to maintain 16 public benches throughout the parish. We are grateful to Pete Bush the Peak Park Ranger and his team of volunteers for reopening the public footpath from King

Street.

The Parish Council has taken the initiative to develop a new website for Youlgrave and set up a steering committee made up of a cross section of residents to take the project forwards. Although it is still in its early stages and there is a lot of work yet to do you can see the emerging site at [www.youlgrave.org.uk](http://www.youlgrave.org.uk). We are indebted to Emma Youatt for maintaining the previous website on behalf of the village. We would also thank our County Councillor Simon Spencer for giving a £400 grant towards the design costs.

Finally, the Parish Council took the decision that for a relatively isolated rural village like Youlgrave, where ambulance response times can be lengthy and might lengthen still with possible ambulance service reorganisation, we would help ourselves by fundraising and installing a publicly accessible defibrillator to aid those suffering a sudden cardiac arrest. At approaching £2,000 a time we hoped we might be able to afford one or two, but thanks to the generosity of local residents and businesses – and some wonderful fundraising from all sections of the community – we have raised enough money for the purchase of four units! These are all now up and running (or at least should be any day now) and can be found on the external wall of the Farmyard Inn, outside Youlgrave Garage, on a publicly accessible property on Mawstone Lane, and in the former red telephone box at Alport. Free awareness training sessions are taking place and more formal first aid sessions may follow. We hope that this potentially life-saving equipment, paid for by the local community, will make Youlgrave a safer place to live and visit for all concerned.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their hard work over the last 12 months and especially my Vice-Chair for standing in.

Brian Wardle - Chairman, Youlgrave Parish Council

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## 6 Guest Speaker

John Scott – Head of Planning, Peak District National Park Authority

John introduced himself to the meeting. He has been in post since October 2012 having spent the prior ten years in consultancy and the sixteen before that as a Peak Park Planning Officer. He has already started to implement changes to build relationships with Parishes. Where a council disagrees with a delegated officer's decision the officer must provide a copy of his report to show why, where the council's disagreement is more than on a minor design issue the application must go to committee and the parish clerk is now notified a week in advance of the planning meeting so that if the parish wishes to delegate a councillor to speak for three minutes they have time to give notice (Wednesday noon closing time for the Friday meeting) and can attend to hear comment – a phone call to get an estimated time for that application is recommended. Diane Jackson is the Planning Liaison Officer for parishes who send out the invitation.

The Q&A session that followed saw the following responses:

- 1) Barn conversions – the Peak Parks are exempt from the government legislation to allow this but must be pro-active and be more flexible when assessing an application. The alternative uses for agricultural buildings have not yet seen an application.
- 2) Wind turbines and solar panels – the policy remains that the landscape in the Peak Park comes first however the majority of panels do not need permission.
- 3) Shop and Pub closure – there is no automatic change of use and a developer must satisfy the park that it is no longer required and does not have alternative community use before conversion to housing is considered with a preference towards affordable schemes in that instance.

He promised to have a look at the application that has caused most concern to Council in its continued refusal.

**7 District Councillr**

David Fredrickson sent his apologies

**8 County Councillr**

Simon Spencer sent his apologies

**9 Police**

PC Ian Hyde sent the following report: The main issues that I'm aware of, relating to Youlgrave, are: minor damage, seemingly around areas surrounding local Toilet Blocks and an increasing trend of over-weight HGV, using lanes and roads that they are restricted from using. We are finding that this is quite often through inappropriate signage – something that we have already taken up with the Highways Department, as it would be unreasonable to expect an HGV to reverse a couple of hundred yards (which might constitute an offence in its own right). Youlgrave itself seems to have appropriate signage. Our preferred means of dealing with these incidents, at this time, is to “educate” the companies involved, namely the Hauliers and the destination locations. To date the Hauliers have been positive, their issues seem to be when Agency drivers or Sub-Contractors are used. All of our local destination companies are fully on-board and already give detailed appropriate routes. Again, the issues are with Agency and Sub-Contractors. This is something we'll work on to reduce / eliminate. The Safer Neighbourhood Policing governance meeting is on April 30<sup>th</sup> between 6pm and 8pm at the Bakewell Childrens Centre to decide priorities for the next three months which you are invited to attend.

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**10 Open Parish**

The Chairman of the Management Committee of the Scout and Community Hall John Youatt and Ian Bright, one of the Holding Trustees informed the meeting of the uncertainties being faced in managing the hall due to a challenge two years ago by the District Scouts on ownership. The Governing Body formed in 1938 comprises 5 post holders and the trust deed is very antiquated and needs revising with the consent of the Charities Commission. Whilst the Management Committee has been very smoothly run the venue since the building of the new hall, the requirement for the Governing Body to validate the main post holders annually has only recent been revived with most of the individuals contacted being unaware of their roles. The Body last met in June 2013 and as the Chair of the Parish Council is one of the post holders and regarded as the Governing Body's Chairman, the Management Committee urged the Chair to bring the governors together to make a decision as to the future of the hall to ensure all the Youth of the Village are catered for.

The Committee and Holding Trustees wish to see the building placed directly in the Charities Commission Holding Trust and a modern constitution put in place to enable the management committee to run the hall to equally benefit the 180 children who via the school, playschool, scouts, guides and DofE use the hall on a regular basis.

Parishioners present queried who the land belonged to and were informed that the current Holding Trustees Shaun Snow, Roy Taylor and Ian Bright hold the land in trust for the benefit of Youlgrave Scouts and other youth as per the 1938 Deed.

The Great War Commemoration Steering committee set up by All Saints Church and Youlgrave British Legion, represented at the meeting by John Cooper, informed the meeting that they were coordinating the four years of celebrations and would appreciate ideas and assistance in this. There are already plans to educate parishioners and the children – with a talk in school about the poppy and plans to sow seeds throughout the village. They wish to acknowledge both those that fought and those that stayed to keep the country flourishing through projects, activities and comments.

The meeting closed at 8:15 pm