

PARISH OF YOULGRAVE

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Youlgrave on 28 April 2015

Electors Present Parish Council Chairman Brian Wardle in the chair and 9 other electors

In Attendance members of the public

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

2 Apologies Councillors Eric Goodwin, Graham Elliott + PC Hyde and PCSO Grundy + County Councillor Simon Spencer

3 Minutes **Resolved** That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

4 Statement of Accounts The Parish Council has maintained its spending within plan this year and following an act of Parliament, it can now legally pay online and so has moved to Unity Trust Bank due to their secure internet authorisation system to meet its governance requirements. The accounts for 2014/15 will be finalised at the April Council meeting and are being audited on 8th May ready to present to the external auditor.

5 Chair's report We have continued to manage the Alport Lane (Queen Elizabeth II) Playing Fields for the benefit of all age groups in the village. This wonderful asset is in constant use throughout the year by the local football, cricket and bowls clubs as well as the school, the carnival committee and the occasional private hire booking. All these groups provide us with valuable income. Our contractors mow the field and the adjoining areas are maintained throughout the summer (In addition we provide funding to the Church Council to mow and maintain the village churchyard).

Projects approved for Alport Lane Playing Fields by this Council have awaited Spring to allow the ground to firm up and very shortly will see the:

- Laying a solid path from the pavilion to the recently constructed all-weather games area which will also be provided with a shelter for users of the area and spectators.
- Replacement of some equipment in the children's play area
- Construction of a children's cycle trail along the edge of the wildlife area (This was a request by the children of Youlgrave School who submitted their suggestions and designs directly to the Parish Council). We would like to thank the trustees of the former Youth Club for providing funding towards this project

As a result of the District Council dog order, Alport Lane playing fields, Coldwell End play area and the allotments have been listed for dog exclusion and the offence of dog fouling with a £100 fine from 1st April 2015.

Youlgrave Parish Council have also recently taken over the running of Holywell Lane toilet block which has been refurbished using funds provided by the District Council when the building was transferred. At the top of Holywell Lane we have re-erected our long awaited notice board (this is the one previously in Church Street, logistic problems having made the relocation necessary).

The Coldwell End play area, toilets and car park have been successfully managed with the honesty box in the car park providing a valuable source of income as have the rents from the

allotments.

Each year in November we meet to set the Precept. This is the levy charged by the Parish Council for services in the village included in the Council Tax. Knowing that the current financial climate has affected what our residents may have to outlay, we decided to once again to keep the precept unchanged whilst maintaining our commitment to the parish. For the winter months we renewed our contract with Long Rake Spar for filling the extra grit bins provided by the Parish Council the previous year and we also provided discounted grit bags for parishioners on sale at Youlgrave Garage. A new set of LED lights was purchased for the Christmas tree and the Church Council have given us permission to erect a permanent tree for next Christmas which will be planted and serve for future years. Donations were made to Youlgrave School Association, Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport and Youlgrave Playgroup.

Over the past year the Parish Council has had regular communication or correspondence with the following bodies:

- Derbyshire County Council

Perseverance and a number of site meetings with highways engineers have had some effect regarding serious road and pavement problems resulting from long term neglect. Hand rail fitting on churchyard steps in Bradford Road has been slow. A reminder has been sent in time to coincide with start of financial year.

A claim to add a byway open to all traffic over a bridleway from Over Haddon to Conksbury caused alarm and the Parish council expressed its concerns to DCC and helped gather evidence. The claim has been dismissed although the claimants may take it to appeal.

- Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Problems mainly relating to bin collection contractors vehicle problems in respect to narrow roads and winter safety of vehicles. Perhaps DDDC should have been more vigilant when examining Serco's contract specifications. Problems with holiday cottage cleaners on Bankside leaving waste bags at the side of the path. Parish Council is liaising with officers and residents to resolve this.

- Peak District National Park Planning Authority

We are consulted on all planning applications made and we try to respond in the interests of the local applicants. However, sometimes decisions are made by PDNPA which make us wonder whether they take our views seriously or respect our position as residents.

Excellent help by National Park Ranger in getting one of our footpaths from King Street down through to the river restored. This has been resurfaced making it reusable again.

- Police

Bakewell Police Station is to close. A visit is to be made to the top of Holywell Lane every 2-3 months by a crime prevention van. Parking problems are no longer a police matter since they are no longer the traffic enforcement body (unless obstruction is involved)

Reflecting on the achievements of the Parish Council over the past 12 months, I must first comment on the dedication and hard work shown by all of my fellow councillors and by the Clerk, Matthew Lovell. Their efforts on behalf of the villagers of Youlgrave and Alport have achieved much and have often gone unheralded. There is an election for a new council on May 7th and two of our present councillors will not be standing. I would like to thank Sarah Shimwell who only recently joined us and Eric Goodwin (a splendid 19 years service) for all their efforts and wish them the best for the future.

Brian Wardle Chairman, Youlgrave Parish Council

**7 District
Councillr**

David Fredrickson noted the bin collection problems with the new contractor Serco that had finally started to come right when winter arrived but had then been badly managed. He also commented on the 30% funding cut over the last five years which coupled with a further 14% this year made the long term future of smaller Districts very unscure. DDDC had done much better for the parish on the capital side by providing a crucial £300000 that enabled the build to succeed with its sustainability aim of code 4. Housing is a priority in the Dales and Youlgrave was considered a prime target for support.

**8 County
Councillr**

Simon Spencer sent his apologies

9 Police

PC Ian Hyde and PCSO Grundy sent their apologies

**10 Open
Parish**

A query regarding the housing development on Hannah Bowman Way received confirmation that all houses had been placed with people originating from Youlgrave

No other matters were brought.