

# PARISH OF YOULGRAVE

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Youlgrave on 25 April 2017

**Electors Present** Parish Council Vice Chairman Graham Elliott in the chair and 10 other electors

**In Attendance** 1 member of the public

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

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**2 Apologies** Cllrs Brian Wardle and Ralph Wilson and PCSO Boswell

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**3 Minutes** **Resolved** That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Vice-Chair.

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**4 Statement of Accounts** The Parish Council has maintained its budgeted spending within plan this year and increased its reserves to bolster the major projects planned next year. The accounts for 2016/17 will be finalised at the April Council meeting and are being audited on 2<sup>nd</sup> May ready to presentation to the external auditor. In line with new government requirements the unaudited accounts will be available on our website as soon as submitted.

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**5 Chair's report** Youlgrave Parish Council: Chairman's Report: 2016-17

Considering the activities of the Parish Council over the last 12 months, I would like to highlight all the hard work carried to ensure that Youlgrave continues to be a thriving and attractive place for our residents to live; and for village based businesses to operate.

The Parish Council manages the playing fields on Alport Lane. This is one of the major assets of the village, being one of the largest village sports grounds in the whole of the Derbyshire Dales. It is home to the Football, Cricket and Bowls Club as well as being used regularly by the school and other village groups. The maintenance of the children's play area and replacement of equipment is added when the need arises. This year over £12000 worth of new fitness equipment was installed thanks to a successful bid for a grant from Awards for All. We arrange the mowing and other maintenance tasks, look after the pavilion and hire it and the grounds out to local groups. The all-weather play area, the cycle trail and a wild life area are in regular use.

At the other end of the village, the Parish Council manages the allotments which are always in demand. We also manage the Coldwell End car park and toilet block. Recently planners have drawn up plans for a new storeroom and toilet block and an area which will increase the capacity available for disabled and resident's parking. This project has been made possible by the money collected in the honesty box over the years. We feel that the modern facilities and additional parking will enhance the tourist income and the necessary work is being put out to tender.

The Holywell Lane toilet block has needed repair work which was put out to tender and is to be carried out later this year. This site also benefits from a continual supply of funds via an honesty box.

There are 20 benches situated throughout the Parish which we regularly maintain and replace when necessary. This last year has seen us approve a major overhaul of the benches.

The Parish Council continues to have close contact with the Peak District National Park Authority. We are always consulted on all planning applications made in this parish and we try to respond positively on behalf of local residents – albeit that the planners will somehow make their own decisions without showing due consideration to the comments we have made.

Although some of our powers may be relatively limited, an important aspect of what we do involves communication with the District and County Councils over their services to the village. Coun. Graham Elliott is also our DDDC Councillor and deserves our thanks for his tireless liaison work.

Our communications with DCC usually involve problems with highways issues. For example we have been successful in getting additional signage near Hawley's Bridge to prevent or reduce the incidence of HGV's passing through the village. This appeared to be working until the closure of the B5056. We also contacted DCC Highways regarding a complaint by a resident regarding the blocking of an entrance and restriction of the main route through the village by inconsiderate parking. Unfortunately the reply we received was both inadequate and patronising and the officer and Cabinet Member for Highways were asked what criteria are used to make us 30th on the list for consideration. We were also concerned as to ask why Traffic Regulation Orders are fine for wide street locations but not in villages with regular obstructions to the highway (every bus/bin lorry visit, every Bakewell Market day). We await a suitable response.

The rapid deterioration of a number of lanes and footpaths has necessitated repair work on Braemar Lane, King Street and (when the weather becomes drier) Bleakley Dyke Stepping Stones. Many thanks to Coun. John Wragg for his input into checking the various issues which have arisen in this domain, and to especially to Mr Pete Bush our Peak Park Ranger, who has carried out the necessary repairs with his volunteer team.

With an increasing number of assets to maintain and progressive projects, Council resolved to raise the precept by £470 to £17,993 for 2017. This amounts to a 2p per week rise per household, being the first increase for a number of years.

Finally I would like to thank all the parish Councillors for their hard work and commitment and for the support they have given to me. Thank you also to our Parish Clerk Mr. Matthew Lovell who is an invaluable worker on our behalf.

Brian Wardle

Chairman, Youlgrave Parish Council

## **6. District Councillor**

Graham Elliott noted that life in his second year as our District Councillor for Lathkill and Bradford has seen mostly general complaints on services of which District is responsible for dog fouling – online reports to the Green and Clean Team can be made and bin emptying – though now Youlgrave suffers less problems than the surrounding villages. The public toilets are being reviewed again this year throughout the district and are likely to be all closed. Rural rate relief will remain for at least the current year. Cllr Elliott's grant awards have assisted Youlgrave Preschool in this parish but will be subject to a 10% cut next year.

**7. County Councillor**

Simon Spencer commended Youlgrave as the most pro-active of his 21 parishes. He was very disappointed in the Cabinet member for Highways response on village issues and continues to chase Highways especially over the Long Rake HV route and has set this as a personal priority for his Ward should he be re-elected. He also continues to press for the installation of the churchyard handrail and noted the poor roll out of the digital street light replacement which is affecting bulb replacement work. Community transport is a lifeline that he is also committed to pursue. He thanked councillors and the district councillor for the work carried out together in the parish.

**8 Police**

PCSO Boswell sent his apologies and had reported on only the 3 incidents in the area but urged all to remain vigilant and dial 101 to report any suspicious activity.

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**9 Open Parish**

The County councillor was requested to investigate the gritting routes and extend the official cut off to the end of the bus route at Middleton by Youlgrave rather than the computer generated cut off at Church Corner.

The issues of parking and dog fouling and aggressive dogs were discussed and comments made about the successful use of cctv.

The meeting closed at 7 : 40 pm