

PARISH OF YOULGRAVE

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held in Youlgrave Village Hall on 15th April 2025 at 7:00pm

Electors

Present

Parish Council Chairman Graham Elliott in the chair and 13 other electors (7 parishioners + 6 councillors)

In Attendance

0 members of the public + DDDCllr Mellstrom

1 Appointment of Clerk

The meeting appointed Matthew Lovell, Parish Clerk to take the minutes.

2 Apologies

Cllr Mick Ashforth and PCSO Boswell

3 Minutes

Resolved That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 April 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

4 Chair's report

Youlgrave Parish Council: Chairman's Report: 2024-25

As usual my report begins at the top end of the village.

Following suggestions from both locals and visitors we have introduced QR codes on Parish controlled areas in the village. This enables contributions for both parking and toilet facilities to be made via mobile phone by visitors who don't carry cash.

The results have proved successful, and together with our honesty boxes finance their upkeep and help with minor village projects.

Both the picnic and play areas at Coldwell End continue to be well used by both locals and visitors, even more so since we moved everything to a safer area at the top end of the field.

Our green fingered members planted more bulbs and shrubs around the border areas and what a show they have been. Simon Skinner was able to provide another free load of wood chippings for our use at Coldwell End.

Allotments are all active and the waiting list has now been reduced to single figures. One of the larger trees on the top plot is diseased and work is in hand to sort it.

Holywell Lane toilets remain in good order and continue to be well used. The electronic locks have been a bonus and have also increased security during the night hours.

Moving on to Alport Lane playing field I can now report that the Parish Council have taken over ownership from Fields in Trust guaranteeing its use as a playing / sports field for generations to come.

Most will be aware that we are looking into ways which will enable us to replace our ageing Pavilion. This is a long-term project and any developments will be shared, and published in the Bugle. In the mean time we have had to replace some unsafe timber flooring to enable its continued use.

One piece of gym equipment around the perimeter of the field has suffered corrosion damage and is now fully repaired thanks to Paul Young's skillful welding. Repairs are in hand to make it safe to use again.

The Diamond Jubilee Oak tree continues to thrive and is looked after as usual by Rob Scott.

The pathways were cleared of weeds and the MUGA and Bike Track tidied. A decision has yet to be made over the netting around the tennis courts.

Unfortunately, the electronic lock on the ladies toilet at Alport Lane has been forced open from the locked position. We are not sure when, but the locks operate from 10pm to 8am so it was either a late nighter or an early morning vandal.

We are still plagued with dog fouling both on the playing field and the path down to the Pavillion. It's a dog free zone and owners can be fined up to £100 by Derbyshire Dales District Council.

All the Parish owned seats, benches and notice boards that needed a refurb have been completed and the grit bins monitored and refilled as required.

Our 4 lifesaving village defibs financed by your donations 11 years ago are coming to the end of their life. We need to replace them within the next 2 years. QR codes specifically for defib contributions are now displayed on the village notice boards allowing us to expand the way we take donations. As expected, your generosity has come to the front and we have already started to receive contributions, thank you. Today's cost is about £900 per unit plus the ongoing cost of chest pads which require replacing after use or every 2 years. The initial cost is considerably less than previous as we intend to use the original cabinets to house them. If you feel you could contribute or fund raise in some way please contact our Parish Clerk Matthew Lovell. Just to reassure you, all monies donated towards the defib units is ring fenced and cannot be used for anything other than intended.

A reminder to all that CCTV Cameras on our 3 sites operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week and have the benefit of being able to see in the dark. All of which have police access if required.

We have a great team of dedicated councillors and a wizard for a Parish Clerk who has just completed 20 years service to the village. Well done Matthew and our thanks 🍷🍷. I also want to thank members for their hard work throughout the year and our volunteer litter pickers who do a great job in helping to keep everywhere as litter free as possible.

A new contractor took over the cleaning of our village toilets earlier in the year and I'm happy to report that standards have been maintained. Rest easy Eileen.

We need to keep our village at the top, and with your continued support we will.

As always, I look forward to next year's challenges.

Graham Elliott (Chair) Youlgrave Parish Council.

6. PDNPA member

There is no longer a PDNPA member allocated to this village and no members attended.

7. District Councillor

Youlgrave Ward 2024-2025

Housing, Second homes and holiday lets

The problem of second homes and holiday lets, and their effect on house prices, continues to be a major concern for the District Council, the Peak Park and local groups. I attended a public meeting in Youlgrave in December on this issue, at which local residents, and some owners of second homes in the area, were able to express their views.

Housing was also a major issue in the National Park's Local Plan consultation in the Autumn. I attended the recent "call for sites" meeting in Youlgrave hosted by the CLT, to gauge local views on future land use in the village.

Double council tax on second homes is now in force, with some exemptions for particular cases. It will undoubtedly cause some hardship to people who will be forced to sell, but overall the policy seems popular in the area, given the shortage of affordable housing.

The government's plans to regulate holiday lets have not yet made it into legislation so at the moment the Council is not able to regulate the use of homes as holiday lets.

Public Toilets

The District Council's review of public conveniences has resulted in more investment in specific sites, plus the reinstatement of the scheme under which businesses that allow the public to use their toilets can apply for a grant. Also, in recognition of the pressure on communities which took over the running of public toilets in Council owned buildings, a fund has been set aside to provide financial support of up to £1,000 towards stock and cleaning materials.

Middleton by Youlgrave toilets will stay open for 12 months under a trial period with a footfall monitor in place, so that a decision can be made later as to whether year round opening should be made permanent.

Car park review

Following last year's consultation, the Council has also updated the charges for Council owned car parks, some of which in the town centres will, from 1 April, offer a free half hour. The Residents' free permit before 11am and after 3pm will continue to apply.

Banking hub

A temporary banking hub has now opened at the Agricultural Business Centre in Bakewell, open 9-5 on weekdays with one of 5 major banks in attendance each day on a rota. Cash Access UK are still looking for a permanent location.

Platform Housing

In Youlgrave, my regular pleas and complaints to Platform seem to have had some limited success with the resurfacing of Westcroft, and the recent repair of the stone wall at the top of Moor Lane (although very badly done in my opinion, with cement rather than dry stone walling). Some repairs remain outstanding to homes on West Croft Close but I heard from residents last week that Platform's contractors have been out recently to look at what needs to be done.

Local Government Reorganisation

Two separate interim proposals have been submitted to government. The County Council wants a single large unitary authority to take over the whole of Derbyshire except Derby City (the "doughnut" proposal). All the District and Borough Councils together with Derby City propose a North/South split of the county.

Final proposals go forward to government by November 2025 but the timetable after that is unclear, as is the number of councillors that will sit on the unitary authorities.

As councillor for Youlgrave Ward I am answerable to an electorate of 1,800. The average County Councillor has an electorate of about 10,000. The unitary council areas are likely to be somewhere in between, so the new councillors will have a lot more people, and parishes, to answer to.

Youlgrave CLT

Finally, although I haven't yet been able to help in any practical way, I have been doing what I can to support Youlgrave CLT in their efforts to bring phase 2 of Hannah Bowman Way into being, including meetings with the housing enabler at DDDC, and the site visit from John Whitby MP. I really hope the funding obstacles can be overcome and I want to applaud the efforts of all the people who volunteer their time and energy to bring forward this much needed housing, which will be another asset to the village.

Volunteers

I never cease to be amazed at the amount of unpaid and largely invisible work that is done in our villages to keep essential facilities and community events alive. To name but a few - parish councils, village halls and reading room committees, sports and social

clubs, well dressings, open gardens, pantomimes, shows, coffee mornings and looking after communal spaces. Thank you.

Laura Mellstrom

DDDC Member for Youlgrave Ward

8. County Councillor

Simon Spencer is standing down at the 1st May elections and we are now in the Purdah period prior to that election.

9. Police

Crimes relating to burglaries over period of 30th April 2023 to 15th April 2024 and 30th April 2024 to 15th April 2025.

Between 30th April 2023 to 15th April 2024, there was no burglaries committed.

Between 30th April 2024 to 15th April 2025, there was 2 burglaries committed. The crimes happened in the months of April and July 2024.

No one wants burglaries to happen, but this remains low compared to other villages, towns and cities etc. Please continue to be vigilant, remember your security and please report suspicious activity to the police.

With regards to White Line system offences on Alport Lane in Alport, since the AGM last year, there have been 7 tickets issued to vehicles who have parked on white line system. Again, this is low compared to other areas such as Grindleford and Hathersage where 7 plus tickets can be issued most weekends. However, the team continues to monitor this area.

10. Open Parish

Parishioners raised: *no matters*

The meeting closed at 7:21 pm