

Yattendon Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th April 2023 in Yattendon Village Hall.
Commencing at 7:02 pm.

Members Present: Councillor Adam McCormick, Chairman
Councillor Georgie Rudge
Councillor Tim Magee

Members Absent: Councillor Philip Bickford Smith

Officers Present: Sarah Marshman, Clerk/RFO

In Attendance: District Councillor Carolyne Culver
12 Members of the Public

Minutes

- 1 To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Philip Bickford Smith.
- 2 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th April 2022**
Those present agreed the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
- 3 Reports from the following local organisations and businesses:**

Yattendon Estate

Yattendon Estate has 3,247 hectares, 8,020 acres. Of this, 2,146 hectares are farmed.

Farming:

Growing for high quality markets – milling wheat, malting barley, milling oats, human consumption pulses.

Building sustainability and resilience – improve soil health, increase crop diversity, reduce soil movement, maximise soil cover, greater focus on crop nutrition.

Habitats & Biodiversity:

15% of its land is under a 5 year environmental stewardship.

The estate is part of the Pang Valley Farmer Cluster.

Involved in the Thames Water river pang flagship project.

Working with partners to ensure continual development.

Vicars Game

The Vicars Brand was formed in 1886. The business moved to its current location in 2001. The business comprises of a wholesale side and a retail farm shop and was acquired by Yattendon Estate in July 2021.

The wholesale side serves about 150 businesses. The business supports local causes. The aim is to continue to grow the retail and wholesale sides of the business and provide a great vocation for young and skilled butchers.

Renegade Brewery

Previously known as West Berkshire Brewery until it was bought by the Estate.

New craft beer brands have been created. The aim is to focus on the craft without forgetting where they've come from.

Carebus

The representative from Carebus was unable to attend and sent their apologies.

Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust

The trust was established as a charity in 1977 and combined previous charities, land, and properties donated by Yattendon Estates to the villages. Its role is to manage and maintain properties and to raise and distribute funds for local good causes. The properties owned are Yattendon Village Hall, Frilsham Clubroom, Yattendon & Frilsham Social Club, Yattendon cricket pavilion, Frilsham football pitch and Yattendon tennis club.

The income comes primarily from fete – 85% of their profit is provided. Last year, this totalled £14,700.

The trust provides fixed grants given to the two halls, parochial church council, methodist chapel Burnt Hill, cricket club, pensioners lunch – in 2022 this totalled £5,600. Discretionary grants are also provided, in 2022 these were provided to Downland Volunteer Group, YPC, FOYS – totalling £2,750.

For 2023 grants: local organisations can make a grant request by 21st May. This should be for capital projects, for up to 50% of costs.

4 Report from the District Councillor

At the annual budget meeting extra money was secured for urban tree planting, wild flower verges, watering trees and school street scheme to tackle air pollution and road safety outside schools.

The members community bid secures funding for local projects from West Berkshire Council (WBC). This provided towards the speed indicator device purchased jointly by Yattendon and Hampstead Norreys Parish Councils. Obtaining the data from this will help WBC to take action where needed.

WBC has a target to become carbon neutral by 2030. There is a national obligation to create nature recovery networks.

There are significant issues with sewage getting pumped out of the treatment works in Hampstead Norreys which WBC is keen to resolve.

5 Parish Council Reports:

Report from the Chairman

Good evening everyone, thank you for joining our Annual Parish Meeting. This is my first APM as Chairman and my first in person since before COVID. It's good to be doing all our meetings in person again, as I spend far too much of my work life in Teams and Zoom.

It's been a busy year on the Parish Council, with lots of change. Gordon Robertson, who served as Chairman from May 2010 resigned in May last year. As did Anne Harris, who had been Vice Chair from May 2011. We also had Nicky Meadows resign in December 2022. However, we have

recently had Tim Magee join the council and are still looking for two new members, if anyone is interested in joining us.

Outside of changes to the people on the council, we have managed to get a lot of activity done on top of the regular (and often irregular) meetings to discuss planning applications and other council business.

You might have noticed that we have recently started using the Speed Indicator Device (SID) in the village. It's been in use since the start of April and will soon start generating data for us from the six approved sites we have in the village. The hope, of course, is that it makes locals and those passing through think about (and where needed reduce) their speed as they come through the village. While we are a small Parish at around 350 people, I think you'll be surprised at some of the traffic volumes moving through the village when we have a full month's data.

The improvements to the Well House were also completed, making the site far more attractive. This was a project that took a lot of work and planning and was a real labour of love for one of the members of the council. The project was only completed due to funding received from Yattendon Estates, Yattendon and Frilsham Sports and Social Trust and The Good Exchange.

The council donated funding for the entertainment for the Jubilee event and will also donate for the Coronation event happening in a few weeks' time. We also made the purchase of some Tommy Statues that we can reuse each year and will be used this year when the Remembrance Parade takes place in the village in November.

All the above show the Parish Council is doing what we can to help organisations like the Estate, the Sports and Social Trust, The School & FOYS help make life for those in the Parish a little bit brighter and better. I hope that in the coming year we can take on and help in projects that continue to improve life in the village.

I wanted to close by thanking the other councillors, Sarah the Parish Clerk and Karen who does a great job in keeping the village as litter free as possible.

Financial Report from the Clerk / Responsible Finance

The Clerk presented her Finance Report for 2022/23, which is in Appendix 1.

6 Questions from members of the public

Car parking within the village was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:22 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1: Financial Report from the Clerk / Responsible Finance

The finance report for Yattendon Parish Council for the financial year 2022/23 is presented.

Income

The total income received from all sources of funding was £13,130. This included:

- Precept £9,300
- Grant towards speed indicator device (SID) purchase £808
- Grants towards Well House works £2,603
- Donation towards Tommy Statues £145
- Refund for VAT spent during the 2021/22 financial year £173.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £15,252. Significant figures included in this total are:

- Total employment costs £4,463
- Grant towards the costs of maintaining the burial ground £2,500
- Well House works £2,603
- Refuse disposal (litter/dog waste bins) £642

- Insurance £572
- Grants £280
- Courtesy lights £48
- Audit fees £98
- VAT (reclaimable in the next financial year) £657.

Looking Forward to 2023/24

The precept will increase by £1,933 to £11,293. This is an increase of 21%. Having kept the precept as low as possible for many years, the council has found this rise necessary to meet increasing costs. A Band D household will pay a total of £64.40 throughout the year. That is just £1.24 per week.

The Parish Council will continue to support the maintenance of the burial ground, with a grant of £2,500. There will continue to be the usual expenses involved in running the Parish Council, such as providing the courtesy lights, insurance, employment costs, audit fees, and refuse disposal.