

# Yattendon Parish Council

## **MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Held on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 at 7:30pm** in Yattendon Village Hall.

Councillors present: Gordon Robertson (Chair), Anne Harris (Vice-chair), Wendy Mole and Dean Foster.

In attendance: Sarah Marshman (Clerk), Katie Dickens (Headteacher, Yattendon Primary School), David Knowlson (The Pantry Café), Eddy Stoate (Yattendon Garage), Dick Greenaway (Yattendon for Visitors), David Slack (Managing Director, Yattendon Estates).  
30 members of the public.

The meeting started at 7.00pm.

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### **1 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Chris Turner and PCSOs Paul Smith and Sally Joyce (Thames Valley Police).

### **2 Introduction by the Council Chairman**

The Chairman introduced the council and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also thanked Doreen Davies, the former clerk, who retired after 14 years, and Roland Stoate who had served on the council until recently.

### **3 Presentations by:**

#### **Katie Dickens – Headteacher, Yattendon Primary School**

Katie spoke about the outdoor classroom used to broaden and enrich the curriculum, particularly at Foundation Stage. Some lovely photographs of the children enjoying the outdoors were displayed and Katie highlighted her thanks to all the volunteers, the estate and Dick Greenaway for their help in setting up the outdoor classroom and to the parents who help take the children to and from the site.

#### **Sarah Marshman on behalf of PCSO Sally Joyce**

Unfortunately neither PCSO Paul Smith from Thames Valley Police or any of his colleagues were able to attend as the whole team had to attend a training day, however, PCSO Sally Joyce did provide us with some useful information to pass on and we would like to highlight the website <https://www.immobilise.com/> This web site enables you to register the serial numbers of any gadgets and valuables so that, should they be stolen, you can use the site to release this information to the Police so the items can be returned to you if they are ever located. If items do not have their own serial number, you can create one on the site to mark your property with.

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Chairman

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**Wendy Mole – Speed Indicator Device (SID) coordinator, Yattendon Parish Council**

Wendy explained how the SID is used to capture data on the speed of vehicles passing, and on the last attempt, when the device was sited by the school, over 50% of the cars passing were over 30 mph. Wendy requested volunteers to undergo training in using the device so that the equipment can be deployed on a more regular basis.

**David Knowlson – Top Nosh Cuisine / The Pantry Café**

The old Butchers Shop has been acquired by Top Nosh Cuisine with the aim of opening the Pantry Café. There will be a large range of foods and they will be working in conjunction with the Village Shop to ensure the businesses complement each other. The Café will be open on the day of the fete but will then have its official opening 1-2 weeks later.

**Eddy Stoate – Yattendon Garage**

Yattendon Garage has been around for 100 years, and today operates as a modern garage offering MOTs and services alongside offering specialist service in classic cars. There are three employees at the garage, all of these being tenants of the estate – with scope for another pair of hands in the workshop. On the 12<sup>th</sup> July Yattendon Garage will hold a celebration of classic road transport involving military vehicles, Jags, Landrovers and all sorts of vehicles.

**Dick Greenaway – West Berkshire Countryside Society / Yattendon for Visitors**

Dick explained the origins of the West Berkshire Countryside Society, which acts as an umbrella group serving The Friends; Bucklebury Heathland Conservation Group; Pang Valley Conservation Volunteers and Pang Valley and Kennet Barn Owl Group. WBCS carries out a wide range of conservation tasks and were recently involved in the development of the outdoor classroom, a site which has archeology, a wide selection of trees, a story dell bird boxes and a refuge shelter. The teachers were also provided with booklets to aid the learning experience. WBCS is also involved in the Pang Valley Flood Forum which was set up after the recent floods and contains a very knowledgeable technical subgroup.

**David Slack – Managing Director, Yattendon Estates.**

The Yattendon Estate covers 9,500 acres, with 28.5 employed staff. The estate grows crops, keeps a herd of cows and grows Christmas trees. The estate also houses various businesses, the 36 commercial units employing 350 people. They also try to ensure the village and houses look as good as they can, with 175 houses and cottages let. The Village Shop will be closing for 4 months in May and a temporary shop and post office will be set up in the premises previously used by Sylvia Campbell Shoes.

**4 Parish Council Reports**

**Chairman’s Report**

Since the Diamond jubilee celebrations of 2012-its street parties and the building of an extension to the wooden bench around the tree in the village square-it is perhaps fitting that this March Yattendon was recognised in the Sunday Times survey as one of the top 50 Rural Best Places to Live in Britain.

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Chairman

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Since our Parish Plan of 2005 and Refresh of 2011, plans continue with the alterations to the Village Shop and the conversion of the Butchers shop to The Pantry Café.

We welcome Sarah Marshman as our new parish clerk and David Slack as Managing Director of Yattendon Estates (both Sept 2014). Doreen Davies retired in August 2014 after 14 years of faithful service as Parish Clerk. Roland Stoate also recently retired from the parish council. We are due a further Parish plan Refresh meeting (last one 11/6/12). The parish website (yattendonparish.com) is kept updated regularly and Speed Indicator devices have been manned at entrances to the village, resulting in 33 offenders being notified. A further session is planned for this year.

Notable Planning issues have included the new Slurry Pit to the North of the village and the introduction of new double yellow lines in order to improve parking and safety opposite the Primary School.

YPC was able to support the relaunch of Dick Greenaway's 4th edition of 'Yattendon for Visitors' .

We are about to complete our £2000 (over 3 years) subscription for Superfast Broadband.

We are delighted to organise this Annual Parish Meeting. This has been advertised in The Broadsheet and by flyers delivered to households in the village. This is a celebration of some of the achievements in the village and also an opportunity to raise and discuss continuing or new issues. This year there are 6 presentations but in the future perhaps we should consider ones from any other sources you may suggest.

### **Financial Report**

We started this year with a balance of £3303, with an additional £385 in the parish plan account. The precept for this year was £6000 and we received a small grant of £88 from West Berkshire Council. In addition to the necessary running costs for the Parish Council, expenditures included £2500 which is paid annually to Yattendon Parochial Church Council to help with the upkeep of the churchyard, payments to cover the electricity costs for courtesy lighting in at the church and the car park and the final payment towards receiving superfast broadband of £666 which was made using the last funds from the parish plan and topped up by the parish council. The parish council also chose to make grants of £300 towards the publication costs of the revised Yattendon for Visitors, £200 to Sue Ryder and £100 to the Samaritans.

In addition to the parish council accounts, we hold an account containing funds provided from the Deane and Pocock charity. Each year we receive a payment from the Reading Almshouse Charity relating to the wills of Deane and Pocock in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At the start of this year we had £397 in the account and we received an additional £1000 during the year from the charity. At Christmas, the parish council distributed £25 worth of vouchers and a tin of biscuits to 27 residents of the village.

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**5 Questions from members of the public**

The following items were raised:

- Concerns were raised about vehicles colliding with the house on the corner of Church Lane.
- It was noted the pot hole outside the church keeps being patched and reforming again.
- Additional lighting between the village hall and the village on side of road opposite the old Butchers Shop would be considered a helpful addition.
- There are two cars parked in the village car park area that have been stationary for at least 6 months.
- Concerns were raised about cars parking on the road outside the Royal Oak and whether double yellow lines could be put here.
- A query was raised as to whether the village could have a 20 mph limit, particularly linked to the difficulty of leaving the village car park area.

The Parish Council agreed to look at these issues at their next meeting to see if there was anything they could do to help.

**6 Items for information and consideration**

There were none.

**7 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that this date would be set next year.

Meeting closed 8:40pm.

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Chairman

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Date