

MITCHELDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th April 2025 at 6.30pm at Mitcheldean Sports Pavilion

Present:

Parish Councillors: Janet Keene (Chairman), David Thomson and Harriet Holford
Also present: April Seabrook (Clerk)
1 member of the public

1. Welcome from Chairman

Cllr Janet Keene welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting, and was signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Keene gave the following report:

This year can best be described as a frustrating year.

We needed to increase our precept, which had been historically low, as we had so many things we had to do and some which we wanted to do. This was not our preference, as we know that times are hard.

It has been a struggle financially.

We have also had to carry vacancies on the Council which meant that there were fewer of us to do all that is required. We now only have one vacancy, which I hope will soon be filled. I welcomed our new members, Susan, Harriett and Lee. Sadly, Susan has had to give up before she had really started, but I can only hope that she can join us again at some point in the future. I want to thank all the councillors, including Matt Brownsell-Dalton who had to sadly give up due to his work commitments, for the work they have done over the past year. We are all volunteers and give up our time to support our village.

Our planned redevelopment of the pavilion faltered as every step forward seemed to lead to steps back. If we can finally get it improved, it will benefit our long-term users, Mitcheldean Sports Club, as well as providing a potential source of income for the Council. Much as we appreciate the sports club, we hope to be able to hire it out for other groups when they aren't using it. We are working with the club to come to a plan for the refurbishment.

One of the groups using it is the Youth Hub. They meet on a Friday night in the pavilion and benefit from a professional youth worker and volunteers to keep it operational, but it is at a cost.

We were pleased to give a donation to the pensioners' Christmas Dinner and understand that the event was well attended.

I must praise our maintenance team, Pete, Scott and Izzy, who work hard to keep our bins empty, our roads clear of weeds and do a wonderful job of keeping Cross Gardens looking so good. I also want to thank Anne Maliphant for keeping an eye on the planting in the gardens. We all want to offer our thanks to April, our clerk for all she does to keep us in line.

We also planted a tree in memory of Councillor Jackie Baber, who sadly died. Her family all attended the tree planting.

We have worked with our district councillors to try and address the issues of derelict sites in the village. I understand that enforcement action is being taken regarding one site, but sadly we know nothing more about the future of the George site. We know it is an eyesore.

We have also been chasing our County Councillor on the future of Townsend House. Sadly, despite reassurances we were given as to planned use for the building as a family centre, we now understand that the County Council has decided to put it up for sale again. We can only hope that whatever happens to it, it will be of benefit to the village. We all have our own proposals on what it could be used for, but it is out of our hands.

Looking forward to the next year, I hope we can reinvigorate the work, on the pavilion, work on a grant for the Town Hall refurbishment and start to work on a plan for renewing the play equipment next to the playing fields. We are aware that we also need to improve the footpaths and gates to the footpaths adjacent to the playing fields, but do not have the finances to do it.

4. Reports local Groups who Received Donations from Mitcheldean Parish Council

A Report from Dene Magna School

Dene Magna school would like to thank Mitcheldean Parish Council for their kind donations and support towards this year's and last year's Timetable Suspension Activities.

All students who are at school will participate in three days of activities:

- A visit to Drayton Manor Park
- An Outdoor Activity Day – organised by a company called Sportily, this includes such things as Archery, Climbing Wall, Nerf Battles, Inflate Fun, Team Building Challenge, and Panna Sports.
- On Site Activity Day – Wyedance Street Session, Samba Drum Session, Gaming Session and a film afternoon.

My challenge is to make these three days as affordable as I can for parents, I would like to offer these three days at £30.00 or as near as I can. Also, another challenge I face is that there is no school budget for this type of activity.

The costings for all the activities this year are:

Sportily – Outdoor Activity Company	£4,600.00
Drumming Company	£900.00
Wyedance	£360.00
Coach Transport to Drayton Manor Park	£2640.00
Drayton Manor Tickets for students	£4,900.00
Total	13,400

This year I have a total of 273 students on site.

Without the generous donations from companies, councils etc parents would be paying around £49.00 for the three days, a figure I feel is not acceptable.

All students really enjoy these three days, in some cases it's their first experience of a school trip, a theme park or an outdoor activity day.

A report from Lydcare

History

Lydcare was founded in 1994 by Canon Carne from English Bicknor with the sole purpose of providing help to those in need in Lydbrook and surrounding area. It was originally known as Lydbrook Community Care and soon abbreviated to "Lydcare".

The services provided included Lunch Clubs, Community Transport service, Wheelchair Hire, Advocacy and Benefits Advice, Gardening Service and Befriending. This was all managed from the office in Lydbrook with three employees.

Changes in funding in 2008/9 resulted in significant reorganisation maintaining the core activities and relying solely on volunteer support delivering Community Transport, Wellbeing and Benefits advice and two Lunch Clubs -Joys green and English Bicknor.

We have a superb team of volunteers and like so many charities would not be able to function without them.

Currently – 5 Trustees – 11 Volunteer Drivers – 6 Lunch Club supporters and a Wellbeing and Benefits advisor who is now funded by FODDC.

We deliver –

Community Transport

Carrying over 3,000 passengers annually, 60% for medical and 40% social, drivers covering over 75,000 miles.

Passenger numbers and miles increase annually around 20%

Wellbeing and Benefits Advice

Funded by FODDC and Sponsored by Overby's Accountants Coleford.

Caroline Young Provides a unique service achieving a 97% success rate in applications delivering over £1.5 million in benefits to recipients over the last 4 years.

English Bicknor Lunch Club

Re-established after Covid by Joan Maxfield and her team. They meet every other Tuesday catering for around 35 diners providing an opportunity for the elderly to socialise and in many cases this is the only opportunity for any social contact for those that live alone.

Funding

Our Community Transport operation costs around £6000.00 per annum and we receive a grant £3300 from Gloucester Community Transport leaving a deficit of £2700 mainly due to the fuel stabiliser we provide for our drivers. Without this many driver would have to fund significant increase in fuel costs and drivers are very hard to find.

Wellbeing and Benefits Advice, the service level agreement covers the salary but none of the travel expenses which are £1200 a year.

Our total budget deficit is therefore £3900 which is manageable thanks to the support personal donations from the community, it is both surprising and gratifying how much support Lydcare receives in this way and is a reflection of how the community values Lydcare.

Grants from Parish Councils

–We receive annual grants from Parish Councils in the areas we operate - Micheldean Lydbrook, Drybrook, Ruardean totalling £2500.

This funding is essential in ensuring we can maintain our voluntary driver team and subsidises passenger journeys, money well spent and reaching those that need it most.

5. Police Stats for 2024-25

CC Incident Comparison Statistics For Parish Council

Period : 25MAR2024 - 24MAR2025 Compared With 25MAR2023 - 24MAR2024

Parish : 123

Parish=Mitcheldean

Result Group 1	Result 1	25MAR2024 to 24MAR2025	25MAR2023 to 24MAR2024	+/-	% Diff
NICL Asb	ASB - Personal	11	19	-8	(42.11%)
NICL Asb	ASB - Nuisance	9	8	1	12.50%
NICL Asb	ASB - Environmental	4	3	1	33.33%
NICL Crime	Crime - other	53	64	-11	(17.19%)

Result Group 1	Result 1	25MAR2024 to 24MAR2025	25MAR2023 to 24MAR2024	+/-	% Diff
NICL Crime	Violence against the person	31	26	5	19.23%
NICL Crime	Sexual offences	6	11	-5	(45.45%)
NICL Crime	Burglary non dwelling	2	2	0	0.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary dwelling	5	3	2	66.67%
NICL Crime	Theft of motor vehicle	2	0	2	0.00%
NICL Crime	Criminal damage	7	5	2	40.00%
NICL Crime	Drugs	5	10	-5	(50.00%)
NICL Crime	Firearms	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Fraud/forgery/deception	0	3	-3	0.00%
NICL Crime	Theft By Shoplifting	3	30	-27	(90.00%)
NICL Crime	Theft - other	11	12	-1	(8.33%)
NICL Crime	Theft from motor vehicle	0	2	-2	0.00%
NICL Admin	Messages inc press release	24	17	7	41.18%
NICL Admin	Lost or found Property or animals	1	4	-3	(75.00%)
NICL Admin	Complaint against police	3	1	2	200.0%
NICL Admin	Police generated resource activity	9	6	3	50.00%
NICL Admin	Pre-planned event	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Alarm - Genuine	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Alarm - False	1	4	-3	(75.00%)
NICL Public Safety	Sudden death	7	3	4	133.3%
NICL Public Safety	Susp. Circs./Insecure veh./prems.	44	33	11	33.33%
NICL Public Safety	Suspicious package/Object	1	3	-2	(66.67%)
NICL Public Safety	Civil dispute-not btw neighbours	2	6	-4	(66.67%)
NICL Public Safety	Domestic/industrial - indust acc	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Abandoned call inc silent 999	57	45	12	26.67%
NICL Public Safety	Concern for safety	48	42	6	14.29%
NICL Public Safety	Domestic incident - non crime	5	9	-4	(44.44%)
NICL Public Safety	Missing Person	2	0	2	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Hoax Call	1	0	1	0.00%

Result Group 1	Result 1	25MAR2024 to 24MAR2025	25MAR2023 to 24MAR2024	+/-	% Diff
NICL Public Safety	Animals/Wildlife	7	3	4	133.3%
NICL Road/Traffic	Rtc_damage only(inc animal rtc's)	23	15	8	53.33%
NICL Road/Traffic	Highway disruption	32	40	-8	(20.00%)
NICL Road/Traffic	Road related offence	11	19	-8	(42.11%)
NICL Road/Traffic	RTC Death / Injury	0	4	-4	0.00%
=		429	454	-25	(5.51%)

Excludes Not An Incident. Excludes Duplicate Incident

Includes only incidents with primary result group of A, B, C, M, P, R or W

The meeting closed at 7.00pm

SIGNED:

DATE: