

PARISH OF YOULGRAVE

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held in Youlgrave Village Hall on 28th April 2026 at 7:00pm

Electors

Present

Parish Council Chairman Graham Elliott in the chair and 8 other electors (1 parishioner + 7 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, Cllr Richard Roper, DCCllr Nick Adams and PCSO Boswell

3 Minutes

Resolved That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 April 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

4 Chair's report

Youlgrave Parish Council: Chairman's Report: 2025-26

Coldwell End toilets, the picnic area and car park continues to be well used and thankfully have remained vandal free. More shrubs and bulbs have been planted around the car park borders and have provided a cracking show of colour once again. The QR code and honesty boxes are very well supported by our visitors, the proceeds of which go towards both the upkeep maintenance and minor village projects.

Our allotments are all active with vacancies emptying our waiting list. The diseased tree on the top plot has now been felled, that area is now safe again for the new allotment holders.

Please note that unless it's a registered assistance dog, YPC allotments together with Alport Lane Playing Fields are designated dog free areas, monitored by both parishioners and councillors. Enforcement of this order lies with DDDC. Contravention attracts a penalty of between £100 and £1000 and with regard to the allotments is also in breach of tenancy agreements.

Holywell Lane toilets remain in good order and continue to be well used, particularly with dale walkers. The electric distribution board and meters have been upgraded and now meet modern day requirements.

Moving onto Alport Lane playing fields we have finished the run of tarmac at the far end of the parking area and levelled up the hollows with a couple of loads of gravel.

Unfortunately, the netting around the tennis courts has been vandalised with some of the uprights being pulled to the floor. A decision hasn't yet been reached as to what we do next. Our current cctv coverage doesn't quite cover that area, as soon as grant funding becomes available again we will be applying to extend our present system to ensure full coverage.

I mentioned last year that we are looking to replace our ageing Pavillion. It remains as work in progress, we are currently looking at sketch plans and exploring funding methods, anything notable to report will be published in the Bugle. The pathways, MUGA, tennis and bike track areas have been weeded and tidied. The outdoor gym equipment around the perimeter is in good order and continues to be as popular as

ever. Unfortunately, the honesty box and stand at the entrance has been pulled from the ground and stolen. Our CCTV does cover that area, however on this occasion a local residents van was parked up next to the box for the weekend completely blocking its view of the offenders. Luckily it was emptied 2 days before it got stolen so we estimate there was next to nothing in it. To date it has not been found, neither have the offenders. We intend to concrete the replacement into the stone wall once we have improved and widened the entrance.

The Parish grit bins were monitored throughout the winter months and topped up as required. All the village benches were checked over and made ready to accept a new set of bums. A batch of replacement road cones have been purchased to replace some damaged and missing ones. If you spot an escaped Council cone please let us know and we will collect.

I mentioned last year that our 4 defibs were coming to the end of their life. I'm happy to report that once again due to your generosity we now have the funding available to replace all 4 as and when they become due.

Following our successful purchase of the Grade 2 listed telephone box on Holywell Lane we have smartened up both with a lick of red paint. A planning application has been approved by Peak Park Planning to change the use of Holywell Lane phone box to a local information centre.

A reminder to all that CCTV cameras on our 3 sites operate 24hrs. a day 7 days a week and have the benefit of being able to see in the dark. All of which have police access and have been viewed by them on a number of non-related council issues this past year.

We have a great team of dedicated councillors and a top-notch Parish Clerk. I want to thank them all for all the hard work throughout the year. I also want to thank our volunteer litter pickers who do a great job in keeping everywhere as litter free as possible.

Thanks to you, your continued support ensures that we are able to keep the Village at the top of the game. We all 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 2025-2026

Housing, Second homes and holiday lets

Double council tax on second homes came into force in April of last year, after receiving the support of 61% of those who responded to the consultation. It seems to have had an effect. We don't have the full year's figures yet but in the first 6 months to October 2025 the number of second homes fell from 990 to 887 (a 10% drop) while the number of holiday lets rose slightly from 1,162 to 1,178 (1.4%). DDDC data indicates that most of the drop in second homes relates to properties being returned to full time occupancy, and the number of new second homes being added to the Council Tax list has also slowed down.

Planning permission has been granted for a development of 9 new affordable homes by Youlgrave Community Land Trust with a contribution of £180,000 from DDDC. A small private development of 4 affordable homes in Birchover has also just been passed.

Alport Lane closure

Following widespread concern about the impact of the 6 week road closure last summer, I have been pursuing DCC under Freedom of Information for clarification of how the

decision to close the road was made. The initial response included some emails from after the closure began, but nothing about how the decision was made.

I asked for an internal review. The review response letter upholds the previous reply and states that the records of meetings, discussions, risk assessments and management plans are “not held” which, astonishingly, suggests that no risk assessment or management plan was carried out. I am asking for confirmation that that is the case.

The pre-closure correspondence has been refused again on the basis of data protection, ignoring my suggestion that personal data can be redacted. I have lodged a complaint with the Information Commissioner’s Office about that.

I am happy to forward the information and responses I have received so far, if anyone would like to see them.

Public Toilets

The District Council’s fund, set up to provide grants of up to £1,000 towards stock and cleaning materials, finally opened for applications in August 2025.

6 parish councils applied and the scheme will be available again in the 2026-27 civic year.

Ecobat

The largest lead battery recycling plant in Europe, situated in Warren Carr, near Darley Dale, has been sold again, this time to Splitstone Capital, and has gone back to the old name of HJ Enthoven. It breaks down batteries into recovered lead, polypropylene chips and gypsum.

Ongoing community concerns include noise, lighting and the new Woodland Management Plan for the areas surrounding the site. An application is also pending for a new Hazardous Substances Consent, reflecting increased storage of various chemicals at the site, and I have submitted a response asking DCC to give rigorous scrutiny to the reasons for the increasing quantities of hazardous substances being held on the site.

This is a Schedule 1 installation under the Environmental Permitting Regulations, and an Upper Tier establishment under the COMAH Regulations, which has been designated a Site of High Public Interest, is right next to an SSSI, just outside the National Park, and less than 200m from residential dwellings. The various environmental and safety aspects of the operation are split between the County Council, the District Council, the Environment Agency and the Health & Safety Executive, with no single body taking overall responsibility.

Budget

The Government’s “Fair Funding Review” of local government funding has resulted in a new focus on areas of urban deprivation, and the sweeping away of many of the rural service grants which previously supplemented DDDC’s operations. Even with the maximum 2.99% increase in council tax plus some short term “Transitional Protections”, there will be a 2.8% drop in the District Council’s Core Spending Power this coming year.

The Council’s finance department has prepared for this and there are reserves available to plug the gap for the next couple of years after which service cuts will be inevitable unless the transition to Unitary authorities brings with it a significant improvement in central government support for rural areas.

Local Projects Fund

The small fund available to councillors to help community groups in their ward has been increased to £2,000 this year. The application form is on the DDDC website or email localprojects.fund@derbyshiredales.gov.uk, telephone 01629 761392.

Local Government Reorganisation

Derbyshire’s proposal for a North / South split went forward to the Government in November 2025, although DDDC did not approve it due to concerns over the reduction in the number of councillors and the effect this will have on local accountability.

The final decision and the transitional provisions are yet to be confirmed but the new unitary authorities are likely to be “vested” in April 2028 with elections to an interim “shadow” council next year. Meanwhile Derbyshire Dales District Council is also due for elections next year, but might just hold over for the final year, to turn the lights off. Who knows?

Either way, you are stuck with me as your District Councillor for another year, and possibly two!

My role

Just to tell you a bit more about what I do for the £5,659 allowance you kindly pay me each year:

Youlgrave Ward has 5 parish councils and I try to attend their meetings whenever I can. In addition to the 7 full District Council meetings per year, I also sit on the Derbyshire Dales Planning Committee and Scrutiny Committee, and I am a member of the Gritstone Road planning review Task and Finish Group, and the Finance sub group.

Away from the Town Hall, I try to help local residents and communities who need someone to speak for them, for example in supporting (or occasionally opposing) planning applications at the Peak District National Park, attending the Enthoven's Liaison Group, helping people with housing issues, and chasing up the County Council on road closures, pot holes and blocked gullies.

Never a dull moment, and I look forward to doing more in the coming year. Please get in touch if you need help with anything Council-related.

Laura Mellstrom

DDDC Member for Youlgrave Ward

Spring 2026

8. County Councillor

Nick Adams sent apologies noting his frustration with the way resources for road repairs are allocated.

9. Police

PCSO Boswell apologised for last minute unavailability.

10. Open Parish

Parishioners raised: *no matters*

The meeting closed at 7: 15 pm