

DRAFT MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
of the Parish of Yatton

**held on 25th March 2024 at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road,
Yatton BS49 4HS.**

Meeting opened 7.00 p.m.

Meeting closed 8.25 p.m.

Present: Councillor Chris Jackson (Chairman of Yatton Parish Council, in the Chair), Parish Councillors – Jonathan Edwards, James Hooper, Ann Hodgson, Graham Humphreys, Steve Humphries, Peter Lomas, Jessie McArdle and Roger Wood.
Representatives from Great Western Air Ambulance Service, Yatton Horticultural Society, Vision North Somerset, Wellspring Counselling, 1st Yatton Brownies, Yatton Village Hall Committee, Yatton Youth Club, Yeo Valley Lions Club, Yatton Schools Association, Yatton Rugby Club, YCCCART (Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team), Yatton Volunteer Drivers Scheme, Yatton Music Society and Yatton Junior Football Club. District Councillors Steve Bridger and Wendy Griggs.

Also in attendance: Parish Clerk Aleana Baird and Parish Council staff Jill Bradbury, Andy Warren, Jeff Shipway and Lucy Kehoe.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors David Crossman, Steve Lister, Robert Jenner, Caroline Sheard and Bryan Thomas. Apologies were also received from Yatton History Society, Yatton Youth worker Niccy Hook, YACWAG, Yatton United Charities and Chairman of the Yatton Village Hall Committee Maggie Edwards.

Reports had been received for display from Yatton United Charities, 2nd Yatton Guides, North Somerset Council Strawberry Line Management Committee, YACWAG (Yatton & Congresbury Wildlife Action Group), Yeo Valley Lions, Strawberry Line Café & Cycle Project and Yatton Village Hall.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th March 2023.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. A Presentation by Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham and Cleeve Archaeological Research Team - YCCCART.

The Chairman of YCCCART gave a presentation outlining the methods they use in their archaeological searches of land. They have used geophysical surveying on sites at North End, on Ham Farm and at Kingston Seymour. The new rugby club ground had been surveyed,

indicating a possible enclosure. They had investigated the Wemberham Roman Villa which was a protected scheduled monument first excavated in 1886. The site had only revealed about a fifth of the entire complex but it was clear it had been owned by a wealthy individual.

The team also used the Lidar method at Broadfield Down which was off the A370 heading into Cleeve. The Lidar provided much higher resolution images that had revealed 23 enclosures on the Down.

There had been surveys using hydrostatic kit called 'Mary' at Haydon Grange, Priddy which was also a scheduled monument and a fine example of a Roman road was within the survey outcomes.

During the very wet weather this winter the team had carried out some photographic surveys of churches; and Vince Russet, the former county archaeologist, was creating reports on these which will be available online in due course.

The reports and lots of further information were available on the website. The proposed programme for YCCART 2024-25 was highlighted with new members always welcome and no special skills were required.

4. Chairman's Report – Overview of the Parish Council Year 2023-24.

Chairman Chris Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave a presentation which highlighted key events and work the Parish Council has been involved in over the past year. He thanked all the staff for their work over the past year.

He gave some interesting figures for the parish including the current population of 8,084 and a breakdown of this figure into age groups. He highlighted the precept for 2024-25 which was £285,746 equating to a charge of £91.03 per annum for a band D property.

He outlined the changes within the Council in the past year with Wendy Griggs leaving to concentrate on her work as a District Councillor and Steve Phippen not re-standing at the elections. He thanked him for his enormous amount of incredibly hard work during his time on the Parish Council. There had been two new Councillors in the past year, James Hooper and Ann Hodgson who had joined the team. He thanked Councillor Jonathan Edwards for all his work as Chairman over the past five years following his standing down in May 2023. He also introduced the new Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Peter Lomas.

There were currently three vacancies on the Parish Council.

It was with sadness that he reported the death of former Chairman Pat Stevens, who had served the Parish Council for a number of years and had always retained an interest in its work since standing down some time ago.

He highlighted the different variety of streetlights owned by the parish council. There were 104 lights and now all the work to make them as economical as possible had been completed with 88 now converted to LED and part night timers. The remaining 16 lights required brand new lanterns which are expensive so will be done over the next few years.

The Platinum Jubilee drinking and bottle filling fountain had been installed and had proved very popular. Glebelands gardens and orchard had received 'Outstanding' again in the RHS 'It's our Neighbourhood' competition. All credit goes to the grounds team for this but especially Meg Thurgur as the Council's gardener.

He highlighted the impact of the Yatton school fire on the school itself but also how the school was helped by being able to use Hangstones for events like the Carnival. This allowed one of their biggest fundraisers to proceed.

In two speed related items he highlighted the very slow pace of both the High Street Improvement work at Barberry Farm Road on the High Street and even slower pace of North Somerset Council Legal Department in settling the lease for the new cemetery. It was first approved by the Parish Council in November 2021 and finally completed in January 2024. He displayed some slides of the cemetery field.

A new flagpole had been installed at Glebelands. It was required for Health and Safety reasons as flags could now be flown without the need to work at height to display them. It had an internal lanyard and the pole was collapsible making it easy to work on.

A 'Picnic in the Park' event to commemorate the King's Coronation was organised by the Parish Council for 8th May 2023 but had to be postponed due to bad weather. It was rescheduled for September 16th but the weather was again not kind: however, it did go ahead.

A bus service had returned to Yatton with the restored X5 bus. There will also soon be a service through Claverham.

The work the Parish Council was pursuing in the forthcoming year included the following:

- What to do about weeds in the streets. No easy solution.
- Roadworks - More to do on the High Street improvements, new works in Mendip and Stowey roads.
- Improve road safety in Claverham.
- HGVs.
- Completion of the new cemetery.
- Improvements to Hangstones Pavilion.

5. Presentations from local organisations.

All organisations who have received a grant from Yatton Parish Council are invited to give a short 3 minute presentation on how the funds have benefited residents in the parish.

Yatton Youth Club – A representative from the Youth Club trustees gave an overview of the activities and events at the Youth Club over the past year. In addition to the sessions run for two age groups every week, they carry out seasonal detachment projects around the Parish. They also hold a youth-led café open in the holidays; in conjunction with the Library, give assistance and advice to young parents; and run the Remembrance Day Café and Yeo Valley Lions monthly coffee morning. The venue has become a community hub with the support of Yeo Valley Lions. Yatton Food bank is now fully run from the youth club. The Committee thanked Yatton Parish Council for their support in funding the qualified youth workers and other bills for the youth club. They were aware of the need to fundraise and gain more grants and this was part of a five year plan in current development.

Yatton 1st Brownies

A representative from the Brownies group thanked the Parish Council for the grant which was used to support activities for the girls aged 7 -10 years. They meet once a week in Hangstones which was a lovely venue with all the space inside and outside. They have a theme for each

term as well as other activities. In the last year they have had King's Coronation events and made cards to the King who replied to the girls recently which was very exciting. They had an activity weekend on the Mendips, lots of cooking and craft projects, working with tools skills, design a room in a box, a tobogganing trip, a Thinking Day doing activities from other countries, made Mother's Day gifts and created a collage as part of the Winter Wonderland project.

Yatton Junior Football Club

The club had continued to expand to now include girls with approximately 400 children signed to the club. They had a successful tournament in the summer and had now competed all the work to the Clubhouse. They promoted inclusivity and had the lowest fees for children's football in the area. They were aware the 3G pitch would require upgrading in the future. They thanked the Parish Council for the grant and continued support of junior football in Yatton.

Vision North Somerset

A representative reported that they were an independent charity set up 45 years ago. They offer statutory services for North Somerset Council for sight-impaired people and also a hearing service. Their voluntary services are funded by organisations like parish councils and they thanked Yatton Council for the grant they had received. Their voluntary services included a tech support service assisting with difficulties using technology, social inclusion initiatives like a befriending service, and telephone groups as well as in-person groups and assisted swimming groups. They are always looking for volunteers for their services.

Yatton Volunteer Drivers Scheme

A founder member of the scheme gave a report about how it developed as a result of having no bus service in Yatton and also following on from the pandemic lockdowns when a lot of volunteer driver schemes ended. It has taken time to decide what the organisation's structure would be but the scheme is now affiliated to RSVP West and has been running for about a year. There has been a slow build up of volunteer drivers that has now reached fifty. The scheme covers hospital and doctor's appointments, hospital discharges and visiting and transport to funerals. It does not offer social or shopping trips. The scheme is used by elderly or people with limited mobility. The drivers use their own cars to drop people off, wait for up to 2 hours then return home. The charge is 50p per mile with 45p going to the driver and 5p to the scheme.

Wellspring Counselling

The service is a local charity from Nailsea offering counselling services for anyone over the age of eleven years old. They help a lot of young people, seeing fifteen from Yatton parish last year and seven so far this year. It has become harder to secure grant funding so they are very grateful to the Parish Council for the grant they have received, especially with an increasing waiting list. They currently have five hundred clients being helped by twenty five counsellors.

Great Western Air Ambulance

A representative from the Air Ambulance thanked the Parish Council for the grant and highlighted its importance as they do not receive any Government funding. The Ambulance covers a very large area, with their central base being close to Junction 16 of the M5. The service is used to bring the medical emergency room direct to the patient in life-threatening situations only. There is lots of evidence that the ability to bring a fast emergency response to an incident greatly improves the patient recovery outcome. The service was called out a hundred and fifty five times in North Somerset with five of those being in Yatton and the cost of each callout is £2,000. They also provide training on using defibrillators in schools and the community as a response to the increase in the number of publicly available defibrillators across the region.

Yatton Music Society

A representative from the Music Society outlined the programme of concerts held in St Mary's church over the past year, including the November concert sponsored by the Parish Council grant. He thanked the Parish Council for supporting the arts in Yatton.

Written Reports Received.

Yatton United Charities
2nd Yatton Guides
YACWAG
Yatton Village Hall
Strawberry Line Management Committee
Strawberry Line Café & Cycle Project

6. Volunteer of the Year 2023

The Chairman read the nominations for Volunteer of the Year:

Val Dickens, Great Western Air Ambulance
Colin Alexander, Strawberry Line Café & Cycle Project
Chris Headford, Yatton Rugby Club
Mark Harding, Yatton Youth Club, Yatton Rugby Club
Keith Nichols, Wellspring Counselling
Jennifer Crossley, Chair of Yatton Schools PTA
Kate Alton, Yatton School PTA
Annette Jones, Yatton School Volunteer

The Chairman thanked everyone who had been nominated for all their work and announced that the winner was Chris Headford. As the winner, Chris was awarded a commemorative clock and certificate in recognition of her contribution as a volunteer and a cheque for £50 was awarded to Yatton Rugby Club. The seven runners-up were each presented with a certificate marking their nomination for the award.

7. Comments & questions from the floor.

A comment was made regarding Cadbury Hill. A tractor had been taken on to the hill recently and with the very wet weather this winter and spring had made further damage to surfaces in addition to the cattle that had been grazed there in the autumn. The comment would be passed to the manager of Cadbury Hill.

The Chair thanked all those who had contributed and declared the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman

24/03/2025