

# Yatton Parish Council

Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton, Bristol BS49 4HS

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**Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022**

(approved by Yatton Parish Council on 26 September 2022)



Our mission:

**To ensure the provision of high quality services in our communities of Yatton and Claverham**



# Chairman's overview

After more than a year of holding our Council and Committee meetings online using the Zoom platform, we returned to in-person meetings at Hangstones on 17 May 2021.

During the year we welcomed two new Councillors onto the Parish Council  
Steven Lister was appointed on 10 January 2022

Steve Humphrey was appointed on 7 March 2022

Rachel Batchelor stood down as a councillor in August 2021. We thank Rachel for her valued contributions to the Council and our communities during her term of office.

At the end of the year we had 15 councillors in place, so 3 vacancies remain.

The year 2021-22 has seen the use of Hangstones Pavilion post pandemic return to normal. Infact there has been an increase in bookings over the past year especially during term time. A wide variety of classes are offered for adults and children, the return of children's parties and competitive sport has been very welcome, bringing normal life back to the Pavilion.

Some highlights from the past year:

The new allotments at Chestnut Park were opened on 15 September 2021, ownership of the land having been transferred from Bloor Homes to the Parish Council. All 68 allotments have been subscribed and we already have a waiting list. I would like to thank our Clerk for the enormous amount of work she undertook to negotiate the land transfer and planning of the new allotments, and to our Groundspersons for clearing and preparing the site in readiness for allotment holders.

The alterations work to the Hangstones pavilion has proved difficult to progress since planning approval was gained in 2019. The pandemic delayed the ability to start this work and since lockdown restrictions were lifted obtaining quotations has been difficult due to most builders being fully committed for up to twelve months ahead. We plan for the work to be split into two stages to allow at least some of the work to commence at the earliest opportunity. The planned alterations include a new entrance on the south facing wall, converting existing changing rooms into a new meeting/ rest room for staff and the community, a covered entrance from the side carpark providing disabled access to the parish office, new unisex and disabled toilets and additional storage space frequently asked for by hall users.

A smart new entrance sign for the Hangstones Pavilion and Recreation Fields has been installed highlighting our office, hall and sports and play facilities available on site.

Hangstones Pavilion has been set up with essential supplies that may be needed in an emergency, i.e. fleece and foil blankets, towels, drinks and snacks, chargers, torches, washing products, baby changing etc.

We continue to work with our District Councillors and NSC officers to review and influence how the Section 106 money coming from the new housing developments will be used to improve our highways, footpaths and cycleways and sports and leisure facilities. A public consultation took place on our plans to introduce a 20mph speed limit and a variety of other highway safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists along the High Street and surrounding roads, and several trees have been felled in preparation for construction of a safer entrance to the schools via the Co-op car park, due for completion before the start of the new school year in September.

As we have adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans in place, the Parish Council receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money imposed on new developments (compared to 15% without a Plan in place). In the year to 31 March 2022 we received a total £18,125.05 of CIL money. See the CIL reports on our website for more details.

We have planted two new oaks on Cadbury Hill to replace the much treasured veteran oak that was blown down in 2017. The two trees have been planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, and one of them will be dedicated to the memory of His late Royal Highness Prince Philip.

The new proposed cremated-remains cemetery in the field next to the allotments at Mendip Road has progressed. A design has been approved and negotiations are underway with North Somerset Council to lease the land. The planning application was submitted to North Somerset Council in November 2021. Hopefully planning approval will soon be granted then the work on the lease can be finalised. Some of the hedging has been removed near the entrance to the cemetery field and a gate installed.

In September 2021 a new public access defibrillator was installed on Hangstones Pavilion, jointly funded by the Junior Park Run, Yeo Valley Lions, Woodspring Lodge 8791, Yatton WI Strawberry Hearts and the Parish Council.

We installed two new Dog Bins on the Strawberry Line extension in Chestnut Park, bringing the total number of bins looked after by the Parish Council to 24.

Following negotiations with NSC and the bus companies, and after two years with no public transport connection between Yatton and Clevedon, the new bus service 54 was finally introduced on 1st April 2021, Monday to Sunday, every 90 minutes during daytime. This service connects Yatton and Claverham with Clevedon and Bristol Airport. But we continue to have no public transport connection with Clevedon on Sundays.

Congratulations to Sue Jones, the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2022. Sue works for Wellspring Counselling as a volunteer counsellor and has been involved with the charity for 18 years, having spent 3 years initially as a volunteer receptionist before qualifying as a counsellor. After qualifying Sue could have chosen to work in private practice, but instead she has continued to support Wellspring as a volunteer giving her time to countless clients over the past 15 years.

The ongoing work of the Parish Council includes looking after our green spaces, our allotments, many of our street lights, providing dog bins and financially supporting local groups through grants. We also jointly own and manage the upper parts of Cadbury Hill with Congresbury Parish Council. Under a stewardship agreement with Natural England we have been clearing areas of scrub and carrying out the selective felling of trees, to preserve the archaeology and to encourage desired fauna and flora, this also involves grazing by cattle, and sometimes sheep, on the Hill.

None of our achievements could have been accomplished without the dedication and hard work of the staff of Yatton Parish Council and my fellow Councillors, and I would like to thank them all for the work they have done over the past year. I would also like to thank our hard-working District Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Bridger for their support, and the many members of the public who have worked with the Parish Council, including members of the Yatton Horticultural Society, YACWAG, PACT, the SpeedWatch team, Yeo Valley Lions and the Yatton British Legion whose practical help and advice has been very much appreciated.

Jonathan Edwards

Chairman of Yatton Parish Council

# Committee Reports

## Amenities and Properties Committee

Chair: **Robert Jenner**

Vice-Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The Parish Council is responsible for a total of 97 streetlights in Yatton and Claverham. A continuing process of replacing failed sodium lamps with LED lamps continues with a new contractor. A further survey is being undertaken to determine the cost of changing those lights that are currently timed from dusk to dawn to part night i.e. part time lights are timed to come on at dusk to midnight and then from 5.30am to dawn so during the summer months when it is light early every morning, the lights will not come on. This work will hopefully reduce the significant increase in the energy costs of the streetlights.

The Parish is also responsible for the upkeep of 24 Dog Bins, there are plans to add further bins at key locations in the next financial year.

Our Head Groundsperson Jeff Shipway and our assistant Groundsperson and Parish Gardener Megan Thurgur are responsible for maintaining the public areas that the Parish Council is responsible for, namely: Hangstones playing field and pavilion, Rock Road and Broadcroft Play area in Claverham, the War Memorial, Glebelands, the village green by the church car park and the adjacent orchard area. The Parish Council also maintain the burial ground, Mendip Road and North End allotments and the open spaces at Well Lane and Heathgate, and small areas off Barberry Farm Road and Cadbury Farm Road.

Work continues to keep all the areas pristine and Glebelands has again been judged for the Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom 'It's Our Neighbourhood' award. The gardens have been entered every year since 2017 and in the first year achieved a 'thriving' award. Since then every year we have achieved an 'outstanding' designation and this is mostly down to Megan's hard work with some assistance from Jeff Shipway and Yatton Horticultural Society.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Horticultural Society for their continued support and help to the Parish Gardener Megan.

The existing burial ground is now almost full. Work has been undertaken to provide additional memorial spaces.

The BMX track at Hangstones continues to be very popular and this year 1,000 daffodil bulbs were planted ready for spring 2022. The circular path around the playing field at Hangstones also continues to be very popular. The basketball post will have an area of hard standing which will improve it as a practice area for the sport.

The play areas at Hangstones and Rock Road are proving to be a major attraction. A new roundabout similar to the one at Hangstones has been approved and instructed in November 2021 for Broadcroft play area and hopefully will be installed very soon.

Thanks also go to the Parish Orderlies in Yatton and Claverham and the Yatton Dog Walkers for their valuable work keeping the villages tidy.

The Community Orchard planted at Hangstones thanks to the Lyons has established well and thank you once again to YACWAG members for their help looking after the trees in the orchard. The new wildflower meadow has flourished and proved to be popular with people. This has prompted plans to look at seeding another area next year.

The Parish Council has gratefully accepted an offer from the WI to supply an additional bench at Hangstones. The two dilapidated benches on the Village Green will be replaced in time for the Jubilee.

# Planning Committee

Chair: **Christopher Jackson**

Vice-Chair: **Robert Jenner**

The members of the Planning Committee continue to work in every way they can to shape the future of Yatton and Claverham in order to benefit the Parish. The Committee makes explicit recommendations to the Local Planning Authority, which is North Somerset Council, to approve or refuse each application.

We held fifteen meetings between April 1st 2021 and March 31st 2022: the first three of these were conducted remotely, using Zoom, because of COVID restrictions, and the more recent twelve were held as normal in person at Hangstones Pavilion.

During these meetings we considered seventy-five planning applications. This is a slight increase from the previous year. The Committee recommended approval for sixty-three of the applications, which represents 84%. North Somerset Council refused one of these applications. Of the twelve applications for which the Planning Committee recommended refusal, North Somerset Council approved two. There was therefore a 96% concordance between the decisions of the Planning Committee and those of the Local Planning Authority.

Most of this year's applications again concerned small domestic projects such as extensions and loft and garage conversions. There have been several agricultural building applications, most of which have been supported by the Committee in order to aid the local rural economy.

The largest development submitted for consideration was for up to one hundred dwellings at Rectory Farm in Yatton, and the application to build on land at Moor Road was still in process during the period covered by this report. The Committee recommended refusal of both applications and North Somerset Council concurred; in both cases the developers appealed against the decision. The views of the Parish Council were read out at both appeals. Unfortunately, both appeals succeeded and we can expect development to begin at Moor Road and Rectory Farm before too long.



# Finance, Personnel and Administration Committee

Chair: **Peter Lomas**

Vice Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The last year has continued to be difficult due to Covid-19 with all restrictions finally lifted in February 2022.

Despite this the work of the Parish Council continued unabated and this is due, in no small part, to the efforts of the Parish Council staff. They are Aleana Baird (Parish Clerk), Jill Bradbury (Finance Officer), Lucy Kehoe (Office Assistant), Jeff Shipway (Head Groundsman), Megan Thurgur (Assistant Groundsman and Parish Gardener), John Harris (Cadbury Hill Manager), Andy Warren (Yatton Orderly) and Clive Fletcher (Claverham Orderly).

I, along with my fellow Councillors, would like to offer them sincere thanks.

The Council is pleased to be able to help local organisations through our Grants Policy. During the fiscal year covered by this report we have awarded the following grants:

● Youth Club	£25,300
● Citizens Advice Bureau	£9,740
● Cadbury Hill Management	£3,500
● Strawberry Line Cycle Project	£1,309
● Yatton Junior Football Club	£1,200
● Strawberry Line Management	£1,000
● Wellspring Counselling	£1,000
● Yatton United Charities	£1,000
● St Marys Church Clock	£500
● 1st Yatton Brownies	£350
● 2nd Yatton Guides	£350
● Yatton Music Society	£300
● YACWAG	£150

The Parish Council jointly owns, together with Congresbury Parish Council, part of Cadbury Hill. We contribute towards the maintenance costs, and this is shown above.

Our accounts for the year have received an unqualified audit report.

The Committee has continued its regular review of Policies and Procedures, and these may be found on our website together with details of all payments over £500.00.

The Committee is also responsible for Personnel matters including recruitment of staff and their working terms and conditions.

The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA). This is a not-for-profit membership organisation supporting local Parish and Town Councils across Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, to provide positive outcomes for their communities.

We also belong to NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and have earned their Quality Award. This demonstrates that we have achieved good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

The Parish Council also have representatives on the Bristol Airport Consultative Committee and are members of the Parish Council's Airport Association, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the Somerset Playing Fields Association.

Finally, I would like to record my sincere thanks to my Vice Chairman, fellow Councillors on the Committee and the Parish Clerk for their help and invaluable input throughout the year.

# Statement of Accounts

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022  
(External audit complete)

	2020/21 (Re-stated) £	2021/22 £
Balances brought forward	233,550	300,100
(+) Annual precept	221,563	226,814
(+) Total other receipts	78,239	21,803
(-) Staff costs	128,971	135,942
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments	104,281	121,085
(=) Balances carried forward	300,100	291,690
Total cash & investments	309,732	302,175
Total fixed and long term assets	1,023,564	1,031,890
Total borrowings	0	0

# Parish Councillors

## Claverham Ward (Claverham to Hollowmead):

Roger Wood	01934 832 182
Peter Lomas	01934 835 109
VACANCY	

## South Ward (Frost Hill to Chescombe Road/Well Lane):

Wendy Griggs	01934 834 143
Graham Humphreys	01934 835 469
Massimo Morelli	07745 763 010
Steven Lister	07702 055 061
VACANCY	

## North Ward (Chescombe Road/Well Lane to the railway line):

Jonathan Edwards – Chair	07785 352 714
Caroline Sheard	01934 832 796
Robert Jenner	01934 834 675
Jessie McArdle	07794 466 843
Steve Humphrey	07968 984 229

## Horsecastle Ward (railway line to Kingston Bridge)

David Crossman	01934 832 154
Christopher Jackson	07879 413 423
Bryan Thomas	07715 362 601
Steve Phippen	07453 292 416
VACANCY	

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor  
please contact the Clerk.

Clerk: **Aleana Baird**

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