



Yatton Parish Council

Annual Report

for the year ended 31 March 2023

(approved by Yatton Parish Council on
11 September 2023)

Our mission:

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



Chairman's overview

The on-going work of the Parish Council includes looking after our green spaces, our allotments, many of our streetlights, 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.

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 District Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Bridger for their support, as well as the many members of the public who have worked with the Parish Council, including members of many local voluntary organisations.

Some highlights from the past year:

- Jamie Pickles was the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2023 for his work with the Strawberry Line Café and Project.
- The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II was marked in several ways. A very successful "Picnic in the Park" was held at Hangstones on 16 July 2022; a royal purple combined drinking fountain and water bottle filling station was installed next to the pavilion; and three new engraved benches were installed on the village green and at the Claverham May Day field.
- Streetlights that are the Parish Council's responsibility have been converted to LED bulbs and part-night timers wherever possible, to reduce energy requirements.

- Glebelands and the Orchard area once again achieved 'outstanding' designations in the Royal Horticultural Society's 'It's Our Neighbourhood' awards.
- The alterations work to the Hangstones pavilion has proved difficult to progress since planning approval was gained in 2019. Obtaining quotations has been a particular problem. We plan for the work to be split into multiple stages to allow at least some of the work to commence at the earliest opportunity.
- We continue to work with our District Councillors and North Somerset Council officers to review and influence how the Section 106 money coming from new housing developments will be used to improve our highways, footpaths and cycleways and sports and leisure facilities. One outcome of this work was the construction of a safer entrance to Yatton School via the Co-op car park. Unfortunately, the fire at the school has meant that the new access route can no longer be used until rebuilding is completed.
- 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 2023, we received £36,101.36 of CIL money. See the CIL reports on our website for more details.
- The new proposed cremated-remains cemetery in the field next to the allotments at Mendip Road has had planning approval granted. Inexplicable delays at North Somerset Council in approving the lease of the land have slowed progress significantly. As it will

be sometime before the new cemetery will be in place, we have created an additional area for cremated remains at our existing cemetery, which had essentially reached its capacity limit.

- Councillor Dr Christopher Jackson, at the time Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, was the subject of a complaint made by two members of the public. The complaint was dismissed by the investigating officer at North Somerset Council.

Dr Christopher Jackson
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 104 streetlights in Yatton and Claverham. Following the large energy cost increases in May 2022 many of the old sodium lamps that can be were exchanged for LED lamps. In addition, all lights that were suitable were changed from all night timers to part night timers and these changes have very significantly reduced the running costs of our streetlights.

The number of dog bins has also been increased so now there are 26 bins across the Parish helping to keep the streets and open spaces pleasant places for all residents to enjoy.

Our head Groundsman Jeff Shipway and our Assistant Groundsman and Parish Gardener Megan Thurgur maintain the public areas that the Parish Council are responsible for, namely: Hangstones playing field and pavilion, Rock Road play area, 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, the open spaces at Well Lane and Heathgate and small areas off Barberry Farm Road and Cadbury Farm Road. Newly created wildflower areas have been planted in the orchard area off Glebelands and on Hangstones field.

Glebelands has again been judged for the Royal Horticultural Society and Southwest 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 the assistance of Jeff 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.

There have been several improvements to recreation areas during 2022-23 including a new disabled access roundabout at Broadcroft play area, new hard surfacing under the basketball practice area installed in June 2022 and a new basket swing and zipwire runway installed in October 2022.

In summer 2022 a 'Picnic in the Park' event was organised by a group of Parish Councillors and staff member Lucy Kehoe to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 16th July 2022. There was live music, a raffle with proceeds going to Yatton United Charities and stalls promoting local organisations and the work they do. The event was very well supported, and another similar event was planned for summer 2023.

The dilapidated benches on the village green were replaced with two large new benches and a further new one was installed on the field adjacent to the Village Hall in Claverham to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

During the last autumn and winter Yatton and Cleeve Football Club returned to from Cleeve play at Hangstones. This has seen the use of the pitches and changing rooms significantly increase with three senior and two veteran teams using the main two pitches and Yatton Junior Football Club using the mini pitches for a number of U11's teams and occasionally the main pitches for the U16's team. The pitches stood up well to the increased use and this was thanks to the work of the grounds team maintaining them so well.

The Parish Council granted permission in March 2023 for new permanent dugouts to be installed by Yatton & Cleeve Football Club on the main pitch at Hangstones.

The Parish Council thanks the grounds team for all their hard work and the Parish Orderlies in Yatton and Claverham for their valuable work keeping the villages clean and tidy.

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 eleven meetings between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023. During these meetings we considered forty-six planning applications. This is a marked reduction from the previous year, perhaps because of the current cost of living crisis. The Committee recommended approval for thirty-nine of the applications, which represents 85% and is in line with previous years. North Somerset Council accepted our recommendation for all of these. Of the seven applications for which the Planning Committee recommended refusal, North Somerset Council contradicted us and approved three. There was therefore a 93% concordance between the decisions of the Planning Committee and those of the Local Planning Authority, which again is in line with the usual pattern.

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 to aid the local rural economy.

Finance, Personnel and Administration Committee

Chair: **Peter Lomas**

Vice Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The Parish Council is run by eight members of staff who all contribute to its smooth running. They are as follows:

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	£ 6,954
• Yatton Village Hall	£ 4,304
• Cadbury Hill Management	£ 3,500
• Yatton Junior Football Club	£ 1,200
• Strawberry Line Management	£ 1,000
• Wellspring Counselling	£ 1,000
• Yatton United Charities	£ 1,000
• Repair Café	£ 544
• MS Therapy	£ 500
• Vision N Somerset	£ 450
• 1st Yatton Brownies	£ 350

• Yatton Music Society	£ 300
• YACWAG	£ 100
• PACT	£ 50

In addition, all payments over £500 are reported on the Parish website.

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

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

Our Policies and Procedures are regularly reviewed, and the latest versions are published on the website.

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.

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.

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 2023 (External audit complete)

	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Balances brought forward	300,100	291,690
(+) Annual precept	226,814	238,154
(+) Total other receipts	21,803	79,198
(-) Staff costs	135,942	156,826
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments (Re-stated)	121,085	187,157
(=) Balances carried forward	291,690	265,059
Total cash & investments	302,175	265,568
Total fixed and long term assets	1,031,890	1,089,693
Total borrowings	0	0

Parish Councillors

Claverham Ward (Claverham to Hollowmead):

Roger Wood	01934 832 182
Peter Lomas	01934 835 109
James Hooper	07967 690 677

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

Graham Humphreys	01934 835 469
Massimo Morelli	07745 763 010
Steven Lister	07702 055 061
VACANCY	
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
Ann Hodgson	07929 484 547
VACANCY	

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

Clerk: **Aleana Baird**

Yatton Parish Council

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

01934 838 971 • 07484 522 349

Email: clerk@yatton-pc.gov.uk • www.yatton-pc.gov.uk