

Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities & Properties Committee
held on
29 November 2010
at Hangstones Pavilion

Meeting Commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 9.15 p.m.

Present: Councillors Graham Humphreys (Chairman), Clare Bessant, Mike Cox, David Crossman, Susan Morris, Ian Payne and Jean Watson

In attendance: Clerk and three members of the public

Public participation

Paul Quest referred to Agenda item 13 (assistance for people with hearing difficulties). He was pleased that the matter was on the agenda but concerned that the proposal was for it to be discussed with the public excluded.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP399: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Maurice Blunsdon, Martyn Hooper and Viv Wathen.

AAP400: Declarations of Interest

None

AAP401: Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 October 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AAP402: Assistance for people with hearing difficulties

The Clerk suggested that the public could be excluded from consideration of Agenda item 13 (assistance for people with hearing difficulties) but members considered that publicity would not in this interest be prejudicial to the public interest.

RESOLVED that Agenda item 13 be taken next.

Members considered a supplier's quote for a 'Conversor Pro-Tech' radio listening device. The supplier considered this more flexible than a hearing loop, with better quality results. The device was portable and did not require fixed microphones. Packages varied from one transmitter + four receivers for just over £1000 + VAT to two transmitters + eight receivers for £2125 + VAT.

The Clerk advised that the Equality Act 2010 required councils to make reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of disabled people, including those with hearing difficulties.

RESOLVED that the supplier be asked to give a demonstration in Hangstones.

AAP403: Management of Glebelands

Members considered two emails from YACWAG relating to the wildflower garden (Annex 1). The Clerk also reported that Yatton Horticultural Society were unable to offer any assistance.

In discussion members noted that rats and foxes had been seen in the area and that the area was looking untidy and uncared-for.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the site be tidied
- (2) that the grounds staff be asked to manage the wildflower garden for a trial period in 2011
- (3) that a site meeting be arranged with YACWAG
- (4) that YACWAG be asked to provide some signage
- (5) that the Clerk publicise the Council's need for expert help in managing the area.

AAP404: Management of Rock Road play area

Members noted that the play area had been re-surfaced and that the horse rocker had been removed.

RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain quotes for new equipment, including equipment suitable for disabled people.

AAP405: Projects for Yeo Valley Lions

Members considered possible projects for voluntary work by Yeo Valley Lions.

RESOLVED that the following projects be suggested:

- litter picking on the path between Derham Park and Elborough Avenue
- planting bushes and shrubs at the wildflower garden
- other work at Glebelands
- clearing Chapel Lane, Claverham

AAP406: Membership of Somerset Playing Fields Association

Members noted that the Association offered public liability insurance, an annual inspection scheme and access to a loan scheme. Annual subscription was £10 (Annex 2).

RESOLVED that the Parish Council join Somerset Playing Fields Association for a trial year.

AAP407: Committee draft budget for 2011/12

Members considered a draft budget (Annex 3).

RESOLVED:

- (1) that £8000 be included for play and adult fitness equipment (299/4924)
- (2) that £4000 be included for extension of the path at Hangstones (299/4935)

Members considered the proposal from North Somerset Council to fund the play rangers to enable open access to the play pod to continue. Maintaining the present level of service would cost £14,000 per year. Members noted that the play rangers did not monitor the age profile of users. In discussion members considered that the money could be better used elsewhere.

RESOLVED as a recommendation to the Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee that the proposal to fund the play rangers be not supported.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

AAP408: Summary income & expenditure report (Annex 4)

Noted

AAP409: Clerk's report

- (1) Christmas lights switch-on on Saturday 4 December.
- (2) The Clerk had written to local estate agents, and sent out a press release, asking if there were any suitable sites for allotments.

AAP395: Future Agenda items

- (1) Signage
- (2) Play equipment at Rock Road

Chairman

___/___/2011