

Minutes

of a Meeting of

Yatton Parish Council

Monday 13 September 2010

held at Hangstones Pavilion

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.45 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman (Chairman), Trevor Bidwell-Ford, Maurice Blunsdon, Mike Cox, Graham Humphreys, Jill Iles, Robert Jenner, Rosey Knifton, Susan Morris, Lucy Perrott, Brian Phillips, Viv Wathen and Jean Watson

Also in attendance: Clerk, North Somerset Councillor Tony Moulin, North Somerset Parish Liaison Officer Karuna Tharmananthar and fifteen members of the public

Prayers were led by Rev. Rod Ingrouille

Public Participation

Hangstones redevelopment (Agenda item 6)

Paul Quest commented that a large number of people had not received the questionnaire. He considered the results were unreliable.

Nigel Carson was concerned about the absence of a business case. He considered that an informed decision could not be made without more detail.

Dave Pinnock considered that the low response rate might be due to the absence of detail. He emphasised the need to have full facts and figures.

Waiting restrictions in High Street, Yatton (Agenda item 9)

Dave Wise, Clive Mortimer and Mark Loader, local traders, spoke. They felt it was important that the Parish Council should support local traders. Long-term parking in lay-bys was resulting in lost business for traders. The problems for the lay-by outside Loaders would get worse if the Old Library was converted into residential property.

Parish Councils Airport Association (Agenda item 7)

Hilary Burn referred to the new draft working practices which had been circulated to members.

Other matters

Paul Quest, Clive Mortimer and Annabel Tall spoke about the closure of High Street, Yatton. They were concerned about congestion and danger to school-children and asked why had been no consultation.

David Parkin said that the footpath along Mendip Road on the south side of Yatton was obstructed by trees. The Clerk said this had been reported to North Somerset Council.

North Somerset Councillors' reports

Jill Iles reported that the new recycling system seemed to be settling down.

Tony Moulin reported:

- Anti-social behaviour in the Rock Road area had diminished, thanks to police action
- There would be more consultation on the core strategy in the autumn
- Tony was happy to be involved in any discussion of waiting restrictions
- Referring to Hangstones redevelopment North Somerset Council were looking at ways of out-sourcing facilities and some of these might be of interest.

Matters for decision

COU579: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Bollen, Wendy Griggs, Martyn Hooper and Ian Payne, and PC Phil Kinsella.

COU580: Declarations of interests by Parish Councillors

David Crossman, Jill Iles and Rosey Knifton declared personal and prejudicial interests in Agenda item 8 (Hinkley Point C connector) as the value of their respective properties might be affected by the eventual route.

COU581: Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2010 were approved as a correct record, subject to the replacement of '19 June' by '19 July' as the correct date for the meeting referred to in COU576 (National Grid community forum).

COU582: Finance

Payments were authorised and receipts and petty cash payments noted (Annex 1).

COU583: Redevelopment of Hangstones pavilion

Robert Jenner reported. He summarised progress to date, with an options appraisal followed by costings for each options. As grant funding was limited the Parish Council had decided to ask council tax payers to what extent they would be willing to fund improvements. Royal Mail had been asked to deliver a questionnaire to every household. The response rate had been only 8% and no option had a majority in favour of a council tax increase (summary at Annex 2). The Parish Council needed now to consider other options for funding redevelopment. Cadbury House had expressed an interest in being involved. There was also the possibility of out-sourcing ownership or management of the pavilion.

Members thanked Robert for his hard work on the project.

RESOLVED:

- (1) not to proceed with proposals for a council tax increase
- (2) that a working party be appointed to consider funding options and other issues, to consider how to involve the community and to make interim suggestions for work on the existing building, and to report back within three months
- (3) that Trevor Bidwell-Ford, David Crossman, Graham Humphreys, Robert Jenner, Susan Morris and Brian Phillips be members of the working party.

COU584: Renewal of the Parish Council's subscription to the Parish Councils Airport Association

Members noted the new draft working practices of the PCAA, the original aims and objectives of the PCAA and a letter from Congresbury Parish Council expressing concern about PCAA procedures (Annex 3).

Members considered that parish council representatives could not have authority to take decisions on behalf of their council and accordingly that paragraph 5 of the draft working procedures should be deleted. Members were also concerned about the negative views expressed on behalf of the PCAA.

RESOLVED by 10 votes to 3 that the subscription to the Parish Councils Airport Association be renewed.

RESOLVED that the appointment of a representative be delegated to the Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee.

COU585: National Grid 'community forums' on the Hinkley Point C connector

David Crossman, Jill Iles and Rosey Knifton, having declared personal and prejudicial interests, left the room and Trevor Bidwell-Ford took the Chair as Vice-Chairman.

Members considered a letter from National Grid (Annex 4). Members considered that continuing engagement with National Grid was important even if the Parish Council objected to National Grid's approach to consultation.

RESOLVED that Mike Cox represent the Parish Council on the Community Forum.

David Crossman and Rosey Knifton returned to the room and the Chairman resumed the Chair.

(Jill Iles did not return to the meeting.)

COU586: Waiting restrictions in High Street, Yatton

The Clerk reported that North Somerset Council planned to review waiting restrictions in Yatton in 2011/12, for implementation in 2012/13. There was, however, no certainty that the review would take place. North Somerset Council would expedite the process if the Parish Council paid the costs of around £3000.

In discussion members considered it important to support local businesses. This was a one-off cost. There was a possibility that North Somerset Council might not itself fund a review. Members questioned how any restrictions would be enforced.

Members asked that any request should include the request for double yellow lines at junctions first made in 2007 (Annex 5).

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is willing to contribute up to £3000 (under section 137 Local Government Act 1972) to expedite the process of obtaining a Traffic Regulatory Order for:

- (1) limited waiting in the lay-bys outside 15 High Street, outside Loaders and outside Clive's newsagents and Pullins bakery
- (2) double yellow lines at junctions as requested in 2007.

COU587: Speed limit changes on the A370

The Clerk reported that as part of a review of speed limits along the A370 North Somerset Council proposed to change the speed limits to the west of Congresbury so that the Strawberry Line crossing would be in a 40 mph zone.

In discussion members mentioned that the current 30 mph zone had been established when the crossing had been put in.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Parish Council consider the speed limits to the west of Congresbury should be left unchanged
- (2) That if the speed limits are changed North Somerset Council be asked to monitor the effect.

COU588: AGM of Avon Local Councils Association, 14 October

The Clerk reported that the Executive Committee would be proposing a subscription increase of 23%, but that there was also likely to be a proposal to dissolve the Association, with North Somerset parish councils being eligible to join the Somerset Association. ALCA was in severe financial difficulties. Current Yatton subscription was £1301.

Members were concerned about paying money to an organisation that might collapse.

RESOLVED that Trevor Bidwell-Ford and Susan Morris represent the Parish Council at the AGM.

COU589: Training for councillors in the enforcement of dog fouling laws

The Parish Council was invited to nominate councillors for training, cost £65 per person.

RESOLVED that Trevor Bidwell-Ford be nominated for training.

COU590: Regional Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks, 2 December

The Clerk was entitled to attend (cost £55) and councillors were invited to attend (cost £75). The Clerk said that other councillors had found the Conference useful.

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Mike Cox attend the Conference.

COU591: Severn Estuary Forum, 8 October

Cost £40 per delegate.

RESOLVED that no action be taken.

Matters for information

COU592: Clerk's Report

- Letter of thanks from Court de Wyck School for grant towards cost of CCTV (Annex 6).
- Certificate of membership of Somerset Racial Equality Council

COU593: Future agenda items

- New standing orders

Chairman

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