

Minutes

of a Meeting of

Yatton Parish Council

Monday 14 March 2011

held at Hangstones Pavilion

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.30 p.m.

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

Also in attendance: Clerk, North Somerset Councillor Tony Moulin and seven members of the public

Prayers were led by Cameron Drury.

Matters for decision

COU627: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martyn Hooper and Rosey Knifton, Parish Liaison Officer Karuna Tharmananthar and PC Paul Morris.

COU628: Declarations of interests by Parish Councillors

None

Public participation

COU629: Public participation

Pat Stevens commented again on overhanging trees outside Yatton Hall, High Street, and also mentioned that rocks on Rock Road playing field had been moved.

Paul Quest spoke on Agenda item 9 (social networking strategy). He supported the suggestions in the report but also asked if an email group could be created to receive information from the Parish Council.

Juley Howard spoke on Agenda item 8 (zebra crossing). She reminded members that a survey in 2008 had shown overwhelming support for a zebra crossing.

Doris Stockham asked for white lines on roads leading off High Street, Yatton, to be re-marked.

Marina van Vessem spoke on Agenda item 7 (former Jewsons site). She asked the Parish Council to recognize the importance of the weighbridge, but also for the Parish Council to support constructive use of the whole site.

North Somerset Councillors' reports

Tony Moulin reported:

- (1) First Bus are still considering his request for a peak-time bus service to North End.
- (2) A Clevedon to Weston-super-Mare cycle and walking path will be a priority for 2011/12. A Yatton to Clevedon path is also under consideration.

Jill Iles reported:

- (1) She had passed on details of potholes, and flooding in high Street, Claverham, to the Area Officer.
- (2) North Somerset Council was planning to extend the Community Meals on Wheels service.

Matters for decision

COU630: Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 January 2011

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

COU631: Finance

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

COU632: Exclusion of public

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda item 14 (renewal of the Parish Council's insurance policy) on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because consideration may involve disclosure of information relating to the financial affairs of the authority.

COU633: Former Jewsons site

Members considered an email from the Strawberry Line Café (Annex 2) and comments made by Marina van Vessem during public participation (above). Members considered the proposals in the email were sensible but the Parish Council should not take on any commitments. The building was in a poor state of repair. Members considered it important that the whole site was preserved for employment use.

RESOLVED:

(a) that the Parish Council, recognising that the old weighbridge situated on the corner of the site adjacent to the station is a building of historic interest to the Community, enters into discussions with the site owner, Network Rail, and the Strawberry Line Café Project CIC to preserve the weighbridge within the community and to prevent its demolition;

(b) that the Parish Council, enters into discussions with Network Rail with regard to the long term proposed use for the site as a whole with a view to ensuring that this use accords with the community's needs as a service village;

(c) that the Parish Council enters into those discussions through the Chair of the Council and the Parish Clerk;

(d) that the Parish Council calls for the whole site to be retained for employment use.

COU634: Proposal for zebra crossing near 130 High Street, Yatton

Members considered a proposal for the Parish Council to fund a zebra crossing near 13 High Street, Yatton. The cost would be around £25,000. £22,000 was currently set aside for road safety. Members noted that the Clerk had received 30 emails on the subject, all expressing strong support, and members also noted Juley Howard's comments (above) on the 2008 survey.

Members recognized that the proposal was for a large amount of money on a single project but considered that a zebra crossing was essential. The hope had been that a zebra crossing would be funded under a section 106 agreement for the Oxford Instruments site but it was unlikely that that development would start soon.

RESOLVED, by 13 votes to 2, to provide up to £25,000 for a zebra crossing near 130 High Street, Yatton (section 137).

COU635: Use of social networking by the Parish Council

Members considered a report from the Clerk (Annex 3) and the comments made by Paul Quest (above). Members also noted the recommendation of the Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee to make use of Facebook and Twitter. The Clerk informed members that a single email group for people interested in receiving information from the Council would be feasible but that multiple email groups for different issues would take up too much time. In discussion members emphasised the need to communicate with all sectors of the community, especially young people.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Parish Council make use a Twitter and (after 5 May) Facebook, and also a single email group
- (2) that the success of this be reviewed after a year.

COU636: Statement of Intent on Community Engagement

Members considered a draft Statement of Intent on Community Engagement (Annex 4). Members noted that a Statement was a requirement for eligibility to use the power of well-being and could also be used as evidence for Quality status.

Members suggested various amendments to the draft (in manuscript on Annex 4).

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Statement as amended be approved and adopted;
- (2) that the Clerk be authorised to update the Statement when the Parish Council publishes a Facebook page.

COU637: Vacancies as a result of insufficient nominations

Members noted that if there were insufficient nominations in any ward the Parish Council had 35 (working) days from polling day to fill any vacancies by co-option, after which North Somerset Council might order a fresh election (for which the Parish Council would have to pay) to fill any vacancies.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to advertise any vacancies arising as a result of insufficient nominations.

Matters for information

COU638: Clerk's Report

- The Clerk outlined the election timetable.
- Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 21 March, Yatton Infants School
- Meeting to display Playbuilder proposals, Tuesday 29 March

- Meeting to discuss the future of the playpod, Monday 4 April
- It was likely there would be a meeting in early April with North Somerset Council and Dignity to discuss the results of a feasibility study for a new burial ground.

COU639: Future agenda items

- Yatton to Clevedon cycle and walking path
- Hangstones redevelopment.

(The public left the room.)

Matters for decision

COU640: Renewal of the Parish Council's insurance policy

The Clerk reported that in 2008 the Parish Council had signed up to a long-term contract with Zurich Insurance whereby the Council was 'locked in' until March 2013. This had not been reported to the Council at the time, nor had other quotes been obtained. There was now a forward note in the file to ensure that other quotes were obtained for renewal in 2013.

Chairman

___/___/2011