

Minutes

of a Meeting of

Yatton Parish Council

Monday 8 November 2010

held at Hangstones Pavilion

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

Present: Councillors: David Crossman (Chairman), Clare Bessant, Maurice Blunsdon, Martyn Hooper, Graham Humphreys, Jill Iles, Robert Jenner, Rosey Knifton, Susan Morris, Ian Payne, Lucy Perrott, Brian Phillips, Viv Wathen and Jean Watson

Also in attendance: Clerk, North Somerset Parish Liaison Officer Karuna Tharmananthar and six members of the public

Prayers were led by Cameron Drury.

Public Participation

Green dog walkers scheme (Agenda item 12)

Simon Reakes spoke on behalf of Yatton PACT. Dog mess was a continuing concern, especially to young parents. PACT wanted to launch a scheme to encourage responsible dog ownership. PACT was asking for £500 from the Parish Council, to be spent on leaflets, arm-bands and publicity. PACT hoped to match this funding from other sources.

Roundabout at junction of High Street, Yatton, and Claverham Road

Michael Earle spoke and expressed concern at the lack of consultation by either the Parish Council or North Somerset Council. No notice had been given to residents until the road was marked out. North Somerset Council had considered that no residents would be adversely affected but following a site meeting it was clear that this was incorrect and as a result a traffic island which formed part of the scheme would not be constructed. Mr Earle hoped that parish councillors would learn from this and consult properly in future.

In reply the Chairman acknowledged that there had been a lack of consultation, apologised, and undertook to consult properly in future.

North Somerset Councillors' reports

Tony Moulin sent apologies.

Jill Iles reported:

- North Somerset councillors would be receiving a presentation about a proposal for 250 wind turbines in the Bristol Channel
 - There had been discussions about the tracker system at Bristol Airport. The system monitored deviations from track, but for information only. There were no penalties for deviation.
 - Following the move of some North Somerset staff to Castlewood, Clevedon, North Somerset Council would be providing a bus from Yatton Station to Castlewood, running every half hour at rush hours and hourly during the day. The public would also be able to use the bus.
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Matters for decision

COU594: Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jane Bollen and North Somerset Councillor Tony Moulin.

RESOLVED that Jane Bollen's illness be approved as a reason for her continuing absence.

COU595: Declarations of interests by Parish Councillors

None

COU596: Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 September 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2010 were approved as a correct record, subject to a correction to COU585 (Hinkley Point C connector) to record that Rosey Knifton returned to the meeting and Jill Iles did not.

COU597: Exclusion of public

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during Agenda items 18 (safety surfacing at Rock Road) and 19 (work on Cadbury Hill) on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because there would be disclosure of information relating to the financial affairs of the Council.

COU598: Finance

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

COU599: Arrangements for membership of the National Association of Local Councils

Sue Morris reported from the Annual General Meeting of Avon Local Councils Association. The AGM had resolved to call a Special General Meeting to discuss the way forward for the provision of services to local councils in the West of England area. There was however no certainty as to the financial position and several councils had announced that they would not continue in membership.

Members also considered a report from an ALCA working party (Annex 2)

The Clerk reported that the SGM was to have been called for 23 November but had since been postponed to a date not yet known.

In discussion members considered that there was little community of interest between North Somerset councils and those in South Gloucestershire. Members were more inclined to seek alignment with councils in the County of Somerset.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Parish Council do not renew its subscription to ALCA for 2011/12
- (2) that the appointment of representatives to any Special General Meeting be delegated to the Clerk.

COU600: Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting in 2011

The Annual Parish Meeting was required to be held between 1 March and 1 June (inclusive). The Clerk pointed out that the Easter holidays would be between 9 April and 25 April, and that Parish Council elections would be on 5 May.

In discussion members preferred a date in mid-March, with the meeting including a discussion on the role of parish councils to encourage potential candidates.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Annual Parish Meeting be held in mid-March
- (2) that the schools in Yatton be approached as a possible venue.

COU601: Statement of Intent on Training

The Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee reported a draft (Annex 3) for adoption. A Statement of Intent was one of the requirements for Quality status. The Clerk confirmed that councillors could not be required to undertake training, but training could be encouraged as better trained councillors with a good understanding of their role were likely to be more effective.

RESOLVED that the draft be adopted.

COU602: Working Party on Quality Status

The Clerk suggested that a working party might be helpful, in particular in assisting him to produce evidence for:

- communication and community engagement
- promoting local democracy and citizenship

RESOLVED that the Clerk invite all members who were interested to an informal meeting.

COU603: North Somerset Council consultation on Parish Liaison Officers and Area Officers

The Clerk reported a consultation on the effectiveness of Parish Liaison Officers and Area Officers. Members paid tribute to the work of PLO Karuna Tharmananthar and AOs Paul Smart and Ginny Smith. One member questioned whether there was still a need for a PLO with improved direct communication between the Clerk and North Somerset officers but other members drew attention to the assistance that Karuna had given in the past when the Parish Council had been in difficulty.

RESOLVED that the Clerk respond positively, drawing attention to the invaluable work carried out by both the Parish Liaison Officer and the Area Officer.

COU604: Annual General Meeting of Somerset Racial Equality Council, 26 November, North Petherton

RESOLVED that Graham Humphreys be appointed as the Parish Council's representative.

The Chairman reminded members that travel expenses could be claimed for attendance at meetings as a representative of the Parish Council.

COU605: 'Green Dog Walkers' scheme

Members considered an email from Simon Reakes (Annex 4) and his presentation earlier in the meeting. In discussion members considered that any funding should be conditional on it being matched from elsewhere and that if the scheme involved the Strawberry Line other parish councils should be approached.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Parish Council fully supports the proposed scheme
- (2) that any application for financial assistance should be by way of a grant application.

Matters for information

COU606: Clerk's Report

- There was a possibility that some Government money might still be available for new play equipment at Hangstones and members were invited to meet the North Somerset lead officer.
- Letter from National Grid stating that all options for the Hinkley Point C connector, including underground and subsea, were being appraised and an announcement was expected in early 2011
- Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday
- New constitution for Yatton Youth Club, which provided for the charity trustees to fill vacancies in their own number rather than for trustees to represent various appointing bodies such as the Parish Council.
- Briefing for councillors regarding the introduction of new recycling system for blocks of flats.
- The Clerk had asked the Clevedon Mercury to correct an inaccurate report on the road works in High Street, Yatton.

COU607: Report on the work of the Amenities & Properties Committee (Annex 5)

Noted

COU608: Report on the work of the Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee (Annex 5)

Noted

COU609: Society of Local Council Clerks National Conference 2010, Durham

Report of the Clerk (Annex 6) noted.

COU610: Future agenda items

- Extension of time for Hangstones redevelopment working party.
- New burial ground.

(The public left the meeting.)

Matters for decision

COU611: Safety surfacing at Rock Road play area

There was an urgent need to carry out this work on safety grounds. The Clerk reported two quotes (Confidential Annex 7). The Clerk emphasised that the Parish Council was not required to accept the lower quote if members considered that the higher quote was better value, for example because the quality of work was better or the result was longer lasting.

RESOLVED, by 7 votes to 6 with one abstention, that the quote from GB Sport & Leisure in the sum of £5,893.88 + VAT be accepted.

COU612: Work at Cadbury Hill

Members considered a quote from Greenmantle for scrub clearance (Annex 8). The Clerk reported that only one quote had been obtained since Greenmantle had carried out similar work on Cadbury Hill in the past and their work had been very satisfactory. Congresbury Parish Council were also considering this quote.

RESOLVED that subject to the agreement of Congresbury Parish Council the quote from Greenmantle in the sum of £5,100 + VAT be accepted.

Chairman

___/___/2011