

Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities and Properties Committee
29th January 2024

Held at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton, BS49 4HS.

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 9.25 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards, James Hooper, Graham Humphreys, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Peter Lomas, Massimo Morelli, Jessie McArdle and Caroline Sheard.

In attendance: Clerk, Megan Thurgur (Parish Grounds staff), Stuart Nichols from Nichols Facilities Management Ltd and two members of the Speedwatch team.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP56/24: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Steve Lister and Bryan Thomas.

AAP57/24: To receive Councillors' declarations of interests and consider any written applications for dispensations (the Committee may only grant a dispensation to enable a member to speak in public participation).

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AAP58/24: Public participation.

The two members of the Speedwatch team introduced Stuart Nichols to the Parish Council. There had been detailed information about the mobile speed activated device grant process, the advantages of having a device and the data it produced and the service he could offer in managing the device for the duration of three years. All of the above was covered under the grant which was offered by Avon & Somerset Police of £4,950. The next round of grants maybe submitted in April 2024.

The Parish Council would need to gain agreement from North Somerset Council for locations for the device to be put. Stuart Nichols was happy to liaise with North Somerset Highways initially on behalf of the Parish Council having already done so for other Parish Councils albeit in Somerset. The Speedwatch team already had some locations to suggest. Once the locations were ascertained a grant could be submitted.

At the end of the three year grant period the Parish Council who will own the device can opt to shelve the project or continue either doing the management of the device themselves or employ Stuart Nichols services to continue to manage it for them. The Speedwatch team were very supportive of the mobile speed device and would be happy to work with the Clerk to help with the process as it would very much support the work that they do. Councillors asked a number of questions about the scheme including what the future costs after the three year grant period ended.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP59/24: Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th October 2023 (Agenda item 4).

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AAP60/24: If the Committee wishes to exclude the public the following resolution must be passed:

‘That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item(s) ... on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest [by reason of the confidential nature of the business] or [for other special reason which must be stated].’

NOT REQUIRED.

***** The Chairman suggested that the agenda order was changed to discuss agenda item 7 next to allow the representatives from Speedwatch and Nichols Facilities Management to leave the meeting earlier should they wish to.**

RESOLVED: to move agenda item 7 to be discussed next.

AAP61/24: To consider applying for a grant to provide a mobile speed activated device (Agenda item 7).

Councillors discussed the process for obtaining the mobile speed activated device and it was highlighted that when the Parish Council worked with North Somerset Council Highways Department regarding the fixed speed sign (now located on Frost Hill) it was a protracted process with very few options available for suitable locations. However it maybe easier with a mobile device and Councillors were supportive of the scheme.

RESOLVED: to apply for a grant in April and in the interim seek the required information to support the grant application.

AAP62/24: Parish Gardener and Groundsmen Report (Agenda item 6).

Megan Thurgur gave a report including photographs highlighting the following areas:

- The pictures of the War Memorial just before Remembrance Sunday showed the new pots and flagpole flying the flag from the British Legion and new dressing of gravel. The gravel greatly reduced weeds which mostly appeared in spring but were easy to hand weed. The borders were looking full of autumn colour.
- The new fountain and sign which was proving very popular and getting a lot of use.
- The Christmas Lights and switch went well with the display in Glebelands and at the North End roundabout being extended this year. There had been a few hiccups with the power supply to the Claverham tree but this was resolved.
- There had been chainsaw work carried out at Heathgate on several dead trees and at Hangstones on storm damaged branches. This work had saved the Council the cost of calling in a tree surgeon.
- The border on the right when leaving the Glebelands car park had now been fully replanted with shrubs and bulbs and this had made a great improvement compared to what it was like before. Megan had also been please to find a small grass snake in the compost bin at Glebelands.

- A new memorial cherry tree had been planted on Hangstones in memory of a former Chairman of the Parish Council by his family with help from the grounds team.
- The area at the junction of Cherry Grove and the High Street owned by the Parish Council had been made secure from unwanted parking by boulders donated and delivered by Stowells. Megan thanked Councillor David Crossman for initiating this with Stowells.
- The new gate into Broadcroft play area had been installed.

AAP63/24: To consider the improvement of the Cherry Grove area.

Councillors discussed possible options including cycle racks, a bench and the levelling and digging out of the place the tree used to be infilling with gravel and then placing a large self-watering planter there. There were already two cycle racks on the area. It was considered prudent to consult surrounding residents and retailers on the installing of a bench especially because it was so close to the Off License. The Clerk was to arrange this and Councillor Chris Jackson offered to deliver the letters. The outcome of the consultation was to be reported at the next suitable meeting.

RESOLVED: to consult on the installation of a bench and to improve the location of the former tree with gravel and a new large self-watering planter.

AAP64/24: To consider measures and stipulations that must be in place with Yatton & Cleeve Football Club ahead of any work commencing on the new changing room. i.e. legal framework, funding, construction management plan etc.

Councillors discussed a number of concerns surrounding the changing room project especially in regard to ownership, security of funding prior to work commencing, damage responsibility during and after construction, project failure to complete, access, sub-letting, use and permanency of tenure etc. the list was non-exhaustive.

The Committee all agreed that these concerns must be addressed and that without legal advice the implications could not be properly assessed.

RESOLVED: to contact the football club and inform them of the Parish Council concerns regarding the future contractual arrangements both prior, during and after construction of the changing rooms. To obtain a quote for legal advice about the concerns above and any other additional issues.

AAP65/24: To consider a quote for the repairs to the Skatepark.

The Clerk had contacted the company that installed the skatepark and they came and inspected and produced a report including general information about creating a new skatepark on Hangstones in the future. The company no longer installs metal skate parks they only use concrete. They recommended a contractor who carries out repair and maintenance on metal skate ramps. A site visit had taken place and he has recommended work that will extend the life of the skatepark by at least five years with regular annual maintenance. The current estimate for annual maintenance after this year's repair work is £1,500 and this can be included within the budget setting for 2025-26.

RESOLVED: to approve the quote from Chesmetalwork to repair the skatepark for £3,500.

AAP66/24: To discuss in principle providing EV charging points on parish council land subject to suitability.

Councillors discussed Hangstones and Glebelands as potentially suitable sites and concluded that Glebelands would be the best place to explore first. The station was another location that would be an excellent place for chargers to be provided. It was questioned if there were also public chargers available for electric bikes as if there were then Hangstones may be a suitable site for those. The provision was also consistent with the Parish Council's declaration on Climate Emergency.

RESOLVED: to approach the company offering to provide the EV charging points and ask them to investigate the feasibility of providing two points in Glebelands car park. To also ask about the electric bike chargers and suggest the station as another possible location for them in Yatton.

AAP67/24: To consider a request for permission to hold a funfair on Hangstones for one week in the summer.

The Committee discussed the funfair but concluded that the damage to the site that could potentially result was not desirable.

RESOLVED: to refuse permission to hold a funfair on Hangstones this summer.

AAP68/24: To receive the Clerk's report (Agenda Item13).

- i) The Clerk asked if the Committee meeting scheduled for March 18th could be moved to 19th February to accommodate a Planning Committee meeting in March. The Committee agreed.
- ii) The hall lights were being replaced with LED sheet type lighting to prevent flickering and the replacement units were half the price of the fluorescent tube bulbs.
- iii) The ash die back work Hangstones was to take place shortly, weather permitting.
- iv) The grounds team, Clerk and Councillor Chris Jackson were attending a meeting on weedkilling reduction and alternative methods of weed control at North Somerset Council on 29th February.
- v) A pitch assessment report had been carried out and was instructed by Yatton & Cleeve Football Club. During the inspection that produced the report the inspector did not speak with our grounds team though they were on site and available to answer questions. The grounds team had scrutinized the report and produced a response. The grounds team and the Clerk were going to talk to the football club about the report and advise the Committee of the outcomes.
- vi) The Clerk suggested a cemetery working group meeting be organised shortly to consider the next stages of the project and to liaise with the property owner on the driveway in.
- vii) A suggestion had been made to replace street weedkilling with road sweeping to control weeds. The cost of this had been looked into and this could be discussed at the next suitable meeting, possibly after the North Somerset Council weedkilling workshop on the 29th February.

AAP69/24: Future agenda items.

A new brass commemorative plaque for fallen of wars since WW2.

Christmas Lights Working Group Report including North End Christmas Tree and additional lighting locations.

Parish Finger Posts.

To species label Parish trees and to create a tree trail.

Bat boxes on Hangstones.
New cemetery time capsules and opening ceremony.
To create a hard surface path into Hangstones play area.
The use of weedkiller at the allotments.
Upgrading of the Cherry Grove area.
Replacing felled ash at Hangstones.
Design a Yatton Parish Council flag.

Chairman

___/___/2024