

Yatton Parish Council

Hangstones Pavilion
Stowey Road, Yatton, Bristol BS49 4HS

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2019

(approved by Yatton Parish Council on 15 July 2019)



Our mission:

To ensure the provision of high quality services in our communities of Yatton and Claverham



Chairman's overview

In the past year we sadly lost two of our former Parish Councillors, Viv Wathen and Paul Bane. I wish to express the gratitude of the Council for the dedicated service they provided to our communities during their time as councillors.

Having stood down in 2017, and after having served as a Parish Councillor since 1969, Viv Wathen died on 9 December 2018. The Parish Council were privileged to form a guard of honour at his funeral service in St Mary's on 4 January. In July 2017 the Parish Council conferred the title of Honorary Freeman on Viv for 48 years dedicated service on the Council – a truly remarkable achievement!

Paul Bane served on the Council from Jan 2016 to Dec 2017. He died on 27 March 2018. Several councillors attended his funeral on 17 April 2018.

During the year two councillors resigned from the Council: Becca Spinks and Andy Warren. We thank them both for their service as Councillors and for their contributions to the well-being of the community. No new councillors were appointed during the past year.

Our Finance Officer, Wendy Bentley, is retiring in May after working for the Parish Council for 14 years. We thank Wendy for everything she has done for the Council and for our communities, and wish her a long and happy retirement! We welcome Jill Bradbury who will be our new Finance Officer going forward.

In May 2018 we welcomed our new Groundsman Jeff Shipway to the team who works with our long-standing Head Groundsman Pete Moorman.

Having taken the decision to move the Parish Council office permanently to the Hangstones Pavilion we are proposing to make some alterations to enhance the facilities we offer. Our plans include a new entrance on the south facing wall, converting existing changing rooms into a new meeting room for staff and the community, new unisex and disabled toilets and additional storage space.

The on-going work of the Parish Council includes looking after our green spaces, our allotments, many of our street lights, providing dog bins and financially supporting local groups through grants. We also jointly own and manage the upper parts of Cadbury Hill with Congresbury Parish Council. Under a stewardship agreement with Natural England we have been clearing areas of scrub and carrying out the selective felling of trees, to preserve the archaeology and to encourage desired fauna and flora, this also involves grazing by cattle, and sometimes sheep, on the Hill.

Some highlights from the past year:

- Having made several modifications as requested by the examiner, the referendum to adopt the Yatton Neighbourhood Development Plan will take place on Thursday 11 April.
The Claverham Neighbourhood Development Plan was adopted in the previous year and is now taken into consideration by NSC when making decisions on major planning applications.
- The work on the War Memorial area has continued, providing a tidy and beautiful setting for our Remembrance Sunday service in November.
A new bench has been installed, funded by the Bristol Airport Diamond Fund in commemoration of the WW1 Centenary. We wish to thank the Horticultural Society for their advice and special thanks go to the Parish Council's gardener Megan Thurgur and to our Groundstaff for all their hard work. A lot of tidying and replanting is being done in our green spaces, particularly at Glebelands, again our thanks to Megan and our Groundstaff.
- We continue to participate in meetings with our District Councillors and NSC officers to review and influence how the Section 106 money coming from the new housing developments will be used to improve our highways, footpaths and cycleways and our sports and leisure facilities.
- Levelling and reseeding work has been carried out to improve the playing surface on Pitch 2 at Hangstones. The pitch will be playable by the next football season. This work has been funded by S106 money coming from the Bloor development at North End.

- The Village Hall and Yatton Youth Club have also received Bloor S106 funds providing a new kitchen and new toilets respectively.
- Two new pieces of play equipment have been installed at Hangstones and Rock Road, and a new fence has been installed around the Hangstones play area. Refurbishment work to shot blast and repaint the existing play equipment at Broadcroft, Rock Road and Hangstones has been completed.
- Ground water investigations on the land off Mendip Rd proposed for our new burial ground concluded that a comprehensive and costly drainage solution would be needed to enable the Environment Agency to support a planning application for full burials. The costs involved were deemed to be prohibitive, so councillors decided to work towards submitting a planning application for an affordable cremated remains burial ground. It is with regret that full burials will no longer be provided in the Parish.
- We have installed a solar-powered speed activated warning sign on the B3133 at the entrance to the village at Frost Hill. This sign records the speed, date and time of every vehicle entering the village; this will provide useful data regarding the traffic volume along our High Street.
- The Parish Council owns and maintains 103 street lights in the Parish, a number of new lanterns and a new full street light have been installed. Over time all conventional lamps will be replaced with new LEDs.
- We are planning to install our first two solar powered light columns – these will be on the footpath leading from the Church to Court Avenue.
- We secured the Silver Award in the Parish Recycling Scheme by engaging with the community to promote waste reduction, re-use, repairing and recycling. We are inviting ideas and suggestions as to how we can best utilise this award of £1,400.
- The proposed twinning with Pibrac, a town 10 miles west of Toulouse in the south of France, has stalled as we have had insufficient interest in people coming forward to form a Twinning Association. The idea was to form cultural, sporting, educational and social links and exchanges

between Yatton and Pibrac. Please do come forward if you feel you could contribute towards making this exciting proposal become a reality

None of our achievements could have been accomplished without the hard work of the staff of Yatton Parish Council and my fellow Councillors, and I would like to thank them all for the work they have done over the past year. I would also like to thank our District Councillors and the members of the public who have worked with the Parish Council, including members of the Yatton Horticultural Society, YACWAG, PACT, the SpeedWatch team, Yeo Valley Lions and the Yatton British Legion whose practical help and advice have been very much appreciated.

Jonathan Edwards

Chairman of Yatton Parish Council

Committee reports

Amenities and Properties Committee

Chair: **Robert Jenner**

Vice Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The Parish is responsible for the upkeep of 20 Dog Bins. The contract to empty the bins was cancelled at the end of 2018 as the company stopped emptying the bins without notice. A new contract has been sourced by the Clerk and is working very well.

We also maintain the public areas we are responsible for, namely: Hangstones playing field and pavilion, Rock Road and Broadcroft in Claverham, The War Memorial, Glebelands and the Orchard area and the burial ground. We also maintain the open spaces at Well Lane, Heathgate, a small area off Barberry Farm Road and Cadbury Farm Road.

Glebelands has been returned to its original pristine state with the last area beside the main road finally cleared and replanted. We would like to thank our gardener Megan and the Horticultural Society for their continued support and help. Thanks also to neighbouring residents for their help with mowing the orchard area in Glebelands.

The BMX track at Hangstones has been repaired and tidied up and like the Skate Park is in continual use. The circular path around the playing field at Hangstones, that was installed last year is also proving to be very popular.

The play area at Hangstones has seen the introduction of a roundabout and the painting of the existing equipment. The wooden fence surrounding the play area has been replaced with a yellow metal fence that has improved security and brightened up the space.

The climbing wall and slide at Rock Road have been replaced with a modern combined climbing frame and slide and work will continue in the next year to provide some small pieces for the very young and a picnic table.

The equipment at Broadcroft has been refurbished and some small items that could not be repaired, removed. Further improvements are planned for next year.

Thanks also to the Parish Orderlies in Yatton and Claverham and the Yatton Dog Walkers for their valuable work keeping the villages tidy.

The work to provide a safe and protected side entrance to Hangstones has progressed. Planning permission has been applied for to provide an additional meeting/rest room for parish staff together with a covered entrance from the side carpark providing disabled access to the parish office and the remodeled toilets.

Planning Committee

Chair: **Robert Jenner**

Vice-Chair: **Chris Jackson**

Planning applications have been fairly consistent over the past year mainly consisting of small domestic projects. There have been several agricultural building applications most of which have been supported by the committee as they were aiding the rural economy.

Phase 1 of the Bloor development at North End is almost complete and Phase 2 is now underway. The site for the new school has been moved to the Phase 2 part of the North End site in order to provide a larger plot. The design has been approved and the Clevedon Learning Trust has been selected to run the school.

On the opposite side of the road the Hallam site has been acquired by a housing association and house-builder based in Bath. Work will commence at the end of 2019 with the reshaping of the Arnolds Way roundabout to provide a fifth road access to the site.

The Persimmon application for 83 dwellings off Moor Road has been resubmitted to North Somerset Council with a reduction in number to 66. However this is still not acceptable to the Parish Council as it has serious flaws with access onto Moor Road and the proposed access road would significantly damage the orchard next to the Grange.

Also, at North End permission has been granted to build 6 in number houses on land at Chestnut Farm.

Conversely permission for build 3 in number houses next to East View at North End was refused. Permission was granted last year to build 2 houses on that site.

The application to develop the Titan Ladder site with 37 houses and flats has been approved by North Somerset Council.

Following the public consultation last year to build 100 new dwellings at the end of Chescombe Road to date there has been no further movement.

The former UTAS site in Claverham has planning approval for 77 houses.

Yatton and Claverham Neighbourhood Plans have been fully adopted and included in the North Somerset Council Local Development Plan. The Parish Council would like to thank those who have worked so hard to achieve this important result.

The Planning Committee continue to work in any way they can to shape the future of Yatton and Claverham in order to benefit the Parish.

The Planning Committee would like to thank North Somerset Councillor Jill Iles for her help with the planning process through the year.

Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee

Chair: **Jonathan Edwards**

Vice Chair: **Ian Payne**

The Council has again awarded grants to organisations working for the benefit of the community in Yatton and Claverham. These were as follows:

- Yatton Youth Club for staffing & insurance costs £25,300
- Citizens Advice North Somerset for the Yatton outreach £4,858
- Strawberry Line Maintenance £1,000
- Yatton Junior Football Club maintenance £1,300
- Strawberry Line Café £1,000
- Yatton Junior Parkrun £300
- 1st Yatton Brownies £300
- Vision North Somerset £350
- Yatton Music Society to fund a concert £300
- Royal British Legion for Great Pilgrimage 90 (2 Yatton reps) £350
- Wellspring Counselling £300
- Senior Community Link North £300
- Somerset Storyfest £200
- West of England MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Therapy Centre £300

Yatton Parish Council also contributes financially to the management of the part of Cadbury Hill jointly owned with Congresbury Parish Council.

The Parish Council continues to publish all payments over £500 on its website.

The Parish Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 received an unqualified audit report.

The Parish Council is a member of the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA).

Statement of Accounts

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019
(Internally audited submitted to external audit)

	2017/18	2018/19
	£	£
Balances brought forward	212,723	228,948
(+) Annual precept	200,850	204,867
(+) Total other receipts	25,705	42,577
(-) Staff costs	89,920	113,669
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments	120,410	162,386
(=) Balances carried forward	228,948	200,337
Total cash & investments	234,028	207,623
Total fixed and long term assets	988,432	1,006,589
Total borrowings	0	0

Parish Councillors

Claverham Ward (Claverham to Hollowmead):

Roger Wood	01934 832 182
Peter Lomas	01934 835 109
VACANCY	

South Ward (Frost Hill to Chescombe Road/Well Lane):

Wendy Griggs	01934 834 143
Graham Humphreys	01934 835 469
Ian Payne	01934 838 421
Massimo Morelli	07745 763 010
VACANCY	

North Ward (Chescombe Road/Well Lane to the railway line):

Jonathan Edwards – Chair	01934 838 265
Caroline Sheard	01934 832 796
James Macqueen	07415 700 965
Robert Jenner	01934 834 675
Jill Iles	01934 830 430

Horsecastle Ward (railway line to Kingston Bridge)

David Crossman	01934 832 154
Christopher Jackson	07879 413 423
Bryan Thomas	07715 362 601
Steve Phippen	07453 292 416
Rachel Batchelor	07834 472 491

Clerk: Aleana Baird

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