

DRAFT MINUTES

of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

of the Parish of Yatton

held on 27th March 2023 at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road,
Yatton BS49 4HS.

Meeting opened 7.00 p.m.

Meeting closed 9.28 p.m.

Present: Councillor Jonathan Edwards (Chairman of Yatton Parish Council, in the Chair), Parish Councillors - Graham Humphreys, Steve Humphries, Chris Jackson, Peter Lomas, Robert Jenner, David Crossman, Wendy Griggs, Caroline Sheard, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood.

Niccy Hook & Rachel Calder (Yatton Youth Club), Sally Wilcock (Strawberry Line Café and Cycle Project), Mavis Monahan (Speedwatch), Libby Watts (representing YACWAG), Chris Wathen (Yatton United Charities), Gillian Burnell (Hinckley C Connection Project), four members of Yeo Valley Lions Club, representatives from Wellspring Counselling, Yatton Junior Football Club, Brightwell Therapy Centre and Abi McGuire from Shepton Mallet Town Council and 1 resident of the parish of Yatton.

Also in attendance: Parish Clerk Aleana Baird and Parish Council Gardener & part-time grounds staff Megan Thurgur.

Hinckley C Connection Project Presentation.

A short presentation was given by the Hinckley C Connection Project providing an overview of what the project is and why it is needed including a progress report with the project to date. The project installation commenced in 2018 with completion by 2025. The section from Hinckley through to Sandford had been installed and this part is now energised and ready for when Hinckley C Power Station is ready to use it. There is mainly landscaping and removal of infrastructure work to finish but the underground section through the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be pylon free for the first time since 1931.

The Sandford to C Bank section of 95 pylons will be completed by the end of 2023 and all the existing lines removed by the end of 2024. The project has inevitably caused some disruption but every effort had been made to carryout work at night to keep this to a minimum. The Community Investment Fund made by the project has helped support 80 local projects and has included training of unemployed and ex-offenders. They have endeavoured where possible to use local contractors as a way to support the local economy.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Steve Lister and Massimo Morelli, District Councillor Steve Bridger, Yatton History Society, Yatton Village Hall, North Somerset Council Strawberry Line Management Committee and Vision North Somerset.

Reports had been received for display from Yeo Valley Lions, Yatton United Charities, Vision North Somerset, North Somerset Council Strawberry Line Management Committee and Yatton Village Hall.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th March 2022.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th March 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's Report – Overview of the Parish Council Year 2022-23.

Chairman Jonathan Edwards welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave a presentation which highlighted key events and work the Parish Council has been involved in over the past year. He outlined that there had been no changes within the Council in the past year and what a well settled team of Councillors and Staff it was. The Parish and District elections were on 4th May 2023 and he encouraged anyone who was interested to stand for election. He introduced the Council staff and thanked them for all their sterling work.

The projects and work he described encompassed grant payments, progression of work on the alterations to Hangstones Pavilion and all the areas that the Parish Council maintain.

The planning application for the new cemetery had been approved and work was progressing with the lease for the land and outline costings for the project were being obtained so funding options could be explored. A small new area had been created to extend the life of the current burial ground that should provide two more years of space.

In recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee three engraved benches had been bought, two for the village green in Yatton and one for the May Day field in Claverham. A new bench donated by the Yatton ramblers had also been installed on Cadbury Hill. A new water drinking and bottle filling fountain in the Platinum Jubilee colour purple was also to be installed in a paving circle on Hangstones close to the circular path to commemorate the Jubilee Celebrations.

There had also been two new oak trees planted on Cadbury Hill under the Queen's Green Canopy initiative and these trees were also to have slate commemorative plaques, one in memory of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and one in memory of HRH Duke of Edinburgh.

A new defibrillator had been installed in the red phone box purchased jointly by the Parish Council and a resident. The box had been renovated by Claverham Parish Orderly.

There had been two new pieces of play equipment on Hangstones, a basket swing and a zipwire with a new fence erected at Broadcroft.

The High Street Road Safety Improvements had begun 13th March and were due for completion by August 2023. The funding for this had come from the S106 contributions by developers of the Chestnut Park and Eaton Park housing. An overview was given of the improvements to pedestrian safety including 20mph being introduced in the High Street and also many sides roads in Yatton. The new entrance from the Co-op car park directly into the school had been completed which was a huge benefit to the safety of children.

The loss of all bus services in Yatton and Claverham had been a huge disappointment and caused difficulties for many people. A new Demand Responsive Transport Scheme was to be

launched on April 3rd. It was hoped this would provide a much more flexible service linking with main routes and other places the traditional fixed service was unable to provide. It is expected that the X5 will be re-routed through Yatton after the High Street works have been completed, providing a regular Monday to Saturday bus service: Portishead → Clevedon → Yatton → Congresbury → Weston-super-Mare.

A very successful 'Picnic in the Park' event to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee was organised by the Parish Council last summer and building on this success a 'Party in the Park' event was planned for the Kings Coronation 8th May. The annual event for lighting the Christmas trees was also held in the precinct on December 3rd 2022.

The current status regarding major undetermined planning applications in the Parish was given.

The Parish Council had recently signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge promoted by the National Association of Local Councils. It was designed to promote excellence and best practice in how Yatton Parish Council treat with civility and respect all councillors, employees, volunteers, members of the public and partner organisations. It can form a part of the Local Council Award Scheme of which Yatton already hold 'Quality Council' status.

Parish gardener and part time grounds person Megan Thurgur gave an update on behalf of the grounds work team and her colleague Jeff Shipway. The continued improvements to the open spaces with particular projects including the native hedge in at the Orchard (off Glebelands), three wild flower meadows and improving North End allotments general areas. Glebelands and the Orchard area had again achieved 'outstanding' designations in the RHS 'It's your Neighbourhood' awards. She had completed training and qualified in the use and maintenance of a chainsaw which she had really enjoyed and put to use already. She had also attended a Master Composter course and was endeavouring to teach others of the benefits of composting whilst applying this to Parish Council work. There were now eight compost bins in various areas the team looked after. A new ride on mower had recently been purchased and delivery was imminent.

Street lights overview

Councillor Chris Jackson gave an overview of the streetlights owned by the Parish Council including what the aims were for reducing costs and improving the lights. North Somerset Council streetlight mapping does not distinguish which lights are Parish Council owned therefore work has been done to map all the parish lights including full details of which type is at every location. There are 104 lights and currently 60 are LED, and most where possible lights have been converted to part night timers i.e. turning off at around midnight. The aim is to move over to more LED lanterns and prioritise the replacement of columns based on doing the concrete posts first. The work over the past year to change over to LED bulbs and part night timers has reduced monthly costs from May 2022 £2,200 down to £600 in December 2022. A three year deal has now been secured with Yu Energy.

The Chairman thanked all the organisations in the Parish, Councillors, and staff for their hard work in the many activities that had been pursued in the past year.

4. Presentations from local organisations.

All organisations who have received a grant from Yatton Parish Council are invited to give a short 3 minute presentation on how the funds have benefited residents in the parish.

Yatton Youth Club – Niccy Hook (Youth Worker for the Youth Club) introduced her colleague Rachel Calder. She gave an overview of the activities and events at the Youth Club over the past year in addition to the normal senior and junior week day evening sessions. These included the very successful Supper Club for 14-18 year olds where they cook a meal and enjoy eating together, seasonal detachment projects around the Parish, a Youth Led Café open in the holidays, a Dementia Café, Young Parents Group, the Remembrance Day Café and Yeo Valley Lions monthly coffee morning. The venue has become a community hub with the support of Yeo Valley Lions Yatton Food bank is now fully run from the youth club and more donations of food would be very welcome. The Youth Club has had new windows and doors with huge thanks to Smart Systems for providing these free of charge and new toilets provided with funding from Yeo Valley Lions which the youth club are also very grateful for. There were currently funding bids in for the creation of a vegetable garden including fruit trees for youth club users to manage the garden and use the produce in the cafés. There was also a new collaboration made with the schools to provide a Special Educational Needs lunch club. The club had been involved with the Parish Council Picnic in the Park event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and were also to take part in the event being organised for a Party in the Park for the King's Coronation in May. Niccy thanked Yatton Parish Council for their support.

Yatton United Charities

The Clerk to the charity gave an overview of the charity, how it was funded and the grants provided to people in need of financial support due to their own limited funds in Yatton, Claverham and Cleeve. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council for its support and he highlighted how brilliant the Trustees (mostly Parish Councillors from Yatton and Cleeve) had been since he had taken over the role last year. He also thanked the Parish Council very much for the proceeds of the raffle held at the Picnic in the Park last year.

Wellspring Counselling

The service had been started by GP's and churches in 1994 as a low cost means tested counselling service and had really grown since then. They ran 100 sessions a week at £10 per session (the cost would normally be £50). They had seen a number of people from Yatton parish and there were also some on the waiting list. The support of Yatton Parish Council and other organisations including the Hinckley C Connection project was vital and meant that counselling provision had been doubled which had greatly reduced the long waiting list. The service thanked the Parish Council for their support.

Repair Café

Libby Watts gave a report on the setting up last year of the Repair Café following a grant from the Parish Council which she thanked them for. It was held at the Village Market every second Saturday in the month. They currently had seven volunteers carrying out repairs on electrical items, clothing and furniture and would look at any items and try to make them usable again and so reduce waste. They would welcome new repair volunteers and it was very encouraging to

report that the café was working so well and gaining a good level of donations. She then showed a short video of the Repair Café at work.

Brightwell MS Therapy Centre

A representative from the centre gave the background to the work that they do and the therapies that are offered to relieve the symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis and other neurological conditions. These were pure oxygen treatment in a pressurised vessel, physiotherapy and holistic treatments. The centre running costs were £400,000 per annum so the grants from the Parish Council was very welcome. They had recently had a donation of a solar array which was helping to reduce costs. He thanked the Parish Council again for the grant.

YACWAG – Libby Watts thanked the Parish Council for the £100 grant which had enabled YACWAG to put on a second Window Wanderland community event in the winter on the theme of Brilliant Birds. They had held a workshop on how to do the window displays and there had been a very good response. She then showed a short video of all the window displays.

Strawberry Line Café and Cycle Project - The Café and cycle project was now registered at Companies House as a Community Interest Company and continues to be a great community facility. They offer vocational and training opportunities to over 20 young people with learning disabilities and help support mental health. The past year had seen the new container obtained for storing the bike stock being painted with a lovely wildlife themed mural which brighten it up and helped promote the project. The café was open all year apart from over Christmas and had welcomed many by local people as well as a Bristol based Dementia group, a new social network group for elderly people had been created and a new cooker and hob had been installed. The cycle project has grown this year with six cycle activity days, crowdfunding for work tasters sessions at the project, 32 bikes were upcycled, serviced and repaired for the Bikes for Refugees Appeal, the fleet of bikes expanded and 299 bike trips out were delivered to people with disabilities. She thanked the Parish Council and its staff for all their support.

Yatton Junior Football Club

A representative thanked the Parish Council for their support and also a huge thanks to the grounds team for all their help and work on the pitches. They had 450 children in the club including over 50 girls which was the fastest growing section of the club. They played across a number of leagues over a wide area with many teams having a successful year.

Strawberry Line Management Committee - Chairman Jonathan Edwards was the Parish Council's representative on the Committee and gave a report of the last year. The Congresbury station platforms had been exposed by Sustrans and YACWAG clearing showing how they used to look. The new section of line near the Sandford sub-station was opening very soon and he was delighted to report that the tunnel near Winscombe was finally illuminated. He thanked the Parish Council for the grants on behalf of the Committee.

Written Reports Received.

Yatton United Charities
Yatton Music Society
Yatton Village Hall
Strawberry Line Management Committee
Yeo Valley Lions Club
Vision North Somerset

5. Volunteer of the Year 2023

The Chair read the nominations for Volunteer of the Year:

Marie Hepworth, Yatton Rugby Club
Jamie Pickles, Strawberry Line Café & Cycle Project
Jon Oldham, Yeo Valley Lions

The Chairman thanked everyone who had been nominated for their work and announced that the winner was Jamie Pickles. As winner, Jamie was awarded a commemorative clock and certificate in recognition of his contribution as a volunteer and a cheque for £50 was awarded to the Strawberry Line Café & Cycle Project. The two runners-up were each presented with a certificate marking their nomination for the award.

6. Comments & questions from the floor.

No questions.

The Chair thanked all those who had contributed and declared the meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

Chairman

25/03/2024