

DRAFT MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
of the Parish of Yatton

**held on 24th March 2025 at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road,
Yatton BS49 4HS.**

Meeting opened 7.00 p.m.

Meeting closed 8.40 p.m.

Present: Councillor Chris Jackson (Chairman of Yatton Parish Council, in the Chair) and Parish Councillors – Nick Adams, Jonathan Edwards, Graham Humphreys, Steve Humphries, Jessie McArdle, Caroline Sheard, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood.

Representatives from Great Western Air Ambulance Service, PACT, Yatton Horticultural Society, Wellspring Counselling, Strawberry Line Café and Cycle Project, Vine Counselling, Yatton Local History Society, 1st Yatton Brownies, Yatton Youth Club Niccy Hook, Yeo Valley Lions Club, Yatton Music Society and Yatton Junior Football Club. District Councillors Steve Bridger and Wendy Griggs.

Also in attendance: Parish Clerk Aleana Baird and Parish Council staff Jill Bradbury, Andy Warren, Jeff Shipway, Megan Thurgur and Lucy Kehoe and eight members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors David Crossman, Peter Lomas and Steve Lister. Apologies were also received from The Brightwell, St Peters Hospice, YACWAG, Yatton United Charities and Chairman of the Yatton Village Hall Committee Maggie Edwards.

Reports had been received for display from The Brightwell, St Peter's Hospice, Vine Counselling, Yatton United Charities, Yeo Valley Lions and Yatton Youth Club.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th March 2024.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th March 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. To receive a short presentation on the Parish Council's outdoor spaces and gardens.

Yatton Parish Council grounds team Jeff Shipway and Megan Thurgur gave a presentation tour of all the areas they maintain highlighting the different aspects of work they do in each. The type of work they carry out was dictated by the seasons, certain types of regulation i.e. tree and hedge work, external factors like the football season, Christmas, Remembrance Sunday, school events like the Carnival and Party in the Park events. They have introduced a composting system which converts all the compostable material into mulch which they then use on the grounds. They are always seeking ways not just to maintain but also to improve and enhance each place helping to make Yatton a well-cared for place for everyone to enjoy. There are

certain places that have more input from residents and these are Glebelands and Heathgate. They work closely with Yatton Horticulture Society members and in the summer have a 'Weedy Wednesday' with members focusing on weeding in the gardens. In Heathgate a large border has gradually been created from plants and shrubs donated by residents, it is now a tranquil and picturesque space in the heart of the village.

The new cemetery was a major project over the past year where they had done a lot of work including planting over one thousand hedging whips, eighteen trees, done additional mowing and further planting schemes were planned for the forthcoming growing season. They were always interested in any ideas or suggestions for the areas they cared for from residents and were happy to discuss them with the Parish Council's Amenities and Properties Committee.

4. Chairman's Report – Overview of the Parish Council Year 2024-25.

Chairman Chris Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave a presentation which commenced with thanking key staff and fellow Councillors for all their work over the past year. He then gave a brief outline of his own background and working life culminating with his work serving on the Parish Council.

He outlined the changes within the Council in the past year. There had been no departures and two new Councillors in the past year, Gordan Gibson and Nick Adams who had joined the team. There was currently one vacancy on the Parish Council.

It was with sadness that he reported the deaths of former Chairman Allan Attwood, who had served the Parish Council during the 1970's and Ray Lovejoy who was a village volunteer often seen tidying up the High Street.

He spoke regarding the funding of the High Street Road Safety Improvements that are taking place including the 20mph, raised crossings and speed cushions along Stowey and Mendip Roads. The funds came from developer contributions as a result of the new estates of Chestnut Park and Eaton Park and the contributions had to be spent on road safety improvements for Yatton. The work towards this began in 2016 so it has been a very long and protracted process to gain the improvements that are being currently carried out.

He highlighted that a key concern in the Parish was regarding the number of HGVs that use the High Street. A survey found that 398 HGVs used the High Street in a day on 1st July 2021 and 95% were doing so to access business in Yatton. The Parish Council had requested that the weight limit was moved to prevent this from happening but this had been refused by North Somerset Council. Since then the Parish Council had pressed them for another solution to this issue but no alternatives had come forward to date.

The issue of speed activated signs was mentioned in particular the Frost Hill permanent speed sign which has been out of commission since the start of this year and there was still no date for this to be resolved (parts ordered but not arrived). The mobile speed activated device the Parish Council have been working with Speedwatch on over the past year had been successful in terms of gaining a grant from the Police for a sign but had faltered due to difficulty of gaining approval for locations from North Somerset Council. Chairman Chris Jackson introduced the representative from Speedwatch who spoke to the meeting about how difficult it had been regarding the permission for locations, the use of streetlights had been refused by NSC adding further limitation.

A Parish Council working group named 'Heart Revivers' had been successful in gaining grants for two new defibrillators which had been match funded by the Parish Council in Wemberham Crescent phone box and outside the Catholic church on Claverham Road. They had also organised a training day for CPR and defibrillator use at Hangstones that had been very well attended. It was hoped that further locations of the phone box by 'Through the Looking Glass on the High Street and the station would be successful later in 2025.

The larger planning applications in the Parish were at various stages, Moor Road was under construction, Rectory Farm was waiting for decision on its Reserved Matters application and Stowey Park was still not determined and there may be a future application on the North field next to the Newlands Homes development in Claverham. It was very disappointing that the largest of them at the Batch had been granted permission at appeal. It was a decision of national importance in allowing building within Flood Zone 3A; the implications across the country would be far reaching but the appeal decision may yet be challenged.

The Planning & Infrastructure Bill which was going through Parliament currently may mean that local people and their councils will have less say on planning applications in the future.

The bus service to Yatton will be reduced next month seeing the X5 bus which was restored last year being replaced by the X11 which will mean a reduction in frequency and scope of the services in the Parish. It was highlighted using graphs that even though Yatton is the 5th largest community in North Somerset it has the worst bus service apart from Blagdon which has no service at all. There is very unsatisfactory situation where Traffic Regulatory Orders (double yellow lines) were installed on the High Street which precluded residents from parking outside their homes in order to accommodate a bus service that has now been significantly reduced.

Chairman Chris Jackson highlighted the number of awards Glebelands had received of 'Outstanding' in the It's our Community RHS Award scheme (every year from 2019 onwards). A huge thanks to the Grounds Team for this achievement.

Cadbury Hill Manager John Harris wished to mention that the Memorial oaks were thriving that were planted on 7th March, 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The New Cemetery project had made a huge amount of progress last year with all the main infrastructure of the driveway, car park and gates, internal paths with seating area and area for cremated remains, fencing and boundary work had been completed. There was still a number of outstanding matters to complete but it was hoped it would be ready later this year. However, there was still space in the current burial ground for new cremated remains graves.

The presentation closed with a last thank you especially to staff for all their work. He asked the meeting if there were any questions which were as follows:

- What was the time period for recording 398 HGV's in the High Street? It was 8am – 5pm. (I checked – it was actually 0700 to 1700 – oops! Should it be changed here or should it be left as is because that's what I said at the meeting...?)
- Was there going to be a speed cushion/crossing by the Butchers Arms? No, the Parish Council had tried to get one but there were no positions it could be placed that would satisfy the criteria. The High Street crossing by the school had not been raised either because if it had been it would present a flood risk to adjacent properties. This crossing and the Barberry Farm Road one were being re-painted on the 11th April.
- Is the X11 going to be different to the X5? The timetable had not been released yet so unable to give an accurate answer apart from there being no service before 11am.

5. 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.

Strawberry Line Café & Cycle Project – A representative from the project gave a brief overview of the history of the project. The overriding aim of the project was to provide adults and young people with learning disabilities or additional needs, paid employment and vocational opportunities. In addition to the café they were now able to offer a wide variety of cycling options including inclusive cycling for all abilities, after-school cycle club for young people with SEN, Saturday learn to ride lessons for children with additional needs, and weekly supported sessions for adults with learning disabilities. They work with local youth services, such as YMCA, Bristol Children's Hospital and Bristol City Council, and have delivered several Cycle Activity days to young people. They have hosted sessions for local schools, in particular SEN schools on a weekly basis and hosted group rides for people experiencing difficulties with their mental health and also for those looking to improve their physical health. They have also run Cycle Maintenance Courses and Pop-up workshops on cycle maintenance. They thanked Yatton Parish Council for their support which enabled the purchase of new uniforms for paid staff and for the learners they welcome on work placements. This allows them to present a professional, smart team and create a real sense of identity for young people.

Yatton Youth Club – A representative from the Youth Club trustees gave an overview of the activities and events on offer at the Youth Club over the past year. In addition to the sessions run for two age groups every week, they carry out seasonal detachment projects around the Parish and give assistance and advice to young parents. 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. They run a Supper Club where they cook a meal and then all eat together which is very popular. The Youth Worker did a question and answer session with two young people from the youth club asking what they liked best about the youth club. The answers ranged from Supper Club, tuck shop, socialising, the really nice environment and just how brilliant it was. The youth worker thanked Yatton Parish Council for their support in grant funding the youth club in all the work they do.

Great Western Air Ambulance

A representative from the Air Ambulance thanked the Parish Council for the grant and highlighted its importance as they do not receive any Government funding. In the past year call outs were up by 20%. They believe this is because specialised para medics have been calling the service in incidents where they think they may be unable to get to the casualty in time. These additional call outs come at a cost, with each one costing £2,000 and with the forthcoming increases in National Insurance of which there are no concessions for charities it will have a big impact on increasing costs. The service was called out two hundred and seventy seven times in North Somerset last year and had already been called out sixty eight times this year including once to Yatton. They also provide training on using defibrillators in schools and the community under their Heartstoppers programme but were very pleased to hear about the additional new defibrillators in the Parish and the others planned for later this year.

Yatton Music Society

A representative from the Music Society outlined the programme of eight concerts held in St Mary's church over the past year including the November concert sponsored by the Parish Council grant of a piano recital with the West Mendip Orchestra. The Society had been worried about attracting new members to take up organisational roles for the future but this had been resolved with two new people now taking over from very long standing volunteers including himself. He had been in the role for over forty years. He thanked the Parish Council for continuing to support the arts and high quality live music concerts in Yatton.

PACT – Police and Communities Together.

A representative from PACT highlighted that the group had been running since 2007 with all individuals and organisations welcome at their meetings. The meetings take place with members of the local Police in attendance and they focus on road and personal safety, anti-social behaviour and speeding in the Parish. The Speedwatch and Neighbourhood Watch groups both work within PACT. They have received a grant for the past two years to help with costs in providing a Volunteers Event inviting all local groups and organisations to showcase what they do in Yatton and to try and attract new volunteers. The first year was a little low on attendance but the 2024 event was very well supported and a great way to see everything that is going on in Yatton. They gave away lots of free children's road safety equipment, some of it sponsored by Stowell's Concrete. PACT concluded by thanking the Parish Council for their grant support.

Vine Counselling.

A Trustee from Vine Counselling highlighted that they offer low cost, in person one to one counselling for anyone needing their services in the community. They are based in Congresbury and offer seventy four sessions a week that are a life line for many people with 15 -20% of clients coming from Yatton, many of them young people. They very much appreciated the grant they receive from the Parish Council.

Yatton Junior Football Club

The club had continued to expand to now include girls with approximately 380 children signed to the club with twenty three teams ranging from six to sixteen years of age. They have mixed teams and girls teams and work with Yatton & Cleeve FC for those wishing to transition to adult football. They were entirely inclusive with no trials needed to join the club but Yatton was an expanding place and they have a waiting list of people who wish to join. They were aware the 3G pitch would require upgrading in the future and this will be at a cost of £150k upwards. They thanked the Parish Council for the grant and continued support of junior football in Yatton.

Wellspring Counselling

A representative from Wellspring thanked the Parish Council for the grant and their continued support. Their service was a local charity from Nailsea offering counselling services for anyone over the age of eleven. They offer face to face or online services at eight venues in North Somerset though they are based in Nailsea. They help a lot of young people, seeing thirty two people from Yatton parish last year and half of them were between the age of eleven and nineteen. It was highlighted that the percentage of young people needing counselling was higher here than across the country. They also offer a listening service for eleven to fourteen year olds which was run by volunteers who are studying counselling.

Yatton 1st Brownies

A representative from the Brownies group thanked the Parish Council for the grant which was used to support activities for the girls aged 7 -10 years. In the past year they have merged with Yatton 3rd Brownies which has been very positive as there are now a lot more helpers which allows a wider scope of activities on offer. They were able to go away twice this year, firstly for an 'Upside Down, Back to Front' weekend in Bitton and secondly for a PGL activity weekend. They were proud to announce that one Brownie achieved a gold award this year. Other activities included a charity walk with Yeo Valley Lions which raised money for Brownies, their own 70th birthday celebrations in June, an evening of bowling, science evening creating vortexes, Children in Need Fundraising, visit to Airhop at Christmas, Thinking Day on the Pier, and a Local History talk all interspersed with arts and craft etc. They thanked the Parish Council for their grant which really helped them to keep the costs down for the group.

Written Reports Received.

Yatton United Charities
Yatton Rugby Football Club
Yeo Valley Lions
Vine Counselling
St Peters Hospice
The Brightwell

6. Volunteer of the Year 2025

The Chairman read the nominations for Volunteer of the Year:

Anita Jay - Yatton Local History Society
Hayley Carswell - Claverham Cricket Club
Jacky Badenhorst - Yatton Junior Park Run
Jean Stevenson - Yatton Speed Watch
John Colman - Strawberry Line Cafe and Cycle Project
Libby Watts - YACWAG, YSA, Repair Café
Rachel Barker - Yatton Junior Football Club
Rob Daniels - Yatton Rugby Club

The Chairman thanked everyone who had been nominated for all their work and highlighted how difficult it was to choose between the nominations they all do such amazing work. However, a winner had to be chosen and it was announced that the winner was Jacky Badenhorst. Jacky was awarded a commemorative clock and certificate in recognition of her contribution as a volunteer and a cheque for £50 was awarded to Yatton Park Run. The seven runners-up were each presented with a certificate marking their nomination for the award.

7. Comments & questions from the floor.

A comment was made about how lovely it was to hear how active the community was in Yatton and Claverham and thanked the Chairman for a great meeting.

Chairman

23/03/2026