

# DRAFT MINUTES

of the

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

of the Parish of Yatton

held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road,  
Yatton BS49 4HS.

Meeting opened 7.00 p.m.

Meeting closed 8.47 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Chris Jackson (Chairman of Yatton Parish Council, in the Chair) and Parish Councillors – Nick Adams, Jonathan Edwards, Gordon Gibson, Graham Humphreys, Steve Humphrey, Peter Lomas, Caroline Sheard, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood.

Representatives from Great Western Air Ambulance Service, PACT, Yatton Horticultural Society, Strawberry Line Café and Cycle Project, Yatton Local History Society, 1<sup>st</sup> Yatton Brownies, Yatton Youth Club, Yeo Valley Lions Club, Yatton Music Society, Yatton United Charities, Claverham Village Hall, Yatton Speedwatch, St Marys & Yatton Team Ministry, St Dunstan and St Antony Chapel Claverham, Yatton WI, Yatton Rugby Club and Yatton Junior Football Club. District Councillors Steve Bridger and Wendy Griggs.

**Also in attendance:** Parish Clerk Aleana Baird and Parish Council staff member Lucy Kehoe and eight members of the public.

**\*\*\* Chair Chris Jackson opened the meeting and thanked the Strawberry Line Café for the lovely cakes they had provided.**

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors David Crossman, Jessie McArdle and Steve Lister. Apologies were also received from Claverham Cricket Club, North Somerset Strawberry Line Management team, Yatton Fire Station and the Yatton Junior Park Run.

### 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th March 2025.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th March 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. To receive a short presentation about the 'Skies of Yatton'.

The presenter gave an overview of his love of astronomy which started as a hobby in the 80s which turned into a career at Exeter University as a professional astronomer, including research on how stars are formed. He outlined how to watch the night sky and the types of equipment that can be used from binoculars to the telescopes he had for star gazing in Yatton. He used the William Herschel telescope at La Palma for his university work, He detailed what could be seen in the sky at Yatton using binoculars and small telescopes. He also mentioned websites that can help with identifying what stars and planets can be seen from different locations now and in the future. He outlined what could be seen in the sky from Yatton including

planets, stars and star clusters in our galaxy, meteors, satellites, aurorae and the nebulae the stars are within. The ease with which they can be seen is helped if the skies are darker and he highlighted the benefits of downlighting on streets and the periods when the lights are either dimmed or are turned off between midnight and first light. It also had a benefit to the wider environment including energy use and wildlife. A short question and answer session was held then Chair Chris Jackson thanked him very much for such an interesting and informative presentation.

#### **4. Chairman's Report – Overview of the Parish Council Year 2025-26.**

Chairman Chris Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting. He began by highlighting that the founder member of the MS Therapy Centre Keith Taylor had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's New Year Honours. He had spoken at a number of Annual Parish Meetings as a grant recipient. His award was a reflection of his many years of work helping people living with chronic neurological conditions.

Chair Chris Jackson then thanked key staff and fellow Councillors for all their work over the past year.

He outlined the changes within the Council in the past year. There had been three departures, Robert Jenner, a long serving Councillor of many years, his experience was greatly missed, James Hooper who had been a key member of the 'Heart Revivers' project and member of staff John Harris who had been manager of Cadbury Hill for over ten years and was retiring next month. There had been no new Councillors in the past year and there were currently three vacancies on the Parish Council. Next year there were elections and it was indicated that a number of Councillors would not be standing again so the Council needed new Councillors and would welcome applications for the roles.

**Local Devolution** – The Parish Council had taken over the management of Horsecastle and Grange Farm Road play areas and open spaces under licence from North Somerset Council. The freehold land transfer was in progress with the legal department. Grange Farm Road had one piece of equipment that was in need of replacement probably in the next couple of years.

**Community Governance** – There had been a review of community governance which would come into effect at the elections in 2027. The parish was to be re-named Yatton & Claverham and the ward system was changing from four to two wards based on the boundaries of the neighbourhood plans. There would be 3 Councillors in Claverham and 15 in Yatton. This would reduce the likelihood of elections being triggered in one ward by more people standing than there were seats whilst not having enough Councillors in other wards or on the Council as a whole. Elections cost approx four thousand pounds at the expense of the Parish. He then gave an historic overview of how the parish name has changed over the centuries.

**Planning** – There were three major developments in progress. The 'Batch' development which went to the High Court for judicial review and the outcome had not been decided yet. There were two other speculative planning applications from developers in Claverham, Latimer Developments - north-west of High Street and Wain Homes - north of Claverham Road which had not been submitted yet.

**Glebelands** – The gardens at Glebelands had won 'outstanding' for the sixth year running in the RHS Awards 'It's Our Neighbourhood' category. The new Christmas lights in the trees at the gardens had also been very well received with lots of compliments from residents. A big thank you was given to the grounds team for all their hard work in keeping the gardens and all the areas in the Parish looking so well cared for.

**New Changing Room** – A new changing room extension was being built this summer to allow two matches to be played at the same time at Hangstones expanding the capacity of the facilities. The tender process was completed and the work was due to begin in May. It was to be funded by grants and Community Infrastructure Levy at a cost of £93,000.

**Hangstones Alterations** – This work which had included new toilets and a disabled toilet, additional storage for hall hirers/parish office, a small meeting room and new entrance to that level of the building. The work was completed apart from a couple of final issues.

**New Cemetery** – The new cemetery had been officially opened on December 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 with pictures of the opening ceremony and a photographic tour through the new facility being displayed to the meeting. A tree had been provided and planted by David Crossman in dedication to past members of the Crossman family who had served the community of Yatton. It extended back to when the Parish Council was formed in 1895 with members of his family, himself included, accruing over fifty years of chairmanship alone and many more years as Councillors. It was a rare family contribution and a small plaque was to be provided by the Crossman family in dedication of the tree.

**North End Allotments Fence** – The developer had installed the fence when the allotments were created and it was of a very poor standard. A new fence and gate was currently being installed of a high quality along the boundary with the Strawberry Line.

**Road Safety** – There had been a fixed speed sign at Frost Hill for a number of years and this year had seen the introduction of a mobile speed indicator device which was a request from Speedwatch to enhance the cover they offered as a team. The device and the moving of it was funded by a Police grant. It had required North Somerset Council approval for any location we wished to use it. After a protracted length of time in getting approval there were four locations as follows that the speed device can be moved between. North End Road, Claverham Road, Arnold's Way and outside the Rugby Club between North End and Wemberham Lane roundabouts. The speed stats were read to the meeting for each of the locations and it was noted that 85% of speed was compliant but there were some startling readings at each location of the excessive speeds recorded i.e. 99mph on North End Road at 9.00 am on a Thursday. Chair Chris Jackson thanked the businesses of Smarts and Stowells that had done a lot to try and ensure that speeds stayed low along Arnolds Way.

**Future Plans** – The Parish Council had a number of plans as follows; more AEDs in the parish, a new skatepark (so popular and heading towards needing replacement but big project so saving up for it was needed), fibre broadband for Hangstones, solar panels for Hangstones and improvements to fascias and guttering at Hangstones.

### **Any Questions.**

- **Were there plans to allow access through the new gate at North End Allotments?** Yes, once the fence was finished and padlock arrangements in place i.e. welded to the gate.
- A thank you was given for the mobile speed sign being put on Claverham Road. There was a significant drop in speed as a result. It was highlighted by Chair Chris Jackson that the data reports for the sign are very comprehensive and detailed.
- The new Christmas lights at Glebelands were commented on as being lovely but it was felt that they were left on too long and it was nicer to keep them just for the Christmas period.
  
- **Was there was any data from the new 20mph in the Parish?** No formal data currently available but Speedwatch had found that there was some flouting of it especially near the station. Speedwatch confirmed that there was 80% compliance.
- **Why were there a lot more humps on the northern half of the village and nothing south of the precinct?** Chair Chris Jackson had been advised by North Somerset

Council highways that the criteria for installing humps was much more restricted by a number of constraints south of the precinct in addition they were very costly to install.

## **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**

The representative from the Strawberry Line Cafe thanked Yatton Parish Council for their grant which enabled the purchase of new teapots, crockery and cutlery replacing old out dated equipment giving a fresh look to the café. The café employed 70% additional needs staff who loved coming to work and cooking for their customers. All their cake, soup and quiches were homemade and the café was open six days a week with a pop up café planned in Claverham Village Hall on Thursday 9 – 12 noon.

### **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. It is absolutely amazing they managed to raise the four million pounds needed annually to keep the helicopter and three critical care cars running. They also provide defibrillators and training in their use and CPR in schools and the community under their Heartstoppers programme but were very pleased to hear about the additional new defibrillators in the Parish. It was highlighted how important it was that if a defibrillator was needed to not be afraid, stay calm and remove everything in the cabinet, take it to the patient, turn it on and it will tell you what to do. The ambulance service were seeing some cabinets being left unlocked as there were low levels of vandalism recorded.

**Yatton Youth Club** – A representative from the Youth Club introduced two young people who had joined the team as support workers at the youth club having enjoyed their time so much as children. She gave them a big thank you for all their help. She 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 with ages ranging from seven to eighteen. There were usually 20 -25 juniors and up to 19 seniors. They carry out seasonal detachment projects around the Parish giving assistance. This was starting at Easter with visits to Broadcroft and the North End of the Parish with focus being at Hangstones in the summer. They were now beginning work going into Backwell School taking education and counselling to pupils who need help and advice. The youth worker thanked Yatton Parish Council very much for their support in grant funding the youth club which really financed most of the work they do.

### **Yatton Music Society**

A new representative from the Music Society introduced himself as he taken over from a very long standing volunteer of forty years service. The society aimed to provide high quality varied forms of classical music at concerts in St Mary's Church. They plan to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation later this year. They sought to encourage amateur local musicians as well as professional musicians over eight or nine concerts a year.

The tickets represented very good value at ten pounds for members and the membership was also only ten pounds per year. He thanked the Parish Council for the grant which would fund one concert probably by a local musician.

### **Yatton United Charities**

The Clerk to Yatton United Charities (YUC) advised that in addition to the main charity he also administered the John Lane Educational Charity. Yatton United Charities provided grants to residents of the Parish who were facing times of hardship. YUC received two thousand five hundred pounds every year in grants from Yatton and Cleeve Parish Councils and some income for the rental of land. The John Lane Charity used to provide grants for books but increasingly with the internet the Charity tended to grant the schools funds. He thanked the Parish Council for their continued support.

### **PACT – Police and Communities Together.**

A representative from PACT highlighted that the group meetings were a way for lots of representatives in the community to come together to share ideas and pursue them. They jointly look at problems and find ways to solve them. The bi-monthly 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.

The grants they have received from the Parish Council had really helped provide Volunteer Events inviting all local groups and organisations to showcase what they do in Yatton and to try and attract new volunteers. This has been very positive and fuelled lots of ideas and solutions too. She thanked the Parish Council for the grant support they had given.

**Speedwatch** – A representative from Speedwatch gave a big thank you to one of her colleagues who had worked tirelessly with the Clerk to provide the mobile speed indicator device. The device had made a lot of difference and so had the new 20mph zones in reducing speed in the Parish. Just a few ‘rogue speeders’ still out there but there was a lot to be pleased about.

**Neighbourhood Watch** – A representative from Neighbourhood Watch highlighted communication difficulties in putting members of the scheme in touch with the Police. He was unable to provide the Police with their details due to data protection regulations. As a co-ordinator of the twenty two streets in Yatton taking part he was able to contact the members and invite them to come to the PACT meeting and make contact with the local Police that way (he thought this might be a mechanism for overcoming this) however, no one attended and he had no replies to his invitation. This was a frustrating situation which was not to the benefit of the Neighbourhood Watch as a scheme.

**St Mary’s Church and Yatton Team Ministry** – The Vicar attended introducing herself following a three year period of there being no vicar in the Parish. She highlighted the events that had taken place since she came to the village including the events at Christmas that were very well attended. There were some possible changes coming in particular the deconstruction of the Team Ministry which the team did not want having worked so well together for quite a long time. They planned to do a lot more work with schools and families and had a lot of events planned around the Easter services including Lent Lunches. She had left information for anyone who was interested.

**Yatton Rugby Club** – A representative from Yatton Rugby Club gave an update on progress at the new site. The club house was being constructed and would provide six changing rooms (four men’s and two women’s) and community space. There were two main pitches and three large junior areas and a netball court. The pitches were being prepared and it was hoped they would be playable this autumn/winter.

## **Yatton Junior Football Club**

One of the joint Chairs of the club thanked the Parish Council for the grant and continued support of junior football in Yatton. He gave a special thank you to the Parish Council grounds team who he said had been brilliant and so supportive in every way and the office too who were always very helpful.

The club was volunteer led with the only paid people being referees. They had teams ranging from U6s to U16s with 400 children playing every week. They had sixteen mixed teams and seven girls' teams playing between Rock Road and Hangstones. They had raised fees for the first time in ten years though it was stressed that any family in difficulties had the fees waived as this should not be a barrier to children playing football. The Club wished to replace the 3G pitch at a cost of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds which they were part way to saving and would apply for grants. They were also hoping to obtain charity status. They had strengthened links with the seniors at Yatton & Cleve United FC and he highlighted what a great community Yatton was with lots of sport available for residents and their families.

## **Written Reports Received.**

1<sup>st</sup> Yatton Brownies  
Yatton United Charities  
Yatton Youth Club  
Yeo Valley Lions  
North Somerset Strawberry Line Team  
Claverham Village Hall  
Yatton Junior Park Run

## **6. Volunteer of the Year 2026**

The Chairman read the nominations for Volunteer of the Year:

**Louise Smith** - Yatton Schools Association.

**Ian Beadle** – Strawberry Line Café & Cycle Project.

**Pat Di Folco** - Yatton WI.

**Mavis Monahan**- Speed Watch, PACT, Yatton Music Society, Car Share, Yatton Ramblers.

**Michael Blackwell** – Yatton Music Society.

**Marie Hall** – 1<sup>st</sup> Yatton Brownies.

**Richard Scott** - 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 as they all do such amazing work. However, a winner had to be chosen and it was announced that the winner was Marie Hall. Marie was awarded a commemorative clock and certificate in recognition of her contribution as a volunteer and a cheque for £50 was awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> Yatton Brownies. She thanked the leader of the Brownies for nominating her and she highlighted how important the twenty five years she had been helping with Brownies was to her. The six runners-up were each presented with a certificate marking their nomination for the award.

## **6. Comments & questions from the floor.**

None.

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Chairman