

# Yatton Parish Council

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**Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2020**

(approved by Yatton Parish Council on 9 November 2020)



Our mission:

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



# Chairman's overview

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Jill Iles on 6 April 2020. Jill served our villages on both the Parish and District Councils for many years with dedication and perseverance, always mindful to listen to the hopes and fears of villagers and working for the best outcomes for our communities. After losing her seat on the District Council at the local elections, Jill was co-opted onto the Parish Council in May 2019, her many years of experience as one of our District Councillors being highly valued. Thank you Jill for your tireless hard work, for your guidance and for the support you gave to our communities.

We also record with sadness the death of Tony Price at the end of May last year. Tony served on the Parish Council from November 2017 to April 2019. Tony was a greatly admired and dearly loved member of our community – the Church was full to overflowing with his friends and colleagues at his funeral. A bench has been installed in his memory in the War Memorial garden.

Local elections were held on 2 May 2019. In the Parish Council election the Horsecastle ward was contested (6 candidates for 5 places), in the other three wards all candidates were elected uncontested. In total 14 Parish Councillors were elected leaving 4 vacancies on the Council. At the May Council meeting Jill Iles and James MacQueen were co-opted onto the Council, James subsequently resigning in September. Martyn Hooper did not stand for re-election and we thank him for his many years of service on the Parish Council.

Steve Bridger and Wendy Griggs were elected as our new District Councillors. Wendy is also a Parish Councillor.

Ian Payne resigned from the Parish Council in September after 10 years of service as a Councillor. A big "Thank You" Ian for your hard work and valuable contributions over the years – much appreciated by us all.

We are pleased to report that Jill Bradbury has been appointed as Finance Officer in place of Wendy Bentley who retired in May after 15 years' service. Our Groundsman Peter Moorman also retired having served for 14 years. We are delighted to announce that our Parish Gardener, Megan Thurgur, has been appointed as our new part-time Groundsman working

alongside our Head Groundsman Jeff Shipway. The Yatton Parish Orderly, Eddie Kinsey also left after two years' service and his replacement will be appointed later in 2020.

We thank Wendy and Pete for everything they have done for the Council and for our communities, and wish them both long and happy retirements!

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:

- The referendum on the Yatton Neighbourhood Development Plan was held on 11 April 2019 and received a massive 92% vote in its favour. The Plan was formally "made" by North Somerset Council on 23rd July and therefore, along with the Claverham Plan, is now taken into consideration by NSC when making decisions on major planning applications. In addition, by having adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans in place the Parish Council receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy money imposed on new developments (compared to 15% without a Plan in place). In the year to 31 March 2020 the Parish Council received just over £51,000 in CIL money.
- We have a new website! Our old site was "looking its age" and becoming difficult to maintain and keep up-to-date. Our new website brings us into the 21st Century and I think you will agree, the improvements speak for themselves! [www.yatton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.yatton-pc.gov.uk)
- Our plans for alterations of the Hangstones Pavilion have been approved by NSC so the next stage is to go out to tender for the work. The planned alterations 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 Parish Council formally recognised a “Climate Emergency” at its meeting in September in line with the formal recognition of the Climate Emergency by NSC at its Council Meeting in February 2019. A Climate Emergency Working Group was formed to raise awareness, identify local solutions and propose ideas to mitigate climate change.
- We have drawn up a list of “Green Recommendations” to be proposed wherever possible in our responses to planning applications.
- We have used a portion of the money we had received for achieving the Silver Award in the Parish Recycling Scheme to initiate a “Make Yatton Greener” project. New compost bins have been installed at Hangstones.
- Yatton Lions, with advice from YACWAG, have planted a small community orchard at Hangstones in the wild area to the North of the site. The Parish Council would like to thank the Yatton Lions and YACWAG for this thoughtful gesture.
- The Parish Council won second prize in the Outdoor War Memorial Gardens competition, and Glebelands achieved Outstanding in “It’s Your Neighbourhood” category of the Britain in Bloom competition. A bow of gratitude and appreciation to our gardener Megan and the Yatton Horticultural Society for providing us with so much colour and wonderful displays around the village.
- As part of the NSC Re-wilding project 116 trees have been planted close to the corner Arnolds Way and Brunel Way with hands-on planting by members of the local community.
- 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. In particular we are looking at the possibility of introducing a 20 mph speed limit on a portion of the High Street and constructing a safer entrance to the School via the Co-op car park.
- In the Chestnut Park development the new playgrounds, the new allotments, the Strawberry Line extension, the new School and the Extra Care home are making good progress and are expected to be opened

within the coming year. The new allotments will be handed over to the Parish Council who will administer and manage them in the same way as we do with the existing allotments off Mendip Road.

- The Parish Council funded the costs of major roof repairs to Yatton Village Hall.
- Work is continuing towards submitting a planning application to develop a new cremated remains burial ground in the field next to the Mendip Road allotments.
- The solar-powered speed activated warning sign on the B3133 at the entrance to the village at Frost Hill is providing useful data regarding the traffic volumes along our High Street.
- We installed our first two solar powered light columns – these are on the footpath leading from the Church to Court Avenue.
- We have installed two new “Yatton” village entrance signs, one on the entrance to the village on Moor Road and the other on the Stowey Park corner on Claverham Road to match the “Claverham” sign on the opposite corner.
- We have set up a Charity with the aim of restoring the canopy on the railway station footbridge.

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, our Parish Liaison Officer 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 has been very much appreciated.

On 23rd March this year the country went into lockdown due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The next year will prove to be a challenging one for all of us.

**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 Parish maintains 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.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Horticultural Society for their continued support and help to the Parish Gardener Megan. Glebelands and the Orchard are now looking pristine.

The BMX track, Skate Park and the circular path around the playing field at Hangstones are proving to be extremely popular. The wooden hand seat has been removed and an alternative seat may be sourced. The zip wire has been refurbished.

A picnic table and two small items of play equipment for toddlers have been installed, completing the upgrade to the Rock Road play area. Also a new picnic table has been installed at the Broadcroft play area.

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

Heathgate will have a new bench fitted and a tree that had to be felled will be replaced in the autumn 2020.

# Planning Committee

Chair: **Christopher Jackson**

Vice-Chair: **Robert Jenner**

The Planning Committee continue to work in every way they can to shape the future of Yatton and Claverham in order to benefit the Parish. We have held 10 meetings since the 2019 Annual Report, during which we have considered 50 planning applications. The Committee recommended support for 43. North Somerset Council refused 5 of these applications; of the 7 applications which the Planning Committee recommended not supporting, North Somerset Council approved 3.

The Planning Committee has resolved to make “Green Recommendations” wherever possible in their responses to applications. These are:

- For any new roof or roof refurbishment that will face between south-west and south-east, consider installing photovoltaic panels or using photovoltaic tiles in construction;
- For any alteration to gutters and downpipes, consider installing a rainwater butt;
- For any construction of new walls, try to include the highest practicable grade of thermal insulation;
- For any construction try to use materials that are sustainable, made with recycled content, easily reused or recycled, and that save energy;
- For any project involving alteration or installation of a toilet, consider using a dual-flush model;
- For any project involving paving, patios and/or driveways, consider using water-permeable materials;
- For any project, consider the feasibility of installing one or more electric vehicle charging points.

Most of this year’s applications again concerned small domestic projects such as extensions and loft and garage conversions. There have been several agricultural building applications, most of which have been supported by the committee in order to aid the local rural economy.

The third phase of the Bloor development at North End was recommended for support. On the opposite side of the road the Hallam site has been acquired by Curo, a housing association and house-builder based in Bath. The Persimmon application for the land off Moor Road was resubmitted with a further reduction in the number of dwellings. The Committee recommended not supporting this application; it is still under consideration at North Somerset Council.

# Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee

Chair: **Peter Lomas**

Vice Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

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 £5,443
- Strawberry Line Maintenance £1,000
- Yatton Junior Football Club £1,200
- Strawberry Line Café £420
- 1st Yatton Brownies £300
- Yatton Music Society £300
- Wellspring Counselling £500
- Somerset Storyfest £200
- West of England MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Therapy Centre £350
- Weston and North Somerset Disability Information and Advice Line £150
- Strawberry Line Café Cycle Hire Project £200
- Salvation Army Remembrance Sunday £100
- Yatton and Claverham Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club £100.

Yatton Parish Council also contributes £3000 annually towards 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 Committee has continued its regular review of the Parish Council's Policies and Procedures. Full details of these may be found on the website.

The Committee is also responsible for Personnel matters including recruitment of staff and their working terms and conditions.

The Parish Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 received an unqualified audit report. Our thanks go to Clerk Aleana Baird, Finance Officer Jill Bradbury, former Finance Officer Wendy Bentley and Office Assistant Lucy Kehoe for their hard work and diligence.

The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA).

# Statement of Accounts

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020  
(External audited complete)

	2018/19	2019/20
	£	£
Balances brought forward	228,948	200,337
(+)Annual precept	204,867	215,110
(+)Total other receipts	42,577	72,378
(-) Staff costs	113,669	119,439
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments	162,386	145,828
(=) Balances carried forward	200,337	222,558
Total cash & investments	207,623	246,836
Total fixed and long term assets	1,006,589	1,021,934
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
Massimo Morelli	07745 763 010
VACANCY	
VACANCY	

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

Jonathan Edwards – Chair	01934 838 265
Caroline Sheard	01934 832 796
Robert Jenner	01934 834 675
VACANCY	
VACANCY	

## **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

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor  
please contact the Clerk.

Clerk: **Aleana Baird**

Yatton Parish Council

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