



Yatton Parish Council

Annual Report

for the year ended 31 March 2024

(approved by Yatton Parish Council on
9 September 2024)

Our mission:

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



Chairman's overview

The on-going work of the Parish Council includes looking after our green spaces, our allotments, many of our street lights, cemetery facilities, 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.

None of our achievements could have been accomplished without the dedication and 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 Wendy Griggs and Steve Bridger for their support, as well as the many members of the public who have worked with the Parish Council, including members of many local voluntary organisations.

During the year we welcomed James Hooper and Ann Hodgson as new Parish Councillors, representing Claverham Ward and Horsecastle Ward, respectively.

Some highlights from the past year:

- Chris Headford was the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2023 for her tireless behind-the-scenes work with Yatton Rugby Football Club. There had been eight nominees for the award, showing just how much voluntary work is being done in our community.
- The new cremated-remains cemetery in the field next to the allotments at Mendip Road is taking shape.

- Street lights that are the Parish Council's responsibility have been converted to LED bulbs and part-night timers wherever possible, in order to reduce energy requirements.
- Glebelands and the Orchard area once again achieved 'outstanding' designations in the Royal Horticultural Society's 'It's Our Neighbourhood' awards.
- The alteration work on Hangstones Pavilion is progressing.
- Adjacent to Hangstones Pavilion, the Platinum Jubilee Water Fountain and Climbing Frame (youngsters find it irresistible) is fully commissioned and being heavily used for both purposes.
- The skate ramp at Hangstones has been professionally refurbished.
- Because of the fire at Yatton School, the annual carnival was held at Hangstones instead and was a great success.
- A second Picnic in the Park event was held in September and was very well attended, despite uncooperative weather.
- A new flagpole has been installed at Glebelands. Flags can be changed by lowering the pole instead of by ladder, which is much safer, and the lanyards are now routed internally making the pole less attractive as a late-night climbing challenge to the temporarily emboldened.
- Despite the pressure exerted by Parish and District Councillors, the timetabled bus service through Yatton and Claverham (the X5) is still barely adequate. The last service through the parish runs at 18:30 on weekdays, 18:00 on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays. Residents have use of the on-demand WESTlink service, but this does not run after 19:00 or at all on Sundays.

- We have in place Neighbourhood Development Plans for both Yatton and Claverham, so the Parish Council receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money imposed on new developments (compared to 15% without a Plan in place). In the year to 31 March 2024 we received £56,955.99 of CIL money. See the CIL reports on our website for more details.
- We continue to work with our District Councillors and North Somerset Council officers to review and influence how the Section 106 money coming from new housing developments will be used to improve our highways, footpaths and cycleways and sports and leisure facilities.

Dr Christopher Jackson

Chairman of Yatton Parish Council



Committee Reports

Amenities and Properties Committee

Chair: **Robert Jenner**

Vice-Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The Parish Council are continuing to progress the improvement of their streetlights building on from the work that upgraded all lights that were suitable to LED bulbs and changed them from all night timers to part night timers all of which has significantly reduced the running costs of our streetlights. The remaining fourteen lights that were unsuitable for these upgrades can only be replaced with new lanterns and brackets. This work is gradually being done and this year we have replaced several that were very dim or not working in Streamcross, Church Road, Westaway Park and Mendip Road substantially improving them from the original lights.

The number of dog bins has also been increased with a new bin along the section of Strawberry Line off Arnolds Way. There are now five bins along that stretch of path alone with 27 bins in total across the Parish helping to keep the streets and open spaces pleasant places for all residents to enjoy.

Our head Grounds Person Jeff Shipway and our Assistant Grounds Person and Parish Gardener Megan Thurgur maintain the public areas that the Parish Council are responsible for, namely: Hangstones playing field and pavilion, Rock Road play area, Broadcroft play area in Claverham, the War Memorial, Glebelands, the village green by the church car park and the adjacent orchard area. The Parish Council also maintain the burial ground, Mendip Road and North End Allotments, the open spaces at Well Lane and Heathgate and small areas off Barberry Farm Road and Cadbury Farm Road.

Newly created wild flower areas have been planted in the orchard area off Glebelands and on Hangstones field.

Glebelands has again been judged for the Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom 'It's Our Neighbourhood' award.

The gardens have been entered every year since 2017 and in the first year achieved a 'Thriving Award.' Since then, every year we have achieved an 'Outstanding' designation and this is mostly down to Megan's hard work with the assistance of Jeff and Yatton Horticultural Society members.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Horticultural Society for their continued support and help to the Parish Gardener Megan.

Yatton Parish Council Burial Ground near St Marys church was very close to reaching capacity so an additional space was created to extend the available space and there are still six to eight spaces left. The lease for the new cemetery was signed in January 2024 with work on this project starting straight away marking out the site and initial fencing work. This will continue during 2024-25 getting it ready to open once capacity is reached in the current burial ground.

The War Memorial has had some new planters which were funded by the British Legion and the Parish would like to thank them very much for the planters which are an attractive feature that enhances the peaceful setting and for their shared interest in the care of the War Memorial.

Yatton and Cleeve United Football Club were granted permission by the Parish Council to install two dugouts on the main fenced pitch at Hangstones.

This was a requirement following the promotion of the first team to a higher division.

A new gate was installed at the Broadcroft play area.

The Christmas lights display now includes lights through Glebelands gardens and on the trees on the North End roundabout. This is using battery lights as there is no mains supply.

The Parish Council thanks the grounds team for all their hard work and also the Parish Orderlies in Yatton and Claverham for their valuable work keeping the villages clean and tidy.

Planning Committee

Chair: **Steve Humphrey**

Vice-Chair: **Robert Jenner**

The members of 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. The Committee makes explicit recommendations to the Local Planning Authority, which is North Somerset Council, to approve or refuse each application.

In the last year, May 23 until April 24, we considered fifty planning applications. This was a slight increase from the previous year. The Committee recommended approval for forty one of the applications, which represents 82% and is slightly less than previous years. North Somerset Council accepted our recommendation for thirty eight of these. Of the nine applications for which the Planning Committee recommended refusal, North Somerset Council contradicted us and approved six. There was therefore a 82% concordance between the decisions of the Planning Committee and those of the Local Planning Authority, which was slightly down on previous years

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. We also considered a number of large applications from developers.

Finance, Personnel and Administration Committee

Chair: **Peter Lomas**

Vice Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The Parish Council is run by eight members of staff who all contribute to its smooth running. They are as follows:

Aleana Baird (Parish Clerk), Jill Bradbury (Finance Officer), Lucy Kehoe (Office Assistant), Jeff Shipway (Head Groundsman), Megan Thurgur (Assistant Groundsman and Parish Gardener), John Harris (Cadbury Hill Manager), Andy Warren (Yatton Orderly) and Clive Fletcher (Claverham Orderly).

I, along with my fellow Councillors, would like to offer them sincere thanks.

The Council is pleased to be able to help local organisations through our Grants Policy. During the fiscal year covered by this report we have awarded the following grants:

• Youth Club	£ 35,000
• Village Hall	£ 1,258
• Cadbury Hill Management	£ 3,500
• Yatton Junior Football Club	£ 1,200
• Strawberry Line Management	£ 1,000
• Wellspring Counselling	£ 1,000
• Yatton United Charities	£ 1,000
• Vision N Somerset	£ 1,000
• Air Ambulance	£ 1,000
• Repair Café	£ 476
• 1st Yatton Brownies	£ 350
• Yatton 2nd Guides	£ 350
• Yatton Music Society	£ 300

• Volunteer Drivers	£ 267
• PACT	£ 170
• YACWAG	£ 150

In addition, our Budget and all payments over £500 are reported on the Parish website. Our accounts for the year have received an unqualified audit report.

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

Our Policies and Procedures are regularly reviewed, and the latest versions are published on the website.

The Parish Council jointly owns, together with Congresbury Parish Council, part of Cadbury Hill. We contribute towards the maintenance costs, and this is shown above.

The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA). This is a not-for-profit membership organisation supporting local Parish and Town Councils across Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire, to provide positive outcomes for their communities.

We also belong to NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and have earned their Quality Award. This demonstrates that we have achieved good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

Finally, I would like to record my sincere thanks to my Vice Chairman, fellow Councillors on the Committee and the Parish Clerk for their help and invaluable input throughout the year.

Statement of Accounts

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024
(External audit complete/not completed)

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
Balances brought forward	291,690	265,059
(+) Annual precept	238,154	257,875
(+) Total other receipts	79,198	54,446
(-) Staff costs	156,286	167,434
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments (Re-stated)	187,157	127,307
(=) Balances carried forward	265,059	282,639
Total cash & investments	265,568	293,479
Total fixed and long term assets	1,089,693	1,098,040
Total borrowings	0	0

Parish Councillors

Claverham Ward (Claverham to Hollowmead):

Roger Wood	01934 832 182
Peter Lomas – Vice Chairman	01934 835 109
James Hooper	07967 690 677

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

Graham Humphreys	01934 835 469
Massimo Morelli	07745 763 010
Steven Lister	07702 055 061
VACANCY	
VACANCY	

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

Jonathan Edwards	07785 352 714
Caroline Sheard	01934 832 796
Robert Jenner	01934 834 675
Jessie McArdle	07794 466 843
Steve Humphrey	07968 984 229

Horsecastle Ward (railway line to Kingston Bridge)

David Crossman	01934 832 154
Christopher Jackson (Chairman)	07879 413 423
Bryan Thomas	07715 362 601
Ann Hodgson	07929 484 547
VACANCY	

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

Clerk: **Aleana Baird**
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