

**Draft Minutes
of the Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
held on**

Monday 26 September 2022

At Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.37 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards, Graham Humphreys, Steve Humphrey, Chris Jackson, Jessie McArdle, Caroline Sheard, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood.

Also in attendance: Clerk, Rev. Jill Flowers (led prayers), District Councillor Steve Bridger and seven members of the public.

Chairman Jonathan Edwards led with a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II with a minute of silence held in her memory.

Prayers were led by Rev. Jill Flowers.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU43/22: To receive apologies for absence, and to approve reasons where appropriate.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert Jenner, Steve Lister, Peter Lomas, Massimo Morelli, District/Parish Councillor Wendy Griggs, PC James Rochford, PCSO Elle Hicks and PCSO Rachel Sellars.

COU44/22: To receive declarations of interests by Parish Councillors and to consider any written applications for dispensations.

NONE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COU45/22: Public participation.

Representatives from Yatton Post Office spoke about the reasons for the poor postal service in Yatton since the sorting office was moved to Clevedon a year ago. The lack of staff (4 or 5 less than before) mean that more rounds are allocated to the existing staff numbers and there is no holiday or sickness cover. If agency staff are used they don't know the area. This has led to a sporadic very slow delivery service that has caused missed hospital appointments and other time sensitive problems to arise for customers. Yatton is one of a very small number of areas across the country persistently having serious issues. It is understood that NHS letters are now being separated out to prevent this impact but with Christmas coming soon it is likely to be worse.

A member of the public queried information about the traffic calming measures planned for Stowey and Mendip Road in particular the number of 'build outs' and their position. He highlighted that all households should be directly consulted on both roads about the position of the 'build outs' due to impact on street parking and access to property. It was clarified by District Councillor Steve Bridger that they were not 'build outs' but planters, there was no modification of

the highway or footways along either road. The design process was not completed yet for the measures but a consultation on the design which would confirm the number and position was to take place and this would include the area proposed for traffic regulatory orders.

A member of the public spoke regarding the Plastic Free Communities initiative which encourages and assists communities in the aim to become plastic free by fulfilling certain criteria with particular emphasis on single use plastic and plastic free alternatives.

North Somerset Councillors' Report.

District Councillor Steve Bridger reported that the budget setting process for 2023-24 had begun early as an unprecedented gap in funds both this financial year and the next had to be filled. The Ukraine War, energy increases and inflation with high demand on services like child and adult social care would make this a difficult task. An emergency budget was planned for November to try to address this year's shortfall but with up to 85% of services being statutory the savings would have to come from the remaining non statutory sector.

He had attended a recent PACT meeting and confirmed the number of planters planned for Stowey and Mendip Roads was forty six but their maintenance was not decided or other details mentioned above under public participation.

He had prepared a circulation document for Councillors detailing the position regarding the details and criteria allowed for the Virgin Media install and it applied to all essential infrastructure providers who have a lot of power. However the lack of consultation by Virgin with residents before work started has been unacceptable and he acknowledged the frustration people had with a second round of digging up of roads and footways in the past two years. He assured members that North Somerset Council inspected work and any surface left in a dangerous conditions must be repaired by the contractor.

The withdrawal of all bus services from Yatton and Claverham was a difficult and problematic issue compounded by bankruptcy of service providers, lack of drivers, increased working from home all of which contributed to the current position. There was work in progress on a sustainable service from April 2023 onwards. However he confirmed that there would be no bus service from 8th October until April next year at the earliest. The Bus Improvement Plan funding for capital works and some further funding for services themselves was coming but it cannot be used for unviable services so a full network review was underway including a demand responsive travel option.

Parish Liaison Officer Report.

No report as new Liaison Officer not appointed yet.

Police report.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU46/22: Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1st August 2022.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

COU47/22: Exclusion of public:

If the Council wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed:

'That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item(s) ... on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest [by reason of the confidential nature of the business] or [for other special reason which must be stated].'

NOT REQUIRED.

COU/48/22: Finance

To authorise payments, including to note receipts and petty cash payments for August and September 2022.

RESOLVED: to authorise payments, including to note receipts and petty cash payments for August and September 2022.

COU49/22: To consider the Plastic Free Communities Initiative.

RESOLVED: to agree support the Plastic Free Communities Initiative as stated in the Statement of Support below.

Statement of Support for Establishing Plastic Free Yatton & Claverham.

As a Parish Council, we would like to support our local residents and community in making choices to reduce their use of single use plastics to ensure they can make an impact on our footprint on the planet. We have noted with great concern the issues associated with single-use plastics and the global problem of plastic pollution. Millions of new items of plastic are made every year, with this set to increase dramatically over the next 20 years. Every day, approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans. By 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than there are fish (by weight). We see this as a serious concern, which must be addressed at local level as well as by Central Government and across the globe.

We have passed a resolution as of 26th September 2022 to commit to exploring how we can significantly reduce the sale, provision and use of avoidable single-use plastics. We've already acted to eliminate the use of single-use plastics within the Parish Council owned building Hangstones Pavilion by providing visitors with crockery and kitchen facilities to eliminate the need for single use plastics. We have also purchased a water bottle filling and drinking fountain to be installed on Hangstones fields to reduce purchase levels of water in plastic bottles and the need for them when exercising or playing sport on the recreation fields. We also know we have an important role to play in influencing others to do likewise.

As a result, we're pleased to be supporting the Plastic Free Communities initiative. This provides a toolkit for communities to work to reduce plastic use at a local level. We will endeavour to assist the Plastic Free Community Leader and volunteers to spread the message of reducing single use plastics and encourage businesses, organisations and residents to take action. Reducing single use plastics can reduce litter, making our village a more pleasant place to live and reducing waste can help businesses and organisations to save money with their waste collections.

We and our individual members therefore commit to supporting, encouraging and promoting the work of Plastic Free Yatton & Claverham.

Businesses and organisations willing to become a Plastic Free Champion by eliminating 3 or more sources of single use plastic should contact the Plastic Free Community Leader, details here <https://plasticfree.org.uk/community/yatton-claverham/>

COU50/22: To approve the Annual Report 2022.

Chairman Jonathan Edwards was sourcing a cover picture for the report.

RESOLVED: to approve the content of the Annual Report 2022 for publishing.

***** During the next item Councillors liaised with members of the public present and District Councillor Steve Bridger.**

COU51/22: To consider the withdrawal of bus services in Yatton & Claverham.

The Parish Council members acknowledged that District Councillor Steve Bridger had summarised very well the events that had led to the withdrawal of all bus services from Yatton and Claverham. However as the largest village in North Somerset this was unacceptable and members felt that Yatton had been treated very poorly by the bus companies given the size of the parish. The recent changes within bus providers had left First with a monopoly on the service and it was clear from District Councillor Steve Bridger's report that North Somerset Council were working very hard with First to try to bring forward a reliable sustainable service next April. It was also understood that initiatives were being explored into other transport options to cover places it was not sustainable to provide a bus service to. The Parish Council wished to be included where possible in the discussions on the April 2023 service and wanted to be kept informed as ideas develop over the next six months.

***** During the next item Councillors liaised with members of the public present.**

COU52/22: To discuss the poor level of postal service in the Parish.

The Parish Council fully acknowledged the poor and sporadic level of service that Royal Mail provided for Yatton and the inability on their part to find a solution to the problems. The poor service experienced by residents over the past year since the moving of the sorting office from Yatton to Clevedon was unacceptable.

RESOLVED: to write a letter of complaint to Royal Mail following their complaints procedure. If this did not result in a satisfactory response and improvement in the service the next option was to escalate the issue to the regulator.

COU53/22: To discuss the disruptive Virgin infrastructure installation in the Parish.

The Parish Council members all agreed that the installation had been very disruptive and the lack of information and consultation was inexcusable. The Clerk was requested to contact Virgin Media and complain raising the following points:

- Concern over the lack of notice about when work was taking place.
- The impact of driveways blocked off by the install and some residents feeling house bound during the day as a result.
- Concern about the ability for an ambulance to get down the road at night if one was needed.
- Noise during the day, especially irritating as no notice was given.
- Litter left over night in multiple places, including residents' front gardens.
- Concern that the footways have been dug up again only after having Gigaclear in the local area around a year ago.

***** During the next item Councillors liaised with District Councillor Steve Bridger.**

COU54/22: To discuss the public footpaths onto B3133 from North End Developments.

The Parish Council were very aware of how dangerous the exit was from the upgraded footpath that has resulted from the Bloor development. It was imperative that the footpath was diverted through to Duck Lane but this was currently on hold pending the outcome of the development proposals at Box Bush Farm. The importance of achieving this for the safety of users both now and in the future, but especially if the new Rugby Club takes place, was paramount.

District Councillor Steve Bridger advised that signs were to be installed at the current exit on to North End Road to make motorists aware of emerging pedestrians and that the 30mph speed limit to the Bridge Inn was being pursued.

COU55/22: To consider the provision of a speed limit within Chestnut Park.

Members discussed a 20mph speed limit in Chestnut Park and expressed concern that it was currently 30mph even around the new primary school. It was also mentioned that there were 20mph signs on the entrances to the Curo site, however these maybe due to construction.

RESOLVED: to make a request to North Somerset Council that a review was undertaken for the introduction a 20mph speed limit on all roads in Chestnut Park and the Curo site.

COU56/22: To consider the Christmas Lights display 2022.

The Parish Council were very aware of the increase in energy costs and wished to check the position in regard to the lights used for the display. The Clerk confirmed that all the lights were LED and the energy costs for the precinct were kindly covered by DJ Foley. The Claverham tree energy came from a private householder with an arrangement to carry out a seasonal job for the property in exchange for the power to the tree. It was suggested that due to the increase in cost it would be appropriate to make a £25 donation to the property as well as the work which Councillors agreed was acceptable.

The motifs on street lighting columns were no longer being used and they were the highest in energy costs as an un-metered supply. Battery lights were used last year on Glebelands and this was to be extended if possible this Christmas.

COU57/22: To consider a quote for the creation of additional space at the burial ground.

There were currently only two new cremation plots left hence more space was required to extend the life of the current burial ground. The work would create approximately 16 more plots which should be sufficient to cover the time needed to bring forward the new cemetery. The Clerk advised that the work on two conditions in the draft approval had been completed and submitted. It was expected that the approval was imminent and work on finishing the lease can commence. Councillors thanked the Clerk for all her work in progressing the new cemetery.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote for £1,800 from Weston Outdoor Services to create space for more cremation space at the current burial ground.

COU58/22: To consider a quote for changing street lights to part night timers.

The very large increase in the un-metered energy supply to streetlights in May had prompted an audit of the parish lights and how they could be changed to reduce energy costs. The quote will change lights that are currently on dusk till dawn timers (on all night) to part night (on at dusk till midnight/1am then off coming on again at dawn till daylight). This will complete all the possible energy saving changes to the existing streetlights.

RESOLVED: to accept a quote of £1,850.70 from Weston Rail Services.

Matters for Information

COU59/22: Clerk's report.

- i) The commemorative Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee water bottle and drinking fountain was due for delivery in the next fortnight. The paving for it had been purchased.
- ii) Councillor Robert Jenner sent thanks to everyone for the get well wishes following his recent accident. He hoped to return to meetings very soon.

- iii) A request for the Parish Council to consider supporting an initiative to make North Somerset the first 'low noise firework' county in the country. This was referred to the Amenities Committee for consideration.
- iv) The Clerk offered the Book of Condolence for Councillors to sign as this was the first time the Council had met since the death of the Queen. The pages of the book were to be sent to North Somerset Council for collation into one county book of condolence.
- v) The Clerk asked for volunteers for the road closure on Remembrance Sunday. Councillors Caroline Sheard and Jessie McArdle volunteered.

COU60/22: Future agenda items.

The new proposed cemetery off Mendip Road.

Weight limit signs in the Parish.

Newsletter provision.

Lease with North Somerset Council for the new cemetery.

The creation of a transport hub to assist residents in attending doctors appointments. Nov 22 meeting.

Ways to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Chairman

___/___/2022