

Draft Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities and Properties Committee
23rd January 2023

Held at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton, BS49 4HS.

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 8.58 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards, Wendy Griggs, Graham Humphreys, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Steve Lister, Massimo Morelli, Caroline Sheard and Bryan Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk, Councillor Steve Humphrey, grounds person Megan Thurgur and one member of the public.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP64/23: Apologies for Absence.
NONE.

AAP65/23: To receive Councillors' declarations of interests and consider any written applications for dispensations (the Committee may only grant a dispensation to enable a member to speak in public participation).

Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Lister both declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as they both had a tenancy with the Parish Council for allotments at the Mendip Road site.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AAP66/23: Public participation.

The member of the public spoke about the use of weedkiller at the Mendip Road allotments and again requested that the decision taken on 27th June which had asked all allotment tenants to not use weedkiller on the paths or hedges was reversed. It was suggested that one treatment per year in March or April of up to three inches of the path edge would be sufficient to keep the couch grass and bindweed under control.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP67/23: Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AAP68/23: If the Committee wishes to exclude the public the following resolution must be passed:

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 11 on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business of competitive quotes.

****The following item was not on the publicly displayed agenda therefore the item was unable to be discussed and was deferred, furthermore a specification had not yet been received from Yatton & Cleeve FC.

AAP69/23: To consider a specification from Yatton & Cleeve FC for permanent dugouts adjacent to pitch one on Hangstones.

Deferred item.

AAP70/23: Parish Gardener and Groundsmen Report. (Agenda item 7).

Grounds person Megan Thurgur gave a report on behalf of the grounds team as follows:

- **Glebelands** - Hazel and medlar pruned and the borders mulched with chippings. Bluebells are to be planted in the orchard area.
- **Other areas** - more bulbs planted all over village and work to increase and improve wild flower areas. New compost bins built and installed by the team at War Memorial. A new planter purchased and planted by the Horticultural Society installed on the village green and other existing planters added to and improved.
- The grounds team would like to look into the possibility of buying a chipper/shredder next winter to fully utilise the chainsaw work and therefore be much more sustainable in what is done with the waste from this type of work.
- **Pitches** - Not much football since mid December due to rain and frost. The FA inspected facilities with a view to Yatton & Cleeve FC getting promoted. The pitch was marked as excellent! The tractor has been serviced by a local company.
- **Forthcoming work** – Yatton Junior FC have asked for 4 technical areas to be marked out at Rock Road. This is something the team can do.
Plan to add even more lights to Glebelands Christmas 2023 trees.
Plan to visit at least 2 battery powered ride on mowers soon to see them in action, with a view to getting quotes for March Full Council.
North End Allotments work to improve general areas on the perimeter of the site. A new tree at the War Memorial and some additional planting.

AAP71/23: To consider instructing the pre-planned maintenance contract for streetlighting.

The current contractor had provided a very pro-active and helpful service over the past year which was far superior to the previous contractor. The Clerk recommended a one or two year contract to secure their services subject to no significant increase in costs for the pre-planned maintenance work.

RESOLVED: to instruct a two year contract with Weston Rail Services for pre-planned maintenance work. If the costs increased significantly the Clerk was to report back to the Council at March Full Council.

***** Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Lister having declared pecuniary interests in the next item left the room.**

***** The meeting was suspended and reconvened during the next item to allow Councillors to speak to the member of the public.**

AAP72/23: To consider the use of weedkiller/pesticides at the allotments and other areas of the parish.

The Committee confirmed with the Clerk that the use of weedkiller on paths and hedges only applied to the Mendip Road site. Councillors discussed this item at length as it was a very divisive issue within the tenants at the Mendip Road site who held opposite views on the subject. The views within the Committee were also not entirely shared on the subject. A variety of scenarios were put forward and discussed with the outcome as follows.

RESOLVED: to allow the use of weedkiller on the very edge of an allotment path but this was to be allowed once in March/April on a pre-arranged day. Tenants will be advised of the date and they can individually request it to be done on their plot by a member the grounds staff who is fully trained and holds a weed killing license. This will be trialed this spring and the matter revisited in winter 2023/24. This applied to the paths only; weedkiller must not be used on any hedges.

The Committee then discussed the weed killing schedule for sites the Parish Council is responsible for and carrying out one weed kill by a contractor of all the parish streets.

RESOLVED: to reduce the schedule of weed killing on sites by removing the War Memorial gravel and Glebelands car park. This left Hangstones car park and if necessary the circular path on the site and the Broadcroft path to prevent grass invasion of the path surface. This will be reviewed winter 2023/24.

RESOLVED: to instruct one weed kill of all the parish streets in 2023. This will be reviewed winter 2023/24.

***** Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Lister were invited to return to the meeting.**

AAP73/23: The Kings Coronation Party in the Park – to consider forming a working group if the Parish Council wish to hold the event.

RESOLVED: to form a working group with members being Chris Jackson, Steve Humphrey, Steve Lister, Graham Humphreys, Caroline Sheard and Lucy Kehoe.

***** The member of the public left the meeting.**

AAP74/23: To consider quotes for the removal of two cylinder water tanks and upgrading the boiler to a combi type to reduce energy costs on the office side of Hangstones Pavilion. Confidential Item.

RESOLVED: to approve the quote from DB Services of £4,980.

AAP75/22: To receive the Clerk's report. (Agenda Item 11).

- i) The burial ground green and black bins have been an issue because they are not being emptied. This had been pursued with the service and will hopefully be resolved soon.
- ii) Quotes for tree work to the TPO Poplar on Hangstones, a tree on the boundary of Rock Road and the trees at Heathgate had been requested.
- iii) A quote for the surfacing at the new cemetery had been requested 13/1/23 and had been chased today.
- iv) The quote for the new cemetery fencing and water supply was being requested.
- v) The fountain install was being progressed albeit slowly.
- vi) A quote for a new sewage pump at Hangstones had been requested.

AAP76/22: Future agenda items.

A new brass commemorative plaque for fallen of wars since WW2.

Christmas Lights Working Group Report including North End Christmas Tree and additional lighting locations.

Parish Finger Posts.

To species label Parish trees and to create a tree trail.

Bat boxes on Hangstones.

New cemetery time capsules and opening ceremony.

New Flagpole at Glebelands.

To create a hard surface path into Hangstones play area.

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Chairman

____/____/2023