

**Draft Minutes
of the Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
held on
Monday 3 July 2023**

At Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards, Graham Humphreys, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Steve Lister, Peter Lomas, Massimo Morelli, Jessie McArdle, Caroline Sheard, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood.

Also in attendance: Clerk and one member of the public.

No prayers were given.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU23/23: To receive apologies for absence, and to approve reasons where appropriate.
Apologies have been received from Councillor Steve Humphrey and District Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Bridger.

COU24/23: To receive declarations of interests by Parish Councillors and to consider any written applications for dispensations.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COU25/23: Public participation.

The member of the public asked the Parish Council if they would consider submitting a highway scheme request to North Somerset Council for reducing the speed limit along Claverham Road from 30mph to 20mph. He raised concerns predominantly about pedestrian safety but also motorist safety. The combination of blind corners, no markings, parked cars on the bends and brows of hills, narrow pavement only one side and many driveway accesses was a very unsafe environment for pedestrians. There was now an increase in traffic on Claverham Road from the new developments in the Parish and it was used as a rat run to avoid Smallway. The school was located on a series of bends and the car park was across the road from the school and with no 'lollipop' crossing assistance it was difficult to cross. Although there were flashing 20mph signs by the school at drop off and pick up times they were often ignored. Parents and the head teacher at the school were in support of a request for 20mph along Claverham Road.

North Somerset Councillors' report.

No Reports.

Parish Liaison Officer Report

No report as new Liaison Officer not appointed yet.

Police report

No report.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU26/23: Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th May 2023.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

COU27/23: Exclusion of public:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 13 on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business of competitive quotes.

COU28/23: To consider a request from a resident for Claverham Road to have a reduced speed limit of 20mph.

Members discussed the request including what methods maybe used to reduce speed, some of which were not deemed favourable by all members. However, the methods would form a part of future consultation, the principal of the speed reduction on Claverham Road was supported. Members also discussed if Bishops Road should be included but this was in partially in Cleeve parish so would need to be worked on in conjunction with Cleeve Parish Council, possibly in due course.

RESOLVED: to submit a Highway Scheme request form to North Somerset Council asking for a speed reduction to 20mph on Claverham Road.

COU29/23: To approve any changes to Committee and Working Group membership by Councillors.

RESOLVED: to approve Cllr Jessie McArdle joining the Amenities & Properties Committee and Cllr Massimo Morelli leaving the Finance Personnel & Administration Committee.

COU30/23: To consider requesting that North Somerset Council do not carry out a street weed kill in Yatton.

Chairman Chris Jackson gave an overview of the reason for this agenda item following the decision by the Amenities & Properties Committee to not instruct a street weed kill in 2024 and review the street weedkilling in February 2025. The agenda item was to consider making the agenda item request as a matter of consistency in the parish council's approach to the matter.

RESOLVED: to request that North Somerset Council do not do a street weed kill in Yatton unless they were using a non-glyphosate product.

COU31/23: To discuss the position of prayers on the agenda.

A suggestion was made that prayers could be moved outside of the meeting and therefore be carried out before the meeting commenced by those who wished to take part. Councillors discussed this at length with varying views on the matter.

RESOLVED: that the item was re-named 'Prayers or a Moment of Reflection' and retained in the current position on the agenda.

COU32/23: To receive an update from the New Cemetery and Hangstones Alterations Working Groups.

Councillor Robert Jenner gave an update on the new cemetery progress. The New Cemetery Working Group had met and a contractor was working on dividing elements of the required work ahead of a quote process. Quotes had been obtained for fencing and water provision. The lease was still not finished so this was all preparation in order to be ready for when it was completed and it was hoped this would be started in the autumn.

The Hangstones Alterations Working Group had also met and a meeting with a builder was taking place tomorrow with a view to looking at what elements of the project could be progressed next with the budget and S106 money available.

COU33/23: The recruitment of new Councillors for co-option.

Chairman Chris Jackson highlighted that there were 5 vacancies on the Council and if members could talk to any people they knew who might like to join that would be one approach. The Clerk was to advertise and promote the vacancies. It was suggested it could go in the school newsletter.

COU34/23: To consider a recommendation by the Finance Personnel & Administration Committee following a review of the Ear Marked Reserves, Contingency and General Reserves.

Chairman of the Finance, Personnel and Administration Committee Peter Lomas gave an overview of the recommendation that had been made by that Committee on June 12th. It followed the year end and audit process completion for 2022-23 and a year that had seen the Council facing an outlay of unbudgeted expenditure that was required as a result of national pay increases, emergency repairs and spending in order to save money as a result of the energy crisis. All of which were unforeseen at the time the budgets were prepared and approved. The recommendation was to return certain Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) that were unlikely to be used to the Contingency Reserve. This would almost return the Contingency Reserve to the recommended level and with prudent budget management this financial year and a rigorous budget preparation process for 2024-25 all Reserves will be recovered.

RESOLVED: that the following recommendation from the Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee was approved:

EMR 317 Christmas Lights £7,085 (not required as 2023-24 budget £6,000)

EMR 324 Hangstones Pump £5,801 (Quote received and if approved would return a balance £1,801 to Contingency).

EMR 325 Skatepark £12,167.00 (CIL Funds suitable for this).

EMR 331 Elections £3,000 (not needed for 4 years).

EMR 350 Road Safety in the Parish £11,175 (High Street Improvements covering this).

EMR Recycling Award £500 (not used, no project).

Total £35,728

This would increase the Contingency Reserve to £75,728.

COU35/23: To consider quotes for the replacement of the sewage pump at Hangstones. Confidential Item.

RESOLVED: to approve the quote from N-Tec Services Ltd of £4,350.00

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

COU36/23: Clerk's Report.

- i) The Clerk was on holiday 8th to 15th July.
- ii) The upgrading of the streetlights that has been carried out over the past year to save energy costs was now at a point where nothing else can be done to improve them with LED bulbs and part night timers. There are 104 lights, 16 of which are not able to be changed to LED corn bulbs or part night timers (though 5 are not on part night timers because they are elderly people bungalows in Claverham and need to be on all night). If any of those 16 fail then they will have to have new lanterns/brackets. The inventory has been altered to reflect the changes.
- iii) A request had been received asking for Hangstones to be offered free of charge for a volunteer recruitment event. This was referred to the Amenities & Properties Committee.

COU37/23: 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.

Ways to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Chairman

____/____/2023