

Draft Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities and Properties Committee
29th April 2024

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

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 9.17 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Edwards, James Hooper, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Peter Lomas, Jessie McArdle, Caroline Sheard and Bryan Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk, Jeff Shipway and Megan Thurgur (Parish Grounds staff) and District Councillor Steve Bridger.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP82/24: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors David Crossman, Graham Humphreys and Massimo Morelli.

AAP83/24: 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).

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AAP84/24: Public participation.

No members of the public present.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP85/24: Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th February 2024 (Agenda item 4).

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AAP86/24: 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 items 13 & 14 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business of data protection (Item 13) and competitive quotes (Item 14).

AAP87/24: Parish Gardener and Groundstaff Report (Agenda item 6).

The grounds team showed a brief video of the new chipper and shredder in operation including how its use will fit into the review they had done on the efficiency of green waste use, reduction and removal. The machine will allow green waste that cannot be composted to be chipped or shredded then used as a mulch on areas like Glebelands, Heathgate and the exit to Glebelands car park. This helps reduce weeding and benefits the soil. The team also create a 'weed soup' in dustbins which is made from all the invasive weeds that can't go into the compost bins. The 'weed soup' is used as a plant feed. The grounds team thanked the Parish Council very much for the chipper and shredder, they were very pleased with it. This season's work included ongoing pitch work, continuing to improve the Glebelands car park exit, developing 'Weedy Wednesday' with the Horticultural Society and a few changes to the borders in Glebelands.

Finally a picture was shown of the new flagpole now installed at Glebelands. The grounds team thanked the Parish Council because it meant that flags could be raised without a ladder which was very much appreciated.

***** During the next item the meeting was suspended and reconvened a number of times to allow dialogue with District Councillor Steve Bridger and staff member Jeff Shipway.**

AAP88/24: To receive a report on the outcomes from the Weedkiller Inquiry Day held by North Somerset Council and to consider any actions applicable to Yatton.

The Weed Killer Inquiry Day had been attended by the Clerk, the grounds team and Councillor Chris Jackson. It had been a very informative and interesting day which demonstrated a wide variety of trials of weed control methods, volunteer initiatives locally and in different parts of the country with varying levels of success. There was also scientific presentation on PHD research at Cardiff University on types of weed control methods, their effectiveness, longevity of control and carbon footprint. The purpose of the day was to write a series of recommendations for the Executive to consider. The power point from the inquiry day had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting. The report of recommendations entitled the 'Herbicide Reduction Plan' had been received and had also been circulated prior to the meeting. It acknowledged that it was a contentious issue with no easy solution to a wide variety of differing situations. The recommendations would be considered by the Executive on the 27th June 2024 and District Councillor Steve Bridger would report back the outcomes.

The Committee discussed the information that had been circulated and noted that the grounds team were carrying out trials of acetic acid based weed killing for them on a small number of areas and would monitor its effectiveness, longevity and cost over this season. A report would be drafted for consideration in the autumn/winter. The Clerk advised that only one street kill was being done in the parish this year (this was imminent) and was funded by North Somerset Council. This will also be reviewed in the autumn/winter.

AAP89/24: To consider Yatton & Cleeve Football Club Five Year Business Plan.

The Yatton & Cleeve Football Club five year business plan had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting. Members discussed the plan including the financial statement which it was noted was not up to date i.e. only showed 2022-23 figures and had no accompanying bank statements. It was considered appropriate to follow the same procedure with engagement on this plan as the Council had done recently with the youth club business plan. It was to be passed to the Finance Committee to draft questions for the football club to

answer. A face to face meeting would then be held to discuss the answers provided before the outcomes were taken back to the Parish Council. The Clerk would include this within the next Finance Committee agenda.

AAP90/24: To consider replacing a street light lantern in Rock Road.

The post winter Pre-planned Maintenance of the street lights had taken place since a request had been received to renew the lantern in Rock Road. As a result of that maintenance work a further new lantern was required in Southview Terrace as well as Rock Road. Both the lights were amongst the remaining 16 that were unsuitable for LED bulbs or part night timers. The Parish Council work to install as many lights as possible with LED bulbs and part night timers had made a really significant electricity cost reduction and they had wished to address the final 16 lights over the next few years.

RESOLVED: to accept a quote from Weston Rail Services to replace the lantern and bracket in Rock Road and the lantern in Southview Terrace. Cost £962.90.

AAP91/24: To consider a quote for work to an Ash tree on Rock Road (work to be done early in the new financial year).

This item was deferred to the next meeting as a further assessment was required.

AAP92/24: To review the Hall and Pitch charges 2024-25.

The Clerk apologised as the hall and pitch charges circulated to the Councillors were for the review that took place on 20th March 2023 following the change in vat on pitch hire. It should have been the copy of the review that took place 5th June 2023.

The correct 5th June 2023 fees were presented for review in this evening's power point.

RESOLVED: that the hall hire charges 2024-25 remain unchanged.

RESOLVED: that the pitch charges 2024-25 remain unchanged.

AAP93/24: To consider the sale of a tractor bucket.

The tractor bucket was no longer any use as it fitted the old tractor not the current one, it was kept outside and was taking up compound space. A contractor was interested in buying it for £30.

RESOLVED: to sell the tractor bucket for £30.

AAP94/24: To consider a request from an allotment tenant to retain a plot in Yatton having moved recently from Yatton to Congresbury. Confidential Item.

The Clerk had advised of the section of the tenancy that states a tenancy agreement was terminated if a tenant leaves the parish.

RESOLVED: to refuse the request to retain the plot because the Council did not wish to waive the tenancy agreement to allow the plot to be retained. The tenancy was to be terminated with notice being given

AAP95/24: To consider quotes for gates and railings into the new cemetery off the car park and the entrance off Mendip Road. Confidential Item.

The Clerk had approached three companies for both sets of gates and railings/fencing. Three quotes had been obtained for the wrought iron double gates and railings at the entrance to the cemetery itself and one for a pedestrian gate and double vehicle access gate with post and rails at the front entrance on Mendip Road in recycled plastic.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Almondsbury Forge of £2,787.00 ex vat for the wrought iron gates and railings.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from JACS UK of £1,852.38 ex vat for a pedestrian gate and double vehicle access gate with post and rails at the front entrance on Mendip Road in recycled plastic.

AAP96/24: To receive the Clerk's report (Agenda Item15).

- i) The clerk asked for assistance in scrutinizing the quotes for the stage one of the cemetery surfacing ahead of Full Council 13th May 2024. Councillor Chris Jackson agreed to assist.
- ii) The stockproof fencing at the cemetery was due to be installed week commencing 27th May. The cows were in the field currently but the farmer has been advised of the fence work and will remove them by then. The price for a section of temporary fence with the gate from the field entrance being removed and re-installed in the fencing was £450 ex vat. It was needed to protect the gardens of the adjacent Mendip Road properties from cows getting in the 17 metre strip. The Clerk was to instruct the temporary fence work as it was essential.
- iii) The work to construct the retaining wall and fence on the driveway into the cemetery field was due to start in May.
- iv) The Clerk had submitted (on 15/2/24) locations provided by Speedwatch to North Somerset Highways and Road Safety Officers and chased it again at the beginning of April. There had been no response and the grant window for April had closed. The Clerk had advised the Officers as such but had still received no reply. The next grant window was in September.
- v) The Clerk advised that there was no update on the EV Charge points in Glebelands car park from the charge point providers.
- vi) The Hangstones alterations work to install the new entrance door and disabled ramp and new windows was completed. The Clerk was obtaining costs for the next phases of the project.
- vii) The Community Pay Back Team had contacted the Parish Council and were offering to carry out any labour intensive work we may have in the parish.

AAP97/24: 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.

To create a hard surface path into Hangstones play area.

The use of weedkiller at the allotments.

Upgrading of the Cherry Grove area.

Replacing felled ash at Hangstones.

Design a Yatton Parish Council flag.

Chairman

____/____/2024