

**Minutes
of the Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
held on
Monday 8 July 2024**

At Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.10 p.m.

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

Also in attendance: Clerk, District Councillor Wendy Griggs (arrived later in the meeting).

PRAYERS OR MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU25/24: To receive apologies for absence, and to approve reasons where appropriate. Apologies have been received from Councillors James Hooper, Anne Hodgson and from District Councillor Steve Bridger.

COU26/24: To receive declarations of interests by Parish Councillors and to consider any written applications for dispensations.

Councillor Jonathan Edwards declared a registerable interest in agenda item 7 as his wife was Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COU27/24: Public participation.
NONE.

North Somerset Councillors' report.

District Councillor Wendy Griggs gave a brief update when she arrived later in the meeting. The school planning application was submitted to North Somerset Council and a consultation was to be held at the school on the plans.

Police report

PC James Rochford had provided a report following the Clerk asking him for an update about motorbikes in the village and along the Strawberry Line. The bikes had prompted a number of complaints. He advised that the Police have now identified four individuals. There may be others. One has been spoken to in the company his parents who were supportive of police action. The other three are still to be spoken with and it is likely that, depending on the strength of the evidence gathered, some, if not all, will be issued with formal warnings under Section 59 of The Police Reform Act. Ultimately, the Police have powers to seize vehicles which is, if deemed appropriate, also an option.

The Police were also in the process of speaking with local landowners to ensure this sort of behaviour is discouraged.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted Avon and Somerset Bleed Kit Initiative about the funding of kits for the Parish. She had received an initial response and would liaise with the Heart Revivers Working Group on further information received.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU28/24: Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13th May 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

COU29/24: 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.

COU30/24: To consider a request to jointly host a volunteering event.

Councillors Jessie McArdle and Peter Lomas had looked at the Parish Councils Insurance Policy in conjunction with the Clerk. It was concluded that there were levels of ambiguity in the public liability section of the policy wording. The public liability insurance only covers events that the Parish Council have sole responsibility for organising. There were also ambiguity issues where the event was not on land owned by the Parish Council.

The Council discussed the insurance cover issues and on balance concluded as follows:

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council do not jointly host the volunteering event with PACT but suggest they submit a grant application to assist with the insurance cover and organisation costs for the event.

COU31/24: To appoint a Councillor to the Village Hall Management Committee.

Councillor Graham Humphreys wished to stand down from this role.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Massimo Morelli be appointed as the Parish Council representative on the Yatton Village Hall Management Committee.

COU32/24: To review the application to renew Quality Council status under the Local Council Award Scheme.

The Clerk had circulated the application form and accompanying documents to all Councillors ahead of the meeting.

RESOLVED: to approve the application for submission for the renewal of Quality Council status under the Local Council Award Scheme.

COU33/24: To consider the issue of a Non-Disclosure Agreement with the company who may make an offer to provide electric vehicle charge points in Glebelands car park.

The Clerk had circulated the details of the Non-disclosure Agreement prior to the meeting. Members discussed the document and views were expressed that the agreement was contrary to the Parish Council’s openness and transparency.

RESOLVED: to not sign the Non-Disclosure Agreement.

***** District Councillor Wendy Griggs arrived late due to attendance at a school governors meeting. She gave the update minuted under COU/27/24.**

COU34/24: To receive a progress report on the new cemetery project and consider any matters required for the next stages of the project.

The New Cemetery Working Group held a meeting on 3rd July to discuss a number of more detailed aspects of the new cemetery project that have arisen as progress on the ground has begun. These concerned the materials to be used in certain areas including the dimensions and specifications of the cemetery area of cremated remains as well as the driveway and car park. The discussions of the working group resulted in a series of recommendations or matters for further consideration. A small number of changes will require the planning officers advice to ascertain if they constitute amendments that need additional permission. The following were the matters to be considered and Council's decisions on them.

- **Top surface material in the mesh for the driveway and car park.**

Currently there is planning permission for a concrete edged base layer topped by mesh filled with soil and seeded with grass. Concern had been expressed by a number of surfacing contractors about the longevity of this type of top surface and therefore using gravel within the mesh was discussed. It was suggested as a more hard wearing but still permeable option that was not impacted by changing weather conditions.

RESOLVED: to change the top surface from mesh with soil and grass seeded to gravel. This change was to be referred to the Planning Officers for advice if permission was required.

- **The straightening of the front fence boundary of the cremation area at the top end of the fence nearest the houses. (to remove small dog leg of fence).**

The small piece of fence in question was shown to the meeting and members also discussed the specification of the front boundary fence ahead of obtaining quotes. There was no specification within planning approval.

A 1.2m high post and one rail fence with mesh wire along the bottom was recommended and this was to be planted to the fore with a beech or hornbeam hedge.

RESOLVED: to straighten the front boundary fence as described. This change was to be referred to the Planning Officers for advice if permission was required.

- **Central path & seating area specification.**

There was currently planning permission for a base layer topped with mesh seeded with grass but the dimensions of the path and seating area were very large based on the scale of the approved plan. There was no details of the edging to be used. The working group recommended reducing the width of the path to 3 metres and the seating area to 7m x 7m. They also discussed different types of top surface and edging including at the entrance gateway to the cremated remains area. This concluded with the recommendation to change the top surface to a resin bound gravel permeable surface with concrete edging and suitable block paving stones to mark the change in width from 4m to 3m at the entrance from the car park into the cremated remains area. These changes were to maximise space for cremated remains, enhancing accessibility and longevity of the surfaces.

RESOLVED: to change the top surface from mesh with soil and grass seeded to resin bound permeable gravel with concrete edging and to reduce the path width to 3 metres and the seating area to 7m x 7m with suitable small paving stones to mark the change in width from 4m to 3m at the entrance from the car park into the cremated remains area.

This change was to be referred to the Planning Officers for advice if permission would be required.

- **Path adjacent to cremation stones.**

This currently had planning permission for hardcore and gravel with no details of the edging to be used. The working group discussed a top surface of resin bound gravel and concrete edging to make this consistent with the main central path to the seating area and also for the same reasons of accessibility and longevity of the surface.

RESOLVED: to change the surface from hardcore and gravel to a base layer edged with concrete and with a top surface of permeable resin bound gravel. This change was to be referred to the Planning Officers for advice if permission would be required.

- **Specification for the surface for the first row of cremation stones.**

There was no detailed specification for this within the planning approval. The Clerk and a member of the working group had done some research in other local cemeteries looking at how the cremation areas were arranged. This was with a view to looking at a surfacing specification that would be suitable for interring ashes while reducing weed ingress and maintenance. The arrangements used in one local burial ground were deemed as successful in achieving this. The working group discussed the depth of surface excavation, the edging, the size and placement of the foundation slabs and the aggregate material to be used

RESOLVED: that a specification for the first row of cremation stones was to concrete edge the 1m row, excavating down the correct level to install the edges, fill with a base layer of gravel approx 4 inches, lay 24 x 24 inch foundation slabs placed in a row with no gaps then top dressed with blue slate. The memorial stones were to be installed on top of the foundation slabs. This change was to be referred to the Planning Officers for advice if permission was required.

The working group had also discussed extending the water provision to the opposite side of the site. This will allow ease of access in the future for memorial on the other side of the cremated remains area and also make it easy to extend the supply again in the future should an extension be required to the cemetery. The Clerk had obtained a quote to carry this out from the contractor already instructed to install water supply to the cemetery.

This would include installing a trace wire along the pipe and a stop tap to prevent water along that stretch of pipe until it is need in the future.

RESOLVED: to approve a quote of £450 to extend the supply onwards to the opposite side of the cemetery.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

COU35/24: Clerk's Report.

i) A letter had been received regarding the impact the removal of the burial ground conifers in 2021-22 had caused to an adjacent property patio and the boundary wall. This was on the agenda for the Amenities & Properties Committee 15th July 2024.

ii) The Clerk had submitted the application to carryout work on the TPO Ash on Hangstones fields.

iii) A suggestion had been made that the Parish Council may wish to include adding a requirement of developers to include 'swift bricks' on new homes. This was to be added to the next Planning agenda.

COU36/24: Future agenda items.

The new proposed cemetery off Mendip Road.

Weight limit signs in the Parish.

Newsletter provision.

To consider other venues for some Council meetings.

Chairman

___/___/2024