

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

Monday 9 September 2024

At Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 8.58 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Edwards, Graham Humphreys, Ann Hodgson, James Hooper, Steve Humphrey, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Steve Lister, Peter Lomas, Jessie McArdle, Caroline Sheard, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood.

Also in attendance: Clerk, MP Tessa Munt and partner, a representative from Stowell's Concrete and District Councillor Wendy Griggs (arrived later in the meeting).

PRAYERS OR MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU42/24: To receive apologies for absence, and to approve reasons where appropriate. Apologies have been received from District Councillors Steve Bridger and Wendy Griggs (she did arrive later during agenda item 13 after her school governors meeting).

COU43/24: To receive declarations of interests by Parish Councillors and to consider any written applications for dispensations.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COU44/24: Public participation.

The representative from Stowell's Concrete spoke regarding agenda item 12. He had been liaising with North Somerset Council over the past 6-9 months regarding signage to guide lorries by the correct route to the concrete works. The issue is that lorries leaving the M5 at Junction 20 see the weight limit signs and continue on to Junction 21 which is causing them to use the A370 and the High Street in Yatton. This could be prevented with the additional signage placed in specific locations guiding drivers directly to the concrete works via Junction 20.

North Somerset Council had approved five of seven sign locations. In regard to the remaining two, the most important one that needed support from the Parish Council was one on the junction of the A370 and Bishops Road in Cleeve. A sign here would direct lorries to the concrete works by going straight on to Smallway lights and would help prevent some flouting of the weight limit on Bishops Road and Claverham Road.

Discussion with Councillors ensued regarding the sign on the A370 at the Cleeve/Bishops Road junction which Stowell's wished to be included but North Somerset Council were resisting. He hoped the Parish Council would be supportive of this sign as a way to reduce lorries using Bishops Road and Claverham Road.

MP Tessa Munt introduced herself as the new constituency MP and hoped she could be of assistance to the Parish Council as she was an advocate of the excellent work being done by them across the area. She was to leave cards with her contact details for Councillors.

Councillor Bryan Thomas highlighted a future agenda item regarding issues on Chestnut Park.

North Somerset Councillors' report.

NONE.

Police report

NONE.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU45/24: To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 8th July and 19th August 2024.

The minutes of the meetings held on the 8th July and 19th August 2024 were approved subject to a date correction on the July minutes as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

COU46/24: 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.

COU47/24: Finance

To authorise payments, including to note receipts and petty cash payments for August & September 2024.

The Clerk advised that there was an additional payment not included in the finance papers for the contractor B.R Day Groundworks Ltd which covered four invoices. In discussion with the contractor, the Clerk and Chairman of the Finance Committee it was agreed to withhold £900 +vat = £1,080.00 from the payment because the top surface of the internal paths and seating area was not finished due to the pending outcome of the NMA planning application. The payment was therefore £64,080.00 inc vat.

RESOLVED: To authorise payments, including to note receipts and petty cash payments for August and September 2024.

COU48/24: To consider requesting that North Somerset Council review and remark the ‘Keep Clear’ road markings at the bottom of Chescombe Road and Grassmere Road.

The Clerk advised that the road markings at both these locations had been requested a number of times over the past ten years. Firstly, through the periodic North Somerset Council Traffic Regulatory Order (TRO) consultations when Parish Councils were asked to submit suggested locations. The Parish Council made submissions and often requested remarking existing lines at the same time. The consultations lapsed around 2019 and requests were made since on the occasions complaints were received from residents and Councillors.

North Somerset Council have always declined requests and most recently it was highlighted that the markings no longer complied with North Somerset Council criteria for TRO's and road markings and therefore would not be re-instated.

Councillors discussed the problems caused by vehicles being parking in an extended row right down to the junctions with the High Street at both locations. Both were exacerbated by poor visibility of vehicles passing the parked cars when entering both roads from the High Street. The impending development at Rectory Farm and appeal for development of land at the Batch would also very significantly increase traffic along both roads and the on street parking allied to the station and therefore reconsidering the road markings was imperative. The only option open to the Parish Council was to submit a Highways Improvement Request Form.

RESOLVED: to submit a Highways Improvement Request Form for both roads at the junctions with the High Street to be assessed for TRO's or marking in a way that restricts parking up to both junctions.

COU49/24: To consider supporting a campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal.

Councillors discussed the campaign and it was considered worthy of support. Councillor Peter Lomas suggested it was also an opportunity for it to be extended to include raising consumer awareness by educating users on battery care and disposal.

RESOLVED: to write a letter of support for the campaign with the additional suggestion of an extension of the work to include a consumer education programme about the safe care and disposal of e-bike and scooter lithium batteries.

COU50/24: To approve the Annual Report 2023-24.

A draft Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. A photo of the 'Peoples Border' at Heathgate was suggested for the front cover.

RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Report 2023-24 with the 'Peoples Border' front cover.

COU51/24: To consider the recommendations from the Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee regarding EV chargers.

The Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee meeting of 22nd July 2024 had discussed an offer from a provider of EV charge points to install charge points in Glebelands car park. The Committee recommendation was by casting vote to decline the offers on the basis of the loss of parking spaces in this small essential car park facility in the village centre and that there was other more suitable locations i.e. Coop and the station car park. There was also to be EV charge points at the new Sainsbury's and there was already some at Cadbury House Hotel.

Councillors discussed the pros and cons of using Glebelands car park for the EV charge points and there were concerns raised again about the impact on the village hall and local residents of losing a number of spaces for the chargers that may be standing unused a percentage of the time. The other locations suggested had a lot more space available so the reduction in space taken by the chargers would not be so keenly noticeable.

RESOLVED: to write to the EV charger provider and decline the offer for Glebelands car park but encourage them to pursue chargers being introduced at the Coop and Yatton Station car parks.

COU52/24: To support the Strawberry Line Café and Cycle project in their pursuit of using the former Jewson's site.

The Parish Council consider the Strawberry Line Café and Cycle Project to be a wonderful facility in what it offers to young people with learning disabilities or additional needs and the wider community benefit as a whole. The project wished to extend what they can offer by creating a cycle hub providing a host of cycle activities on the disused land adjacent to the cycle project.

RESOLVED: to support the use of the land for this excellent community project.

COU53/24: To consider new proposed Stowells highway signage.

The representative from Stowells concrete had explained the reasons for wanting the signage which was also supported by PACT. Councillors discussed the locations and were happy with six out of the seven proposed locations. They discussed the sign at the junction of Bishops Road at length and were keen to ensure this sign was installed.

RESOLVED: to support six out of the seven proposed sign locations and to stress the importance of the inclusion of the sign at the junction of Bishops Road and the A370 at Cleeve.

***District Councillor Wendy Griggs arrived.

COU54/24: To consider the vat refund received for playing pitch hire.

Councillor Peter Lomas advised the Council of the background to the vat charges on the hire of playing pitches including the advice from ALCA/NALC that any refund must be returned to hirers. This advice was prior to the refund being submitted. The internal auditor didn't know of any other Councils who had attempted gaining a refund from HMRC. The Council had asked the Clerk and Finance Officer to submit a vat refund request and return any resulting funds to the hirers. The Clerk and Finance Officer had carried out this instruction and the request for a vat refund was successful. The refund was received along with the advice direct from HMRC that there was no obligation to return the refund to the hirers. Hence the Council were reconsidering this in light of this new advice.

Councillors discussed this with differing views on whether to refund or not.

RESOLVED: to return the vat refund to the football club hirers.

COU55/24: To consider a quote for installing an external electric socket on Hangstones Pavilion.

The socket was requested by Yatton Junior Football Club because they wanted to provide a pop up café on match days. It would also be of use to the school carnival and to ground staff.

RESOLVED: to approve a quote of £170.00 to provide and install a lockable outside socket.

COU56/24: To receive an update of progress with the new cemetery.

The Clerk showed Councillors pictures of the progress with the new cemetery. The stage one surfacing was completed for the driveway, car park, internal paths up to the point where it was only the final top surface required to finish them, this was pending the outcome of the planning application and a quote process for the drive and car park top surface. The first cremation row and the disabled bay were fully completed. The front gates to the site were also completed. The front boundary fencing for the cemetery area itself and the wrought iron gates will be installed around the end of September. The landscaping would be progressed this autumn and winter.

The Clerk had received no response from the planning department to a number of queries that had been made.

The timeframe for completion of all the surfacing was by February 2025 as this was when the six month window for the closure of the public right of way ended.

The Clerk highlighted that Stowells Concrete had donated thirty foundation slabs to the new cemetery project and their representative was thanked very much for his kind donation.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

COU57/24: Clerk's Report.

- i) Stowells Concrete had offered the Parish Council a visit to the company. Mr Stowell was to offer suitable dates and times.
- ii) The Clerk was on holiday for one week commencing 28th September.
- iii) The Clerk had chased the external auditor because their report had not been received. The audit had been completed in June and passed to managers to be checked.
- iv) Yatton British Legion had kindly offered to replace two of the benches in the War Memorial which were becoming quite dilapidated. The Clerk would write to thank them.

COU58/24: 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.

To consider issues at Chestnut Park including the management company performance and charges, adoption of the roads and the 20mph speed limit – November 2024.

Chairman

___/___/2024