

**Draft Minutes**  
of a Meeting of  
**Yatton Parish Council**  
**Amenities and Properties Committee**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**

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

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 8.34 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: Jonathan Edwards, Gordon Gibson, James Hooper, Graham Humphreys, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Peter Lomas, Steve Lister, Jessie McArdle, Massimo Morelli, Caroline Sheard and Bryan Thomas.

**In attendance:** Clerk and Grounds Team members Jeff Shipway and Megan Thurgur.

**MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**AAP60/25: Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies had been received from Councillor David Crossman.

**AAP61/25: 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.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**AAP62/25: Public participation.**

**NONE.**

**MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**AAP63/25: Minutes of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were approved (subject to a small correction on the attendance of the meeting) as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**AAP64/25: If the Committee wishes to exclude the public 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.**

### **AAP65/25: Parish Gardener and Grounds Team Report. Agenda item 6.**

The grounds team gave a presentation on the work they had been doing since the last meeting as follows:

- The team had planted 18 new trees and 170m of native hedging at the new cemetery. The front boundary Hornbeam hedge was due to be planted as far as possible next week. The remainder would be put in once the last section of fence was moved to the correct position. They reported that since taking over the new cemetery land and mowing began the ride on mower has done an additional 140 hours over the same period of the year before. This demonstrates well how much more work it has created.
- Remembrance Sunday had gone smoothly and the team thanked the Councillors who had helped marshal the road closure.
- The Christmas Lights display and switch on had also gone well with the battery lights used in Glebelands being extended a little this year.
- The football season was proceeding with not too many cancellations due to poor weather so far. A school marathon had taken place in the autumn.
- The team had completed and passed the exam for a play area inspection course held at Radstock. All staff had completed Fire Extinguisher training and four out of five staff completed First Aid training.
- The team have attended meetings about the new cemetery and on the Delivering Together play areas including carrying out the recent audits with the Clerk and Councillor Chris Jackson of the bins in the Parish and the two play areas that maybe passed to the Parish Council.
- The winter work on the wild flower meadows, machinery servicing and tree work in Heathgate, Rock Road and the burial ground. They highlighted the issue of motorbikes on the pitches including pictures of the damage they have done.
- The new planter at Cherry Grove was installed and planted and the team had assisted the Horticultural Society installing and filling with compost the three new large planters they had purchased for the precinct. This had been done in conjunction with the installation of the Christmas tree and was at no additional cost to the Parish Council.

The Committee thanked the Grounds Team for all their hard work which was very much appreciated.

### **AAP66/25: To receive a report from Heart Revivers Working Group and consider any matters required. Agenda item 7.**

Councillor James Hooper gave an update since the last meeting including a presentation as follows:

- In October 2024 training by St Johns Ambulance had been organised and held in Hangstones Pavilion on CPR and using a defibrillator. As a result there are now 31 residents in the Parish who are trained in these skills. The course had such a positive response another one will hopefully be held later this year.
- There are now two new public access defibrillators in the Parish at Wemberham Lane and outside the Catholic church on Claverham Road. The aim of the working group was to install the defibrillators in places where there are gaps in the recommended distances that residents should be from a public defibrillator.
- Councillor James Hooper had just found another British Heart Foundation scheme offering free defibrillators (not including install costs) but applications had to be

submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> February and an authorised location was required as part of the submission. The working group intended to pursue the phone box by 'Through the Looking Glass' in the High Street (the most likely option) and they were still aspiring to install one at the station. They were seeking permission to apply for a free defibrillator.

**RESOLVED:** that the working group via the Parish Office should apply for a free defibrillator subject to the application requirements being fulfilled.

**AAP67/25: To consider any matters required for the new cemetery.**

The final top surfacing of the car park, driveway and the internal paths had been completed in January. The major work on the project was finished but there were still quite a number of small matters outstanding. The New Cemetery working group were meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February and this would progress some of the work ahead of any decisions required being taken to the next Amenities meeting.

**AAP68/25: To consider a cleaning working group to wipe all the parish benches.**

Councillor Graham Humphreys led on this item. He noticed that the benches in Glebelands and the Village Green could do with some cleaning and as this was the case there must be others in the Parish that could also benefit from some cleaning attention. He was to clean the Glebelands/Village Green ones and he asked for volunteers amongst Councillors for this work. Councillor Jessie McArdle offered to clean the bench on the corner of Barberry Farm Road/ High St, Councillor Chris Jackson chose Horsecastle play area and Councillor Steve Lister offered (after the meeting closed) to clean Hangstones seating.

**AAP69/25: To consider weedkilling in the Parish including the streets and other specific areas that the Parish Council have been trialling the use of different types of non-glyphosate weedkiller.**

North Somerset Council (NSC) were proposing a more limited approach to weed control in 2025-26. In 2024-25 they carried out one routine street kill and the Parish Council had decided to not pay for a second one to be done as had been the case previously. NSC suggested that in 2025-26 they would not carrying out a routine street weed kill. They would add an additional road sweep and also offered the option of a spot weed kill on any places that had a significant weed problem. NSC had asked for the Parish Council's views of this approach. Councillors discussed the option being offered and thought it was a very favourable solution as an approach that reduced the use of Glyphosate and costs while still offering a level of reactive service to combat weeds becoming a significant issue to infrastructure or the street scene.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the suggested approach to the management of weeds by NSC during 2025-26 including the additional road sweep.

The Grounds Team had been trialling and monitoring the use of non-glyphosate (acetic acid) brands of weedkiller over the past two growing seasons in the very small number of places needing some weed control. These being hard surfaces like Glebelands car park and the edges of allotments plots at Mendip Road for the tenants who wished this to be done. The results over that time have been that the acetic acid is not very effective, short lived and expensive because it has very low dilution levels. It transpired that on some occasions it didn't seem effective at all and on others whilst it appeared to have killed the weed it came back quickly. The results were very much dependent on the conditions when applying being perfect both then and for the following four days to gain any reasonable result. This made finding a suitable time very constrained. The team asked the Committee to consider the use of a small

amount of Glyphosate which has high dilution on hard surfaces only and not in any play areas or at the allotments. The Committee accepted the outcomes of the trials that had been done and thanked the Grounds Team for their findings. Councillors were also well aware of initiatives undertaken across the country where Glyphosate weed control had been abandoned and weeds had taken over the streets, damaging infrastructure and Glyphosate had been reintroduced as the only way to regain control in a cost effective way. They were also aware of local initiatives using volunteers hand weeding streets but this had proved impossible to sustain the volunteers needed to make it a viable alternative.

**RESOLVED:** to allow the limited use of Glyphosate in small amounts only spot spraying on hard surfaces and not to be used in play areas or at the allotments sites.

**AAP70/25: To receive a report on any further information from the North Somerset Council Delivering Together project.**

The Delivering Together project has faltered in regard to the Public Rights of Way (PROW) element for which NSC had confirmed on the 27<sup>th</sup> January did not receive enough support for the £1,500 contribution requested. Whilst NSC had stated that the contribution was to cover non-statutory PROW work it was not stated which work within the service was non-statutory. Councillor Chris Jackson had researched the statutory duties for PROW and confirmed it was difficult to see what might be deemed non-statutory work. The lack of support was therefore likely to be due to the legality issue of the PROW service being a statutory duty NSC have to provide and a Parish Council cannot fund a statutory service that was the duty of another body to provide.

There has been no further information provided that the Parish Council had asked for prior to Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> January on the play area element of Delivering Together following the meeting with NSC officers 8<sup>th</sup> January.

The public bins was the only element of the project that was progressing well. The Clerk and Grounds Team had a meeting with NSC Waste & Cleansing Contracts Manager to look at the bin audit the Parish Council had submitted. There were a small number of changes which would be amended on the audit and once circulated would be checked as correct. This would then form the arrangements for which bins remain and how they would be emptied from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

Councillors discussed the Delivering Together project and the difficult position they had been put in by NSC in terms of precept provision 2025-26. It remains to be seen if the project moves forward within the timeframes that had been given by NSC. The Parish Council will review this position throughout 2025-26 and may consider ear-marking any unused budget for the Delivering Together project in future years.

**AAP71/25: To receive the Clerk's report. (Agenda Item 12).**

i) Yatton & Cleve United FC had asked what the Parish Council's views on a portacabin changing room was. The Clerk had advised the club that they had not taken any formal view on this and asked the Committee if they would consider this at the next meeting. The Committee agreed to this.

ii) The Clerk had received an email from Maverick Skateparks who were the installer of the existing skatepark on Hangstones. They had visited and looked at the park when it needed work to extend its life and they had provided the details of the contractor the Parish Council had used last year. They were offering a meeting to talk about the initial stages of planning and consultation which could be worked on prior to the necessary funds to do the project being

in place. It is common to work in this way with the skatepark industry as many parks are subject to National Lottery funding and having this work completed formed part of the application for funds. The Committee were interested and asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting.

iii) The Fire Safety Audit had resulted in a number of matters requiring work. They were not matters that had been raised in the last audit in 2013. The new policies required were being reviewed at Finance 10<sup>th</sup> February and the work on the building i.e. External emergency lighting on front entrance and rear of the building fire exits and two self-closers on internal fire doors had all been instructed and the work was being done (including the new fire doors instructed before the audit) this month.

iv) The Clerk asked the Committee if they wished to consider replacing a small bench outside the War Memorial that had been removed by the Grounds Team due to its poor condition. The Committee wished to consider this on a future agenda.

v) The Clerk advised that the contribution the Parish Council had made towards the repair/replacement of a fence and bench following a tree fall had not been done to date.

vi) The skip the Grounds Team thought they may need at the last meeting for North End allotments to clear plots was not needed.

vii) A review of hall and pitch fees 2025-26 was on the next agenda.

viii) The next meeting was due on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. It was suggested that this meeting was moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**AAP72/25: Future agenda items.**

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

Parish Finger Posts.

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.

Design a Yatton Parish Council flag.

To contact Claverham Village Hall to ascertain confirmation regarding the future of the May Day field.

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Chairman