

Draft Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities and Properties Committee
3rd March 2025

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

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 8.56 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards, Gordon Gibson, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Peter Lomas, Steve Lister, Caroline Sheard and Bryan Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk and Grounds Team members Jeff Shipway and Megan Thurgur and one member of the public.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP73/25: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Graham Humphreys, James Hooper and Jessie McArdle.

AAP74/25: 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

AAP75/25: Public participation.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP76/25: Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd February 2025.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AAP77/25: 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.

AAP78/25: Parish Gardener and Grounds Team Report. Agenda item 6.

The grounds team gave an update on the work they had been doing since the last meeting a month ago as follows:

- Work to the internal side of the Rock Road playing fields boundary hedge including dead tree removal and chipping.
- Repair and maintenance of the pitches.
- Servicing of tools and machinery including tractor and ride-on mower.
- Repairs to some Touchwood play equipment.
- Planted the new Hornbeam front boundary hedge at the new cemetery.
- Mulch all new hedging and cover new flower beds with weed suppressing material at new cemetery.
- On site meeting with the Christmas Lights contractor to look at the feasibility of mains supply to the lights at Christmas in Glebelands.
- Filled car park potholes
- Introduced weekly fire alarm tests since the Fire Safety Audit.

AAP79/25: To receive a report from Heart Revivers Working Group and consider any matters required. Agenda item 7.

There was no one from the Heart Revivers Working Group attending the meeting. The Clerk displayed a PowerPoint slide written by Councillor James Hooper which reported the following progress by the working group.

- Between Dec 24 and Feb 25, the British Heart Foundation were offering a limited number of free defibrillators available to community groups who could demonstrate a clear need.
- The red telephone box outside Through the Looking glass was identified as being an ideal location for a defibrillator (busy location and over 400 meters from the nearest public AED at Yatton vets).
- The owner was contacted and has granted us permission to repurpose the phone box from a mini book swap to a public AED.
- The application for the BHF free defibrillator was sent on 17th Feb. We are now waiting to hear whether the application has been successful.

AAP80/25: To consider any matters required for the new cemetery.

The New Cemetery working group held a meeting on the 5th February to look at the outstanding work ahead of any decisions required by Council/Committee. The Clerk reported that the group had discussed the work and a number of items had been actioned as follows:

- Enquiry made about the consecration of each individual plot if a family wishes, rather than the whole cemetery in which case it would mean an area of non-consecrated ground must be provided. No response to date.
- The new road front gates are a cause for concern in terms of the stability of the recycled plastic in heat i.e. they warp badly. Costs were being obtained for lifting and re-using them to close the entrance to the allotments which are open to dogs going in which is not allowed. The re-positioning will mean less direct sun and less use of the double gates which warp the most. Costs and designs for new road front gates in powder coated galvanised steel and in wrought iron were being sought.
- Costs for a scattering of ashes bed are being obtained.
- Benches, and issues with dog fouling and entrance access blocking by parked vehicles were discussed. Temporary dog fouling & keep clear signs to be installed and a dog bin purchased and installed in the vicinity of the junction of the allotments and the cemetery (not too close to property).

- The farmer had been asked to electric fence the boundary before the cows return to the adjacent field..
- BR Day had filled in the mesh with a little more stone in places and payment had been released for the surfacing.
- The potential time capsule was to be discussed with the youth club.
- There were still quite a number of items outstanding for action in due course i.e. signage/road marking, regs & fees, cycle stands, rates, disabled bay marking, plot numbering.

A number of designs of benches had been reviewed by the working group and were presented to the Committee for discussion following the working group giving their preferences. The designs, colours and costs were discussed.

RESOLVED: to purchase two Winawood Speyside three seater benches in teak. The Clerk was to research engraving the benches and options for plaques. They were to be worded Yatton Parish Council New Cemetery 2025.

AAP81/25: To receive a report on North Somerset Council Delivering Together project.

The Clerk reported that the only element of the Delivering Together project that has reached any conclusion was the re-organising of the bins. The North Somerset Council officer related to this had been very helpful and proactive including meeting the Clerk and grounds team face to face to finalise the arrangements. The meeting resulted in a small number of bins the Parish Council thought they would be taking over actually returning to North Somerset Council responsibility including Barberry Farm Road/High Street junction, outside Pullins/Yatton Newsagents and by the Fish and Chip shop. These will all be changed from open to apertured bins.

Councillor Chris Jackson reported that the Delivering Together project was no longer in existence, it was being relaunched as 'Local Devolution'.

AAP82/25: To consider the use of a portacabin changing room by Yatton & Cleeve United FC.

The Committee discussed the feasibility of using of a portacabin at Hangstones by the football club at length.

RESOLVED: that the use of a portacabin at Hangstones was approved 'in principle' subject to more details and assurances regarding size, design, connection position, utility costs, security, insurance etc.

AAP83/25: To review the hall and pitch hire fees 2025-26.

Councillor Peter Lomas provided some information on the estimated costs for running Hangstones excluding staff costs. It was estimated at £75 per day. He also advised on the charges made by other halls in the vicinity which demonstrated Hangstones charges were at a similar level. It was highlighted that it was difficult balancing costs incurred against community buildings and the level of charge that would not prompt a reduction in booking income that offsets those costs. Councillors discussed the fees which have not been increased for a long time and were held even during the energy crisis after the pandemic.

RESOLVED: to increase all fees for hall and pitch hire by 5%.

AAP84/25: To consider replacing a small bench outside the War Memorial on the High Street.

Councillors discussed whether to replace the bench and the design and colour should they decide to install a new seat.

RESOLVED: to replace the bench with a two seater 1.2m Wirksworth bench in brown.

AAP85/25: To review the Touchwood equipment on Hangstones.

The grounds team advised the Committee that the Touchwood equipment was reaching the end of its life and that one piece in particular will need to be removed in the next couple of months. The remaining piece was in rather better condition and would last at least this year. The Touchwood equipment was well used by all age groups and its wooden construction was most appropriate for the rural setting on that side of the site. It was advised that if a wooden replacement was considered it should be with metal feet into the ground to protect the longevity of the equipment.

The Committee discussed replacing the Touchwood equipment and acknowledged it was so well used by all ages.

RESOLVED: to research replacement wooden equipment for the Touchwood pieces.

AAP86/25: To consider a request for a grant from Yeo Valley Lions.

The Clerk advised the Committee that the grant was to cover the cost of hiring Hangstones for a prostate testing event for men over 40 years free of charge. The Committee were very supportive of this event.

RESOLVED: to approve the grant of £72 to cover the cost of hiring Hangstones Pavilion.

AAP87/25: To consider replacing Hangstones Hall Chairs.

The Clerk advised that the chairs were very old and had caused damage to the floor and a cut to a hirer's leg. The rubber feet had gone from some of the chair feet and replacements were difficult to source. A number of options were displayed to the Committee.

RESOLVED: to replace the hall chairs with the type from Staples in Claret for £49.97 each.

AAP88/25: To receive the Clerk's report. (Agenda Item 16).

i) The Clerk was asked to gain permission for pollard work to a TPO Ash on Hangstones and a Sycamore in the conservation area of the burial ground so the work could be carried out. The cost was £700 for the Ash and £460 for the Sycamore.

ii) The next meeting was 7th April 2025.

AAP89/25: Future agenda items.

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

Parish Finger Posts.

Bat boxes on Hangstones.

New cemetery time capsules and opening ceremony.

To create a hard surface path into Hangstones play area.

Design a Yatton Parish Council flag.

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

Chairman

____/____/2025