

**Draft Minutes  
of the Meeting of  
Yatton Parish Council  
held on  
Monday 10 March 2025**

At Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.05 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors: David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards, Gordon Gibson, Graham Humphreys, Ann Hodgson, Chris Jackson, Peter Lomas, Robert Jenner, Jessie McArdle and Caroline Sheard.

**Also in attendance:** Clerk, District Councillor Steve Bridger and prospective candidate for co-option (Agenda Item 6) to the Council Nick Adams.

\*\* Councillor David Crossman gave the sad news that former Parish Council Chairman 1974-76 Allan Attwood has passed away.

## **PRAYERS OR MOMENTS OF REFLECTION**

### **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**COU92/25: To receive apologies for absence, and to approve reasons where appropriate.** Apologies have been received from Parish Councillors Steve Humphrey, James Hooper, Steve Lister, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood and District Councillor Wendy Griggs.

**COU93/25: To receive declarations of interests by Parish Councillors and to consider any written applications for dispensations.**

NONE.

### **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**COU94/25: Public participation.**

North Somerset Councillors' Report.

District Councillor Steve Bridger gave a report as follows:

- The 20 mph signs were making an impact on speed in the village.
- The roads in Chestnut Park had now been adopted by North Somerset Council (NSC).
- He was seeking additional protections for residents who reside in properties where their green spaces are maintained by management companies. The management company for Strawberry Drive AGM may offer the management over to residents.

Councillor Peter Lomas highlighted that there had been a recent very well attended face to face consultation for the Regulation 19 Additional Sites held at Backwell. The NSC officers attending had focused information on Nailsea/Backwell when there was a representation of people from a number of other places including Wrington and Yatton etc. He stated that officers should have had information available for the whole of North Somerset when they were only offering four face to face events. District Councillor Steve Bridger suspected it was a resource issue but would feed back this comment to NSC officers. He also highlighted the reasons for the

consultation following the Government increasing housing numbers which meant all sites previously excluded have had to be reconsidered.

Councillor David Crossman questioned why the 30mph on North End Road ended at the Brick House and it should be extended to the Bridge Inn. Councillor Steve Bridger agreed that it is not satisfactory and could understand the comments regarding this but the current road safety audit had not accommodated the extension to the Bridge Inn. When the developments at Box Bush Farm and the Rugby Club come forward this will hopefully change.

Councillor Ann Hodgson raised a parking issue along the road that goes through the orchard on Moor Road which is often full of cars. She also highlighted the lack of fencing to protect the orchard and the attenuation pond. District Councillor Steve Bridger would look into this.

Councillor Chris Jackson highlighted that now the roads in Chestnut Park were adopted progress could now be made with the Highways Improvement Request Form the Parish Council had submitted for 20mpg in Chestnut Park in particular around the school. The Clerk would raise this with NSC.

#### Police Report.

NONE.

### **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

#### **COU95/25: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **COU96/25: Exclusion of public: If the Council wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, the following resolution must be passed:**

**RESOLVED:** that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 14 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business of competitive quotes.

#### **COU97/25: To consider the co-option of a new Councillor to Horsecastle ward.**

Chairman Chris Jackson highlighted that he and Vice Chairman Peter Lomas had interviewed Nick Adams on the 4<sup>th</sup> February and they were both pleased to recommend him to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED:** to co-opt Nick Adams on to the Parish Council to serve as a new Councillor for Horsecastle ward.

Councillor Nick Adams opted to make his Declaration of Acceptance of Office after the meeting had closed.

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Nick Adams as a member of the Amenities & Properties Committee and the Finance Personnel and Administration Committee.

#### **COU98/25: Finance**

The Clerk had circulated all finance papers including payments, receipts and petty cash prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to authorise payments, including to note receipts and petty cash payments for March 2025.

#### **COU99/25: To receive a report on the High Street Road Safety Improvements.**

The safety improvement work was nearing completion with just a few snagging issues outstanding on the signs, the speed cushions which were being installed this week and the final

remarking of the zebra crossings and other road markings . It was queried if all the zebra crossings were being remarked and it was confirmed that they were all being repainted along with allied road markings. A member of Speedwatch had very kindly removed all the 30mph stickers etc that were in places that were now 20mph.

**COU100/25: To consider comments on the Community Governance Review Consultation.**

A Community Governance Review was undertaken every ten to fifteen years. The last one was done in 2015 when the Parish Council requested that the Parish was de-warded and that the number of seats on the Council was increased from 15 to 18. A draft document had been prepared by Councillor Chris Jackson including all the possible ideas for changes that could be considered. Councillor Jackson stressed that these were just ideas and not his personal views. Councillors discussed them ahead of reaching the following decision on which ideas were to be submitted as the consultation response.

**RESOLVED:** to submit the request that the parish be renamed as the parish of Yatton and Claverham, that two wards were created, a Yatton ward and a Claverham ward based on the same boundaries as the neighbourhood plans. To reduce the number of Councillors from 18 to 16 as recommended by NALC with 12 serving the ward of Yatton and 4 serving the ward of Claverham.

**COU101/25: To consider comments on the West of England Rural Network ‘Listening to Rural Voices Survey.**

Councillor Chris Jackson had drafted answers to the survey questions which the Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the survey answers and apart from a small addition referencing impact on medical facilities and removing the word ‘infill’ members were satisfied with the answers to the survey.

**RESOLVED:** to submit the survey answers to the West of England Rural Network with the two minor amendments discussed.

**COU102/25: To consider any matters in relation to the new cemetery.**

The new cemetery working group had a meeting recently and discussed the concerns they had about the durability and strength of the recycled plastic gates on the road front boundary. They asked the Clerk to obtain a cost to uninstall them and re-position them to close the entrance into the allotments. This was required because now the PROW footpath is a part of the new driveway dogs can easily run into the allotments and this is not permitted. It was highlighted that whilst it was unfortunate that the gates were not as suitable as expected and this was an extra expense the new cemetery project had been delivered so much under budget to date it was more important to get this front boundary right.

The Clerk had also been asked to contact contractors and obtain designs and costs for new road boundary gates in powder coated metal and wrought iron. The design can then be chosen and competitive quotes obtained. The Clerk presented a quote for the work described above to move the recycled gates to the allotment entrance. The work would be co-ordinated with the install of the new metal front gates in due course.

**RESOLVED:** to remove and re-purpose the recycled plastic front boundary gates to be installed at the entrance to Mendip Road allotments at a cost of £1,400 - Weston Outdoor Services.

The working group also looked at designs for a Garden of Remembrance in which ashes could be interred and small plaques mounted which is a facility that is in the current burial ground. The design they liked was displayed to the meeting and a quote had been obtained for the work.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the quote of £1,200 to create the Garden of Remembrance at the new Cemetery.

The fence at the bottom of the cemetery that needed moving is being done 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**COU103/25: To consider the Action Plan 2025-26.**

A draft Action Plan 2025-26 had been reviewed and recommended for approval on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 by the Finance, Personnel and Administration Committee. The plan had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Members discussed the plan and wished to add the Heart Revivers working group and remove the new hall chairs as this had now been actioned since the Finance meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Action Plan 2025-26 including the amendments of the Heart Revivers and the hall chairs discussed.

**COU104/25: To approve the Calendar of Meetings 2025-26.**

A draft calendar had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the calendar of meeting 2025-26.

**COU105/25: To consider quotes for the Parish Council's insurance provision for 2025-28. Confidential Item.**

The Clerk had approached four insurance companies for quotes. The outcome of this process had resulted in two quotes being received and the other two companies declined to quote. Councillors Peter Lomas and Jessie McArdle had agreed to look at all the details prior to the meeting. One quote arrived too late for this to take place. However, this was the quote from the Parish Council's current provider so all the details had already been looked at previously. The Clerk had also asked about insurance for the vehicles and Cadbury Hill both of which have separate policies but the companies already used our current provider or declined to quote on Cadbury Hill because it was jointly owned with Congresbury Parish Council. Therefore these two smaller policies will be renewed with the current providers. Councillor Jessie McArdle raised the building valuations within the insurance and suggested that a re-valuation for insurance purposes be carried out to ensure they are not undervalued. The Clerk was asked to arrange this and check with the insurers that was acceptable to amend the valuations after renewal 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 if it was not possible to get valuations done before that date. The Clerk was to enquire about what the recommended period for revaluations of property were with the insurer.

**RESOLVED:** to approve instructing Clear Councils Insurance for three years to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028 at a fixed term cost of £2,525.87 per annum.

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**COU106/25: Clerk's Report.**

- i) The free prostate cancer testing event the Parish Council gave a grant to was being held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025 9.00am to 1.30 pm. The testing was for men aged 40 and over. Tests must be booked in advance.
- ii) The Clerk had submitted two applications for tree work in the conservation area at Glebelands (1 x Holly fell) and at the War Memorial (2 x Holly fell). Both applications had been approved.

iii) The Clerk advised of a meeting that had been held with a skatepark company to find out about the first steps required in working toward a new skatepark. Councillors Chris Jackson and Peter Lomas and the Clerk had attended. It had been a very positive and informative meeting which had outlined the process and stages for the project from the point of tender to the point of build.

The first step was to tender for the design of the project ahead of selecting a company to work with on bringing the project forward through the stages of planning and consultation ahead of making any bids for funding. A draft tender had been provided by the skatepark company to begin work on.

iv) An informal meeting had also been held with representatives from Yatton & Cleeve FC and with Councillors Chris Jackson, Peter Lomas and the Clerk. A representative from Somerset Football Association, Rob Allan, also attended and gave information about the grants process. Discussion was centred around security of tenure ahead of any funding applications and possible ways forward for the changing room project. However, there is still a lot of vagueness regarding finance for the project. Members had a short discussion and forming a working group was suggested as an agenda item for the next Amenities meeting.

v) The Clerk advised the Council that she had taken calls from the insurance claimant who was complaining about the Parish Council insurance company. The claimant had been asked to submit information but there had been delivery issues which the claimant concluded was not due to any fault on their part but entirely the fault of the Council's insurance company.

**COU107/25: Future agenda items.**

The new cemetery off Mendip Road.

Weight limit signs in the Parish.

Newsletter provision.

To consider other venues for some Council meetings.

High Street Improvements Report.

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Chairman

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