

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

Monday 7th April 2025

At Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting opened: 6.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 7.15 p.m.

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

Also in attendance: Clerk, District Councillors Steve Bridger and Wendy Griggs.

PRAYERS OR MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU108/25: To receive apologies for absence, and to approve reasons where appropriate.

Apologies have been received from Parish Councillors David Crossman, Ann Hodgson, Peter Lomas and Steve Humphrey.

COU109/25: To receive declarations of interests by Parish Councillors and to consider any written applications for dispensations.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COU110/25: Public participation.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU111/25: To consider a response to a letter from North Somerset Council Chief Executive Officer Jo Walker regarding Local Devolution.

Chairman Chris Jackson gave an overview of the background of the now lapsed 'Delivering Together' programme which has now been renamed 'Local Devolution'. The recent letter from the Chief Executive had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and Chairman Chris Jackson invited members put forward their thoughts on what to include in a response. Councillors chose to take each heading within the letter that was applicable to Yatton and discuss and resolve responses as follows:

1. Litter Bins

This was the only element of the former 'Delivering Together' programme that had achieved any results, and the Parish Council were happy with the arrangements that had been agreed with North Somerset Council Waste Manager John Carson.

2. Parks & Open Spaces Management and Maintenance, and Play Areas.

Yatton has two North Somerset Council play areas (at Horsecastle and at Grange Farm Road), both of which are important facilities to the Parish which the Parish Council had agreed to take over responsibility for in January 2025 and had informed NSC of this decision. Councillors considered that the time frame of twelve months to complete this asset transfer was optimistic and the NSC 'managed decline' approach was detrimental to the Parish Council in terms of the increasing costs of taking over an unmaintained asset. The Parish Council considered that this matter should be treated as a priority and as a matter of urgency, there was budget provision and the staff were ready to take over these assets.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council write to NSC and ask for the asset transfer to be prioritised with a deadline set of three months for rapid progression to take place.

3. Public Rights of Way.

North Somerset council has a statutory duty to maintain public rights of way and Councillors concluded that it was difficult to see what elements of this service could be designated as non-statutory.

Local Devolution - Phase 2.

1. Governance.

There were elements of the programme of governance for local devolution the Parish Council were not satisfied with. The Strategic Steering Group membership included a representative from ALCA who will provide a voice for all the parish councils. Such an arrangement was thought to be unworkable in practice. Firstly, it is unclear if the ALCA representation will be a Councillor or a member of staff: in light of Parish needs and requirements being so diverse across the county, it is very difficult to see how they will all be represented properly. Secondly Yatton Parish Council, as the fifth largest community in North Somerset, do not think that ALCA will represent their views well on this steering group and believe they should have direct representation on the group. If this cannot be achieved then Yatton Parish Council are not willing to move forward with the Local Devolution process.

RESOLVED: that a request be made asking for direct membership on the Strategic Steering Group and stating that if this was not granted, then Yatton Parish Council would take no further part in the process.

2. Asset Transfer.

NSC had requested that parishes make a list of transferable assets in order of priority. This had already been carried out in detail in relation to the two play areas and the open spaces around them. Councillors concluded that the Amenities & Properties Committee could make a prioritised list of any other assets that may be suitable for transfer.

RESOLVED: that the Amenities and Properties Committee create a prioritised list of assets for submission to North Somerset Council.

3. Future Parks & Open Space Maintenance.

Councillors discussed this section of the letter which concluded with the following decision:

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council do not want assistance with designing any facilities in future open spaces but were willing to discuss the maintenance regimes for any further open spaces that may come forward within the Parish.

4. Policy and Partnership Management.

The Parish Council discussed the experience they have had during the 'Delivering Together' scheme and agreed the following comments:

RESOLVED: that as the 'Local Devolution' process moves forward there will need to be better communication, information and openness. In particular, when deadlines are set by NSC these need to be realistic and adhered to. None of the deadlines were met under the 'Delivering Together' scheme.

RESOLVED: that a letter of response to North Somerset Council be drafted and submitted to include all the agreed points above.

COU112/25: To consider a letter to North Somerset Council regarding bus services and bus stops in Yatton.

District Councillor Steve Bridger had circulated a briefing to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Bus Services – The above briefing was focusing on services from September 2025 as this was the earliest that changes could be made. Chairman Chris Jackson thanked District Councillor Steve Bridger for the helpful briefing. Councillors re-iterated how unhappy they were with the inadequate bus service in the Parish and the subsequent increase in traffic as a result of such a poor service. The Parish Council wished to see a bus service in Yatton and Claverham of the same quality as other surrounding communities of Congresbury, Cleeve and Clevedon.

RESOLVED: to request that the bus service in Yatton and Claverham is improved to the same standard as other neighbouring communities as a part of the review of services process in September 2025.

Bus Stops and Shelters.

A recent site meeting had prompted a number of ideas for improvements to bus stops and shelters. Prior to the meeting it had been discovered that no improvements at all had been designated for Yatton and Claverham which was an oversight on the part of NSC.

The Parish Council were pleased to now be included in the scheme and were supportive of the suggested ideas for improvements.

RESOLVED: to confirm to North Somerset Council the Parish Council's full support for the list of ideas for improvements to bus stops and shelters in Yatton.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

COU113/25: Clerk's Report.

NONE

COU114/25: 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.

Chairman

____/____/2025