

Draft Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities and Properties Committee
7th April 2025

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

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 8.32 p.m.

Present: Councillors: David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards, Gordon Gibson, James Hooper, Graham Humphreys, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, 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

AAP90/25: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Peter Lomas.

AAP91/25: 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

AAP92/25: Public participation.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP93/25: Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd March 2025.

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

AAP94/25: 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.

AAP95/25: 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 Mendip Road verge at Rock Road playing fields.
- Servicing of tools and machinery and painting the Trimax.
- Tree work at Heathgate, removal of dead trees and chipping the waste.
- Mulch the new flower beds at the new cemetery.
- Tidying and cutting at Glebelands ahead of the Horticultural Society Spring Show.
- Small repairs to the Touchwood equipment.
- Repair the North End Allotments fence adjacent to the Strawberry Line.
- Grass cutting of all areas has commenced.
- The football season had progressed with very few cancellations this year.

There were no questions for the grounds team.

AAP96/25: To consider reduction work to the three trees on Heathgate.

This item was deferred until after the Ash trees had been assessed for disease. This will allow better budget allocation for tree work in 2025-26.

AAP97/25: To consider any matters required for the new cemetery.

There had been an issue with the cows in the field next to the new cemetery showing interest in the newly planted trees. This had resulted in a branch being broken. The Clerk and Councillor David Crossman had spoken with the farmer who was unwilling to acknowledge there was a problem. Councillor David Crossman advised the Committee of the reasons why electric fencing was not the best solution i.e. theft, not strong enough for use with cattle, recharging and continuous day to day maintenance.

The alternative solution was a post and barbed wire fence set a metre out from the cemetery boundary which would be a strong, permanent solution to prevent damage by the cattle.

RESOLVED: to instruct the erection of a post and barbed wire fence on the field side of the cemetery boundary to prevent cattle damage to the new trees and hedging. Cost £650.00.

AAP98/25: To review the hall and pitch hire fees 2025-26.

The hall and pitch hire fees were discussed at the Amenities and Properties meeting held on the 3rd March 2025. It was agreed to increase all fees by 5%. In compliance with Standing Order 7a and at the request of seven Councillors this agenda item was to be discussed again. Chairman of the Finance, Personnel and Administration Committee had circulated a revised schedule of fees which would result in a more practical and clear set of charges both for the hirers and for staff. This included making the hall fees all round figures but leaving the pitch fees at a flat 5% rise.

RESOLVED: to increase the fees as outlined within the revised fees schedule circulated and this was to come into effect from the 1st May 2025.

AAP99/25: To consider the next steps to creating a tree trail on Hangstones fields.

Councillor Graham Humphreys and Grounds Team member Megan Thurgur had done some research and designated ten trees for an initial trail on Hangstones. They had samples of three different designs of labels for the Committee to choose from. They had also found out about the creation of a QR code that could be included on the label. They were looking for support

for the costs of the labels (maximum of £100). The Committee discussed the trail and selected a label (largest design with a leaf motif). Councillor Gordon Gibson raised the question of inclusivity of sight impaired people i.e. including a tree label in Braille. Discussion ensued and it was concluded that the Committee did not want to delay this project while investigations took place into how this could be accommodated.

RESOLVED: that the tree labels and specialist fixings selected was purchased once a QR code and all information for the labels was collated.

RESOLVED: to investigate the options for creating an additional tree label for sight impaired people.

AAP100/25: To consider any weed killing at Mendip Road allotments.

**** Councillor Steve Lister declared an interest in this agenda item as he had an allotment on Mendip Road. He did not take part in discussion or vote on this item.**

The Committee discussed the previous offers to weed kill the path edges of plots at Mendip Road. This had been carried out by the grounds team for the past two years and was on the basis that it was only done on plots at the request of the tenant. The following conclusion was agreed.

RESOLVED: not to offer weed killing the path edges to allotment tenants this year.

AAP101/25: To consider forming a working group for the football changing room project.

The working group was to collate the ways in which this project can be progressed and report back to Full Council or the Amenities & Properties Committee.

RESOLVED: to approve the creation of a Football Changing Rooms working group with its members being Councillors Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner and Gordon Gibson.

AAP102/25: To consider felling three holly trees, one in Glebelands and two in the War Memorial and replacing them with higher value trees (Planning Permission has been granted).

The Grounds Team were able to fell the holly trees and it was suggested they were replaced with two Cherry trees at Glebelands and a Crab Apple or Cherry at the War Memorial.

RESOLVED: to replace the three holly trees with Cherry and Crab Apple trees.

AAP103/25: To consider a quote for repainting the render on Hangstones Pavilion.

The Clerk had received a quote for the work from a recommended contractor. The painting of the render had last been done in 2018 (Cost £480)

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Top Coat of £1,050.00 including paint (based on current paint costs).

AAP104/25: To consider the artwork for possible signs at the village entrances.

The Parish Council had been asked by North Somerset Council/Bloor Homes for ideas of artwork that could spent under S106 funds from the development at North End. The idea of

new artistic village entrance signs had been favoured. Councillor Gordon Gibson agreed to research designs for this type of artwork.

AAP105/25: To receive the Clerk's report. (Agenda Item 16).

- i) The new chairs for the hall had been delivered, however there was an ongoing issue of quite a number of damaged ones being returned. Payment would not be released until this was resolved.
- ii) The insurance valuations of the buildings had been completed today.
- iii) The Great Western Ambulance 2024 Impact Report had been received and was available for review in the office.

AAP106/25: 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