

Draft Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities and Properties Committee
16th March 2026

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

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 8.49 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Nick Adams, Jonathan Edwards, Gordon Gibson, Graham Humphreys, Chris Jackson, Peter Lomas, Jessie McArdle, Caroline Sheard and Bryan Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk, Megan Thurgur and Jeff Shipway (Parish Grounds Team) and two members of the public.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP86/26: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors David Crossman, Steve Lister and Massimo Morelli.

AAP87/26: To receive Councillors' declarations of interest 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

AAP88/26: Public participation.

One member of the public spoke as both a resident and local director of one of the management companies in Chestnut Park estate. The estate has two play areas and he wished to ask if the Parish Council would consider taking over the management of these two play areas as was recently done with the Horsecastle and Grange Farm play areas. The cost of maintenance to the residents of the estate was highlighted. A couple of initial questions were asked by Councillors regarding how the management companies were set up but as a very involved subject this was to be a future agenda item with many details and clarifications required prior to further discussion.

The second member of the public introduced himself and stated that he was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP89/26: Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th January 2026.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

AAP90/26: If the Committee wishes to exclude the public the following resolution must be passed:

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 13 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business of competitive quotes.

AAP91/26: Parish Gardener and Grounds Team Report. Agenda Item 6.

Megan Thurgur and Jeff Shipway gave an update on the progress with work since the last meeting.

The team had spent quite a lot of time pruning in the areas of Glebelands, Heathgate and Cadbury Farm Road. At Barberry Farm Road area there had been a big reduction of hedges and shrubs with everything chipped and used as for mulching the beds at Glebelands and the War Memorial gardens. They had removed holly trees from Glebelands and the War Memorial in line with the approved planning consent.

The new cemetery had been weeded and cut and it was pleasing to see all the autumn planted bulbs and new plants appearing.

They had also spent time servicing machinery and tools ready for the start of the growing and mowing season. The tractor was serviced by a professional qualified engineer.

It has been very wet for football at times with a number of cancellations.

The grounds team and Clerk explained an ongoing situation with the burial ground bins which are being misused by residents for household rubbish and they were overflowing as have been missed for emptying too. This has been reported and it was notable that this problem has only begun since going to three weekly collections of black bin waste. The green bins were also often used for nongreen waste. It was suggested that a strongly worded notice may make a difference so this was going to be tried and the Clerk would report back to Councillors.

The Committee thanked the grounds team very much for all their work.

AAP92/26: To consider a quote for a new changing room window and office window stay.

A quote for a replacement changing room window was displayed to the Committee. It was from a company that the Council had used before. The window was the last one to need replacement. The cost included a set of restricted hinges for the office window to prevent it blowing open in the summer.

RESOLVED: to approve the quote of £1,180 ex vat from Shergold Windows and Conservatories Ltd.

AAP93/26: To consider a request by the Yatton School Association for space to hold Yatton School Fireworks this year i.e. Hangstones or Rock Road.

The Clerk had advised that there was still some uncertainty if the event would go ahead because they were unable to book the company they have used for the date they want. The grounds team advised that they thought that Hangstones would be the better site and given certain parameters the event could be held there. Councillors discussed various issues including insurance, access control, adjacent animals i.e. sheep in lamb and more details were required.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council were broadly in favour and wanted to support the event being held at Hangstones subject to more details about the responsibilities involved being made available prior to a final decision. The Parish Council did not support Rock Road as a venue for the event.

AAP94/26: To consider a request by a resident to create a community garden on the open space at Grange Farm Road.

Councillors discussed the request and asked advice about the area from the grounds team. The area has about twenty trees which cover three quarters of the open space which create a heavily shaded canopy that was not conducive to growing. Councillors also felt that the Council provided growing spaces within parish i.e. the two allotment sites, the community orchard on Hangstones and other public fruit trees i.e. the orchard next to Glebelands.

RESOLVED: to decline the request for a community garden on the Grange Farm open space.

AAP95/26: To consider a request for suggestions of land that could be used as a Community Garden for disabled people.

The Clerk advised that she had spoken to the person who made the request and it was not being made to accommodate themselves. They already had a facility of this type provided at Strawberry Gardens on Chestnut Park. They simply thought that it may be something that other disabled people might enjoy. They did not know anyone themselves who might use the garden but thought organisations like the British Legion, Yeo Valley Lions and the care homes in the Parish might be able to help find out if there was any interest in the idea.

Councillors discussed the request with the staff present at the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the staff would consider the practicalities of the suggestion and possible provision at North End Allotments or another location this autumn/winter.

AAP96/26: To consider a request by the Public Rights of Way team for 'eyes on the ground' assistance with footpath issues.

The Clerk had provided background information for this request. Yatton Ramblers had been approached to ask if they could do any practical tasks like clearing gates/stiles of vegetation. They had confirmed they would not be able to carry out work of this type.

Councillors suggested that the Guides and Scouts might be willing to help put up the signs mentioned. It was highlighted that the Parish Council could not cover North Somerset Council statutory duties and that exactly what these duties were needed full clarification. The Local Devolution process was still unclear and this may open up requests that creep into what it is statutory for them to provide.

The discussion concluded that the Parish Council would gain full contact information for all the PROW team members and promote the reporting of footpath issues including photos to them on Facebook and the website. The Guides and Scouts would also be contacted regarding the placement of signage.

AAP97/26: To consider a plaque for the tree that has been donated for the Garden of Remembrance.

Councillor David Crossman had donated the tree for the Garden of Remembrance not so much for himself though he had been a Councillor since 1993 but for past family members all of whom had served the community on the Parish Council. Since the Parish Council was formed in 1895 his family had served in chairmanship alone for over fifty years and from one family this was exceptional.

RESOLVED: to allow the Crossman family to place a plaque on the stone surround of the Garden of Remembrance that was engraved with a dedication to the service the Crossman family had given to the community.

**** At this point members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.**

AAP98/26: To consider quotes for replacing the fence at Grange Farm play area. Confidential Item.

The Clerk had obtained two quotes for replacing the fence, both included costs options for wooden and metal hoop fencing. The fence would be funded from CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). Councillors discussed which option of material to opt for.

RESOLVED: to accept the quote from Eurimex for the metal hooped fencing in green (not to include the new gate option) of £3,975 ex vat.

AAP98/26: To receive the Clerk's report.

- i) The re-surfacing of the overflow car park at Hangstones was mentioned as a possible future project for consideration at budget setting.
- ii) The Clerk had received a costs for H-Bar marking the entrance on Mendip Road to discourage parking in front of the gates £386 for the size required to just go across the gate. There had been problems with parking on the kerbs either side of the pull in too so the Clerk had asked about marking those too but a reply had not yet been received.
- iii) The Clerk had asked about some S106 funds that were believed to still be available for maintenance of Horsecastle and Grange Farm play areas.
- iv) Megan Thurgur suggested a sign on the War Memorial gate to welcome residents to the garden as she believed people don't think it is open.

AAP99/26: Future agenda items.

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

Parish Finger Posts.

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.

To consider a disability and accessibility audit of Hangstones Pavilion.

Crossing to Court De Wyck School.

Chestnut Park play areas (or Full Council).

Chairman

____/____/2026