

Draft Minutes
of
Yatton Parish Council
held on
Monday 14 September 2020
Remotely via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/589050719>

Meeting opened: 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed: 9.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Edwards, Graham Humphreys, Robert Jenner, Peter Lomas, Massimo Morelli, Steve Phippen, Caroline Sheard, Bryan Thomas and Roger Wood.

Also, in attendance: Clerk, District Councillor Steve Bridger and District/Parish Councillor Wendy Griggs, Rev. Tim Scott, Parish Liaison Officer John Wilkinson and one member of the public.

Prayers were led by Rev. Tim Scott.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU123/20: To receive apologies for absence, and to approve reasons where appropriate.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Crossman, Chris Jackson, Rachel Batchelor and the local beat Police team.

COU124/20: To receive declarations of interest by Parish Councillors and to consider any written applications for dispensations.

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COU125/20: Public participation.

NONE.

North Somerset Councillor's report.

District Councillor Wendy Griggs had been continuing her work on the Ofsted Improvement Plan as a member of the Children's and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel and has had various North Somerset Council consultation briefings. Her parish work has included helping resolve some issues with Newland Homes for Claverham residents, working with Curo on a problem with a resident, school transport issues, blocked driveway problems and working with Live West on issues with the Alms houses in Yatton.

District Councillor Steve Bridger highlighted the upward trend in Coronavirus cases in North Somerset and the problems that people are experiencing in getting a test both locally and further afield. The recent letter from Royal Mail that indicated it was anticipated that parcels that were not delivered would still be able to be collected from Yatton Post Office was still not full confirmation, and the the viability of the Post Office was still in jeopardy. The Post Office owners had not received a copy of the letter. He advised that North Somerset streetlights in Yatton were due to be changed to LED and the concrete columns replaced. The pre-application had been submitted for a new medical centre and 60 new homes on Woodhill.

Parish Liaison Officer Report

Parish Liaison Officer John Wilkinson reported that the increase in Covid cases in North Somerset was being carefully monitored and that a Covid 19 Outbreak Plan was in place and under a designated outbreak management team. He also mentioned that North Somerset Council were aware of the problems with the Central Government national testing scheme. The planning of next year's budgets would be commencing shortly, it was anticipated that while there had been assistance from the Government it would not cover all the loss of income. A new Citizen's Panel was being formed of 1,000 people to look at surveys and consultations. It was to act in addition to the normal consultation process.

Police report

The Clerk read a report submitted by the Police. There had been 35 crimes in August most of which were public order offences. There had been two serious incidents involving assault, threatening with a knife and abusive language by the same individual on both occasions. He had been arrested and remanded in custody pending a Crown Court hearing.

COU126/20: To present the Vol of the Year award.

There had been three nominations for the award from Claverham School for Betty Brown, Yeo Valley Lions for Geoff Bland and Claverham Cricket Club for Jon Godden. All the nominees had done excellent work for their community groups. The winner was Geoff Bland and the award, certificate and £50 cheque were presented to him virtually by Chairman Jonathan Edwards. Geoff Bland spoke of his pleasure in receiving the award for work that he truly enjoyed giving time to. The Clerk would arrange for the delivery of the award.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

COU127/20: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2020.

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2020 were approved as a correct record and were to be signed by the Chairman when convenient to do so.

COU128/20: Exclusion of public:

If the Council wishes to exclude the public for a particular agenda item, 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.

COU129/20: Finance

To authorise payments, including to note receipts and petty cash payments for August and September 2020.

RESOLVED: To authorise payments, including to note receipts and petty cash payments for August and September 2020.

COU130/20: To consider a request from Yatton Junior Football Club to remove a covenant in the lease the Parish Council has with them that stipulates any building on the land is not permitted to sell alcoholic drinks.

A consultation of all 68 residential properties surrounding the Rock Road playing fields had been carried out and the 15 comments received (4 positive and 11 with concerns) circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Further to discussion the Parish Council highlighted their support for the Junior Football Club but considered the comments that raised concerns gave valid reasons that Councillors could appreciate and were unable to overrule.

RESOLVED: that the covenant precluding the sale of alcohol is retained.

COU131/20: To reconsider the position of the dog bin on Arnolds Way.

Three possible alternative locations had been found following a resident's complaint about the current position. The Clerk had written to nine properties closest to the new locations asking for their views. There had been one response from the property closest who had no problem about it other than to suggest the preference of location 2.

RESOLVED: to move the dog bin close to location 2 but set back from the path by around a metre.

COU132/20: To discuss the Christmas Lights display and switch on event this year.

Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid 19 pandemic the switch on event and market that took place last year will not be going ahead. The Christmas trees in Yatton and Claverham will be installed and lit as normal.

COU133/20: To consider the request to move the streetlight at the top of Ashleigh Crescent following a second round of consultation with residents.

All the consultation responses were not in favour of moving the light. The resident who made the request had asked if the request to move the light was declined could a low watt bulb and shield be installed to reduce light into the property.

RESOLVED: to not move the streetlight outside 10, Ashleigh Crescent.

RESOLVED: that a different lantern maybe installed at the expense of the resident subject to the prior approval and monitoring of the Parish Council on which contractor was used for the work and the specification of the lantern to be installed.

COU134/20: To consider variations to tenancy agreement for North End allotments – i.e. paths + chickens, fruit trees etc.

This item was deferred to allow the Clerk to carryout further work on the tenancy with Cllr Wendy Griggs.

COU135/20: To approve that Star Legal are authorised to be instructed to undertake the transaction of the land transfer of the North End Allotments from Bloor Homes to the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that Star Legal are authorised to be instructed to undertake the transaction of the land transfer of the North End Allotments from Bloor Homes to the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish Council.

COU136/20: To approve that the Clerk to the Council may act on behalf of the Parish Council with Star Legal on representations regarding the land transfer North End Allotments land transfer.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk to the Council may act on behalf of the Parish Council with Star Legal on representations regarding the land transfer North End Allotments land transfer.

COU137/20: To receive a report on the proposed new burial ground off Mendip Road.

A response had been received from North Somerset Council to the submission the parish council had made following their request for an explanation on the amount of land required now it was for a cremation only cemetery. They were satisfied with the area that had been outlined for the cemetery and were happy to proceed subject to planning consent with a 125 year lease for a peppercorn rent (not advised of). They would not commit to the area that was green space/allotments at this time as it was new and therefore had to form part of a future review of North Somerset Council land.

The working group have met to discuss the reply and a response to it. They were pleased with the proposed lease and peppercorn rent as this was a positive step to moving forward. They asked the Clerk to send the following reply (4/9/20) and asked for a response before this evening's meeting. A response had not been received.

The working group have met to discuss your proposal and are happy with the suggested lease for the land.

We do wish to pursue the other area of land for additional allotments or retention as an open space for future expansion of the cemetery and appreciate this will be done as part of your land asset review but wish that this is noted and included as a consideration in that process.

We have assumed that your mention of open space in your email was referring to the grass buffer zone at the top adjacent to the Mendip Road houses, is that correct?

Matters for Information

COU138/20: Clerk's Report.

i) Volunteer Planning Committee members were sought for looking at 2 central government planning consultations (deadline mid-October). Councillors Caroline Sheard, Steve Phippen and Jonathan Edwards were prepared to formulate comments for consideration.

ii) The Parish Council grounds staff would very much like to seed parts of the meadow area by the new community orchard with areas of wild flowers and were checking that the Council were happy for them to do this. Members were pleased to support this. Additional bulb planting was also planned at the War Memorial and Heathgate.

iii) Councillor Peter Lomas had received a complaint about dog waste bags being hung on hedges and thrown into fields along the track from the Chapel Lane dog bin towards Cadbury Hill. The Clerk was to put up signage to discourage this.

iv) Thank you letters from grant recipients Wellspring Counselling, Great Western Air Ambulance, Yatton Music Society and West of England MS Therapy had been received.

v) The Clerk was pleased to report that the external audit had come back with no matters raised

vi) Councillor Peter Lomas had joined a Carbon Footprint Working Group recently, however another government department had also set one up and were receiving funding. Therefore the one he had joined was not progressing until the possibility of combining with the funded one had been explored.

vii) Yatton United Charity Trustees Brenda Hayward and Wendy Griggs were approaching the end of their four year terms. They were both happy to continue for another four years if the Parish Council agreed. Members agreed with the re-appointment of both Trustees.

viii) A letter from Royal Mail regarding the closure of the sorting office in the Post Office had been received. It had been circulated to members. The Clerk was asked to reply in support of the Post Office as Yatton Post Office had not been sent a copy of the same letter and also to seek full confirmation that residents of Yatton would still be able to collect undelivered items from Yatton Post Office.

COU139/20: Future agenda items.

The new proposed burial ground off Mendip Road.

To consider forming a Community Resilience Working Group.

Discuss providing Hangstones Pavilion as an emergency base in the event of residents requiring a refuge including keeping a store of essential basic supplies.

Barberry Farm Road Green Space.

North End Allotments Tenancy.

Chairman

____/____/2020