

Yatton Parish Council

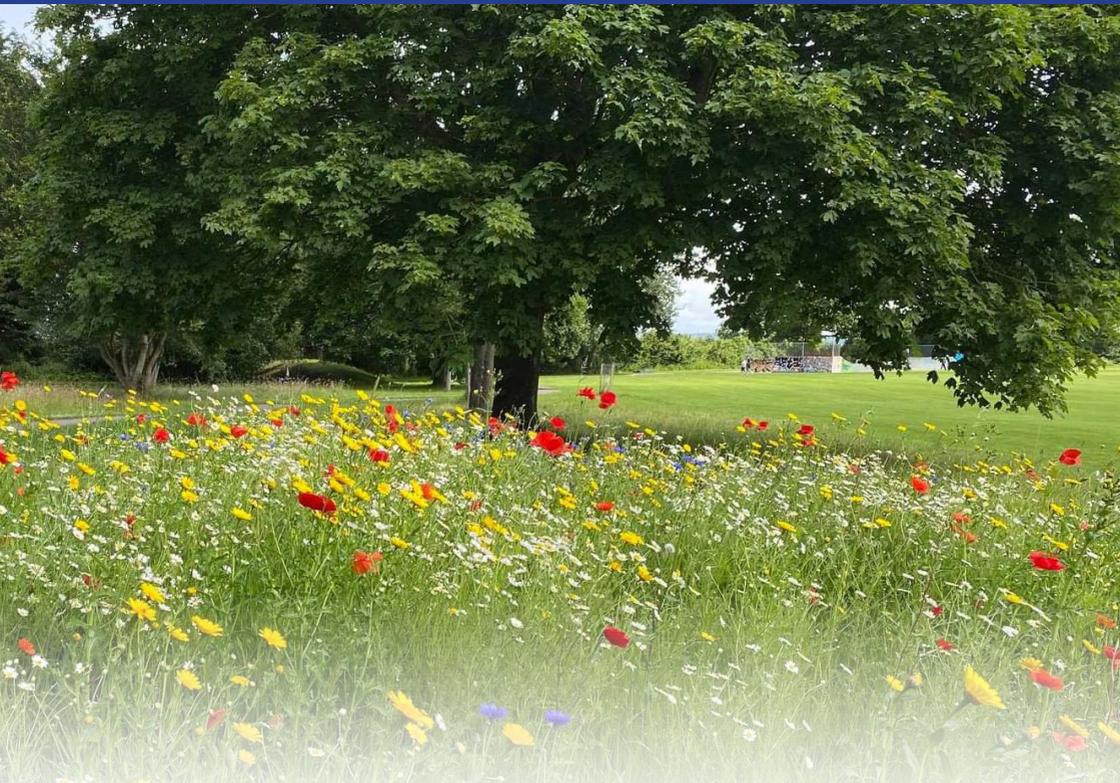
Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton, Bristol BS49 4HS

Tel: 01934 838 971 • 07484 522 349

Email: clerk@yatton-pc.gov.uk • www.yatton-pc.gov.uk

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

(approved by Yatton Parish Council on 8 November 2021)



Our mission:

To ensure the provision of high quality services in our communities of Yatton and Claverham



Chairman's overview

The year ending 31st March 2021 proved to be a challenging one for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we were not permitted to meet in person, all of our Council and Committee meetings during the year were held online using the Zoom platform. This has worked well with just a few technical problems on a handful of occasions, and members of the public have been able to participate and contribute at our online meetings with no significant difficulties.

We were pleased to welcome Jessie McArdle as a new councillor in January 2021, filling one of our 5 councillor vacancies.

Andy Warren was appointed as our new Yatton Parish Orderly, replacing Eddie Kinsey who resigned last year.

We express our thanks to John Wilkinson, our Liaison Officer from North Somerset Council for the past 3 years, who has now moved on to pastures new. We expect a new Liaison Officer to be appointed in the coming year.

During the year 2020-21 the COVID-19 pandemic caused the closure of Hangstones Pavilion on a number of occasions, even closing the outdoor facilities during the first lockdown of 2020. This had a significant impact on the letting income of the hall and the hire of its changing facilities and pitches. However this financial impact was relieved by the Parish Council gaining Government grants specifically to mitigate the loss of this income during the pandemic. The Parish Council staff worked throughout the pandemic meaning all the Council's functions and services were maintained.

Through the pandemic we have seen a large and very welcome increase in the number of people using our leisure facilities and other open spaces - our playgrounds and sportsfields, Cadbury Hill and the Strawberry Line.

Congratulations to Geoff Bland, the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2020 (delayed from 2020 due to the pandemic). Geoff has been president of the Yeo Valley Lions 3 times, and has put in exceptional time and effort in supporting Claverham Village Hall for over a decade.

Congratulations to Sarah Watts, the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2021. Sarah has been involved with the Claverham Cricket Club for many years, and since being elected Chair she has revitalised the Club, expanding the youth and girls sections and leading the way for the Club to become a welcoming village facility for all, not just those with an interest in cricket!

Some highlights from the past year:

- Our plans for alterations of the Hangstones Pavilion have been approved by NSC so the next stage is to go out to tender for the work. The planned alterations include a new entrance on the south facing wall, converting existing changing rooms into a new meeting room for staff and the community, new unisex and disabled toilets and additional storage space.
- Having formally recognised a “Climate Emergency” at its meeting in September 2020 the Parish Council continues to introduce and encourage green initiatives in our villages. We introduced new meadow areas of wildflowers and doubled our composting capacity at Hangstones, planted new hedges and introduced a new mowing style in the Glebelands Orchard, we planted three new silver birches at Rock Road and work has continued on preparation of the new allotments at Chestnut Park – we hope these will be ready by autumn 2021. We continue to make “green recommendations” when providing comments on planning applications.
- We continue to participate in meetings with our District Councillors and NSC officers to review and influence how the Section 106 money coming from the new housing developments will be used to improve our highways, footpaths and cycleways and sports and leisure facilities. In particular the plans to introduce a 20 mph speed limit and a variety of highway improvements along the High Street and to construct a safer entrance to the schools via the Co-op car park are now at an advanced stage.
- As we have an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan in place, the Parish Council receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

money imposed on new developments (compared to 15% without a Plan in place). In the year to 31 March 2021 we received a total £45,901.88 of CIL money. See the CIL reports on our website for more details.

- In the Chestnut Park development the new playgrounds and the Strawberry Line extension are now open and being well used. The Strawberry Gardens Extra Care Living development is open and the first residents have moved in, and construction of the new school is complete, the focus now is furnishing the classrooms and other internal spaces ready for the September 2021 opening. The new allotments will be handed over to the Parish Council who will administer and manage them in the same way as we do with the existing allotments off Mendip Road.
- Work is continuing towards submitting a planning application to construct a new cremated remains burial ground in the field next to the Mendip Road allotments. Negotiations are underway with North Somerset Council to lease the area.
- We installed a defibrillator in our traditional red phone box situated on Claverham High Street. This defibrillator was purchased by an anonymous donor and will be maintained by the Parish Council.
- The solar-powered speed activated warning sign on the B3133 at the entrance to the village at Frost Hill continues to provide useful data regarding the traffic volumes along our High Street. We saw a marked reduction in traffic during the pandemic, particularly during the first lockdown when the volume of traffic reduced by more than 50%!
- The X7 bus connecting Yatton with Clevedon was withdrawn in April 2019. Following negotiations with NSC and the bus companies, and after two years with no public transport connection between Yatton and Clevedon, the new service 54 was finally introduced on 1st April 2021, Monday to Sunday, every 90 minutes during daytime. This service connects Yatton and Claverham with Clevedon and Bristol Airport. But we continue to have no public transport connection with Clevedon on Sundays.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the many organisations and individuals who have provided support to our more vulnerable residents through the pandemic.

To take just two examples:

- The Lions working in co-operation with Clevedon Foodbank and Yatton Youth Club set up a local Foodbank Hub
- Romajo's Community Meals provided up to 1200 meals per week for the isolated and vulnerable people in our communities

The on-going work of the Parish Council includes looking after our green spaces, our allotments, many of our street lights, providing dog bins and financially supporting local groups through grants. We also jointly own and manage the upper parts of Cadbury Hill with Congresbury Parish Council. Under a stewardship agreement with Natural England we have been clearing areas of scrub and carrying out the selective felling of trees, to preserve the archaeology and to encourage desired fauna and flora, this also involves grazing by cattle, and sometimes sheep, on the Hill.

None of our achievements could have been accomplished without the hard work of the staff of Yatton Parish Council and my fellow Councillors, and I would like to thank them all for the work they have done over the past year. I would also like to thank our hard-working District Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Bridger for their support, and the many members of the public who have worked with the Parish Council, including members of the Yatton Horticultural Society, YACWAG, PACT, the SpeedWatch team, Yeo Valley Lions and the Yatton British Legion whose practical help and advice has been very much appreciated.

Jonathan Edwards

Chairman of Yatton Parish Council

Committee Reports

Amenities and Properties Committee

Chair: **Robert Jenner**

Vice-Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The Parish Council is responsible for a total of 103 streetlights in Yatton and Claverham. A continuing process of replacing failed sodium lamps with LED lamps continues.

The Parish is also responsible for the upkeep of 22 dog bins. The contract to empty the bins has been in place for a while and is working well. New dog bins have been installed at Wemberham Lane (sponsored by Stowell Concrete Ltd) and the Strawberry Line extension at Chestnut Park.

The Parish Council is responsible for the following public areas: Hangstones playing field and pavilion, Rock Road and Broadcroft in Claverham, the War Memorial, Glebelands, the Village green and the Orchard area. The Parish Council also maintain the burial ground, Mendip Road Allotments and the open spaces at Well Lane, Heathgate, and small areas off Barberry Farm Road and Cadbury Farm Road.

Our head Groundsperson Jeff Shipway and our assistant Groundsperson and Parish Gardener Megan Thurgur have worked throughout the pandemic with only odd periods of self-isolation and a lot of work has been done to improve Glebelands, the Orchard, Heathgate and the War Memorial area. The Parish Council would like to thank the Horticultural Society for their continued support and help to the Parish Gardener Megan. Glebelands has been returned to its original pristine state.

The existing burial ground is now almost full. Work has been undertaken to provide additional memorial spaces.

The circular path and the BMX track at Hangstones and the play equipment we have at Hangstones, Rock Road and Broadcroft continue to be very popular – with an increased use during the pandemic.

Thanks go to the Parish Orderlies in Yatton and Claverham and the Yatton Dog Walkers for their valuable work keeping the villages tidy.

The Claverham Christmas tree now has a mains power supply for the lights.

The Parish Council policy for the use of weed killer along the village roads and pavement edges remains unchanged.

Procurement of a new sign for the Hangstones Pavilion and Recreation Fields facilities has been approved and quotes are being sought.

Planning Committee

Chair: **Christopher Jackson**

Vice-Chair: **Robert Jenner**

The members of the Planning Committee continue to work in every way they can to shape the future of Yatton and Claverham in order to benefit the Parish. The Committee makes explicit recommendations to the local Planning Authority, which is North Somerset Council, to approve or refuse each application.

We held twelve meetings between April 1st 2020 and March 31st 2021, all of which were conducted remotely, using Zoom, because of COVID restrictions.

During these meetings we considered sixty-six planning applications. This is an increase of about a third on the previous year, perhaps also reflecting the influence of COVID. Of those sixty-six applications, five were subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

The Committee recommended approval for fifty-three of the sixty-one remaining applications. North Somerset Council refused three of these applications. Of the eight applications for which the Planning Committee recommended refusal, North Somerset Council approved just one. There was therefore a 93% concordance between the decisions of the Planning Committee and the Planning Authority.

The Planning Committee has resolved to make “Green Recommendations” wherever possible in their responses to applications. These are:

- For any new roof or roof refurbishment that will face between south-west and south-east, consider installing photovoltaic panels or using photovoltaic tiles in construction;
- For any alteration to gutters and downpipes, consider installing a rainwater butt;
- For any construction of new walls, try to include the highest practicable grade of thermal insulation;
- For any construction try to use materials that are sustainable, made with recycled content, easily reused or recycled, and that save energy;
- For any project involving alteration or installation of a toilet, consider using a dual-flush model;
- For any project involving paving, patios and/or driveways, consider using water-permeable materials;
- For any project, consider the feasibility of installing one or more electric vehicle charging points.

Most of this year’s applications again concerned small domestic projects such as extensions and loft and garage conversions. There have been several agricultural building applications, most of which have been supported by the committee in order to aid the local rural economy.

The largest development submitted for consideration was for up to one hundred dwellings at Rectory Farm in Yatton. The Committee recommended refusal of this application and North Somerset Council concurred.

Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee

Chair: **Peter Lomas**

Vice Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

Despite the many setbacks and difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Parish Council continued uninterrupted. This is due, in no small part, to the efforts of the Parish Council staff and I would like to record our grateful thanks to them. They are: Aleana Baird (Parish Clerk), Jill Bradbury (Finance Officer), Lucy Kehoe (Office Assistant), Jeff Shipway (Head Groundsman), Megan Thurgur (Assistant Groundsman and Parish Gardener), John Harris (Cadbury Hill Manager), Andy Warren (Yatton Orderly) and Clive Fletcher (Claverham Orderly).

The Council has given out grants during the last financial year to local organisations as follows:

● Youth Club	£25,300
● Strawberry Line Management	£1,000
● Citizens Advice Bureau	£9,740
● Yatton Junior Football Club	£1,200
● Cadbury Hill Management	£3,000
● Yatton Music Society	£300
● West of England MS Therapy Centre	£400
● Wellspring Counselling	£800
● Great Western Air Ambulance	£850
● 2nd Yatton Guides	£300
● 1st Yatton Brownies	£350

In addition, we were pleased to grant £1,000 to Romajo's who operated from the Butcher's Arms and offered free meals to the more vulnerable residents of Yatton and Claverham during lockdown.

The Committee has continued its regular review of Policies and Procedures and, in accordance with these, details of all payments over £500 may be found on our website

The Committee is also responsible for Personnel matters including recruitment of staff and their working terms and conditions.

The Parish Council continues to be a member of the Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA). This is a not-for-profit membership organisation supporting local Parish and Town Councils across Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire, to provide positive outcomes for their communities.

Statement of Accounts

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021
(External audited complete)

	2019/20	2020/21
	£	£
Balances brought forward	200,337	222,558
(+) Annual precept	215,110	221,563
(+) Total other receipts	72,378	78,239
(-) Staff costs	119,439	128,971
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments	145,828	93,289
(=) Balances carried forward	222,558	300,100
Total cash & investments	246,836	309,732
Total fixed and long term assets	1,021,934	1,023,564
Total borrowings	0	0

Parish Councillors

Claverham Ward (Claverham to Hollowmead):

Roger Wood 01934 832 182

Peter Lomas 01934 835 109

VACANCY

South Ward (Frost Hill to Chescombe Road/Well Lane):

Wendy Griggs 01934 834 143

Graham Humphreys 01934 835 469

Massimo Morelli 07745 763 010

VACANCY

VACANCY

North Ward (Chescombe Road/Well Lane to the railway line):

Jonathan Edwards – Chair 07785 352 714

Caroline Sheard 01934 832 796

Robert Jenner 01934 834 675

Jessie McArdle 07794 466 843

VACANCY

Horsecastle Ward (railway line to Kingston Bridge)

David Crossman 01934 832 154

Christopher Jackson 07879 413 423

Bryan Thomas 07715 362 601

Steve Phippen 07453 292 416

VACANCY

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor
please contact the Clerk.

Clerk: **Aleana Baird**

Yatton Parish Council

Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton Bristol BS49 4HS

01934 838 971 • 07484 522 349

Email: clerk@yatton-pc.gov.uk • www.yatton-pc.gov.uk