



Yatton Parish Council

Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

(approved by Yatton Parish Council on 15 September 2024)

Our mission:

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



Chairman's overview

The ongoing work of the Parish Council includes looking after our green spaces, our allotments, many of our streetlights, cemetery facilities, 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.

None of our achievements could have been accomplished without the dedication and 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 District Councillors Wendy Griggs and Steve Bridger for their support, as well as the many members of the public who have worked with the Parish Council, including members of many local voluntary organisations.

During the year we welcomed Nick Adams and Gordon Gibson as new Parish Councillors, representing Horsecastle Ward and South Ward, respectively. We said farewell to Councillors Robert Jenner and James Hooper. Robert Jenner was a Yatton Parish Councillor for 20 years, serving in a number of roles and most recently as Chairman of the Amenities and Properties Committee. We wish him, and James, well for the future.

Some highlights from the past year:

- Jackie Badenhorst was the winner of our Volunteer of the Year Award 2025 for her tireless work on the weekly Junior Parkrun. There had been eight nominees for the award, showing just how much voluntary work is being done in our community.
- The new cremated-remains cemetery in the field next to the allotments at Mendip Road is almost ready to take its first occupants.

- Glebelands and the Orchard area once again achieved 'outstanding' designations in the Royal Horticultural Society's 'It's Our Neighbourhood' awards.
- The alteration work on Hangstones Pavilion is nearly done. Our next project at Hangstones is to build an extension with a new changing room, improving the sports facilities so as to make them more flexible and inclusive.
- The skate ramp at Hangstones has been professionally refurbished.
- Because of the fire at Yatton School, the annual carnival and school sports day were again held at Hangstones instead and like last year were a great success.
- Despite the pressure exerted by Parish and District Councillors, the timetabled bus service through Yatton and Claverham (the X11) is still barely adequate.
- The work to create a 20mph zone, with raised table zebra crossings and speed cushions to help with compliance, has finally been completed. Whilst most drivers are observing the new speed limit, some are still too easily triggered to see it as anything other than a challenge. One hopes that an occasional visit by a mobile speed enforcement team could be fitted into the schedule.
- We have in place Neighbourhood Development Plans for both Yatton and Claverham, so the Parish Council receives 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money imposed on new developments (compared to 15% without a Neighbourhood Plan in place). In the year to 31 March 2025 we received £95,836.78 of CIL money. See the CIL reports on our website for more details.

- We continue to work with our District Councillors and North Somerset Council officers to review and influence how the Section 106 money coming from new housing developments will be used to improve our highways, footpaths and cycleways and our sports and leisure facilities.
- North Somerset Council have started to discuss a new initiative with us, whereby certain services that they currently provide would be taken over by the Parish Council. This initiative has had more names than action so far but means we anticipate taking over responsibility for the Horsecastle and Grange Farm Road play areas within the next few months. We have also become responsible for the emptying of a small number of waste bins in addition to the parish dog bins. This devolution initiative is welcome, but it is necessary to be clear that the motivation is to save money by transferring some costs to parishes and towns. It will probably be necessary to reflect these additional costs in the amount charged as a parish precept. We will, of course, continue to manage the public funds with which we are entrusted as prudently, diligently, carefully and economically as possible.

Dr Christopher Jackson

Chairman of Yatton Parish Council

Committee Reports

Amenities and Properties Committee

Chair: **Jessie McArdle**

Vice Chair: **Caroline Sheard**

The Committee's remit is to oversee and improve the facilities, open spaces, and amenities in Yatton and Claverham. We welcomed new committee member Gordon Gibson in April 2025. Robert Jenner stepped down as Chair of the Yatton Parish Council Amenities and Properties Committee in June 2025; Jessie McArdle was appointed as the new Chair. Additionally, Steve Lister stepped down as Vice Chair and was replaced by Caroline Sheard. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Robert for his hard work and leadership. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for their time and thoughtful contributions over the past year.

Parks, open spaces and play areas

Our Head Grounds Person Jeff Shipway and our Assistant Grounds Person and Parish Gardener Megan Thurgur maintain the public areas that the Parish Council are responsible for, namely:

Hangstones playing field and pavilion, Rock Road play area, Broadcroft play area in Claverham, the War Memorial, Glebelands, the village green by the church car park and the adjacent orchard area. The Parish Council also maintain both the burial ground and the new cemetery off Mendip Road, Mendip Road and North End Allotments, the open spaces at Well Lane and Heathgate and small areas off Barberry Farm Road and Cadbury Farm Road. Regular inspections and repairs have been carried out across all parish council-owned play areas, including repairs to the popular skatepark at Hangstones, ensuring they remain safe, clean, and accessible.

The Parish Council thanks the grounds team for all their achievements this year and the Parish orderlies in Yatton and Claverham for their valuable work keeping the villages clean and tidy.

Tree management: A programme of tree inspections and necessary works has been carried out throughout the year. A new chainsaw has been purchased for use by the grounds team to allow for proactive tree maintenance and reduce contractor costs

Allotments and green spaces

Allotments: Demand for allotment plots at Mendip Road and North End remains high and we continue to manage these for the benefit of the community.

Planters in Pages Court: A heartfelt thank you to Yatton and District Horticultural Society for maintaining these beautiful community planting schemes, assisted by Megan Thurgur.

Glebelands: has again been judged for the Royal Horticultural Society and Southwest in Bloom 'It's Our Neighbourhood' award. The gardens have been entered every year since 2017 and in the first year achieved a 'Thriving Award.' Since then, every year we have achieved an 'Outstanding' designation, and this is mostly down to Megan's hard work with the assistance of Jeff and Yatton Horticultural Society members.

Community buildings and facilities

Hangstones Pavilion: Ongoing maintenance has ensured the Pavilion remains a valued venue for sports clubs, community groups, and private hire. This year we welcomed 455 hall bookings, and the football pitches were home to 91 junior and 72 senior matches. The Parish Council was delighted to once again support Yatton Schools' annual sports day and host another successful school carnival. We continue to develop plans for a licence to sell alcohol for use by

hirers of the hall, including Yatton and Cleeve United football club, as well as expand our existing changing facilities to support Yatton and Cleeve football club and the wider sporting community.

Defibrillators: This year we have been pleased to support the installation of 2 additional 24-hour Public Access Defibrillators on Claverham Road and in the disused phone box on the corner of Horsecastle Close and Wemberham Crescent, which has closed some gaps in the AED coverage in both villages. Costs were funded by a combination of Yatton Parish Council and generous donations from Bell and Stenton Ltd, Petersen Associates, Watkins and Taskers Vets, Yatton Vets and Yeo Valley Lions. We would also like to thank the Friars at The Immaculate Conception, Clevedon for allowing us to install it on the boundary wall of St Antony and St Dunstan Chapel. Thanks also to the Heart Revivers working group of two councillors Graham Humphreys and James Hooper and Parish Council staff member Lucy Kehoe who worked so hard to make this happen.

Street furniture and public realm

Benches and bins: Four new litter bins have been installed at key locations around the parish to improve litter management and support community cleanliness and we continue to maintain and empty 27 dog bins in total across the Parish

Noticeboards: Parish noticeboards have been maintained and updated to ensure residents can access council information easily.

Environmental initiatives

Pollinator-friendly planting: We have expanded planting schemes that support pollinators.

Planting: 18 new trees and 170m of native hedging at the new cemetery.

Continued avoidance of herbicides, in line with the council's 2020 decision to stop using weedkiller.

Community engagement

Resident feedback: We have welcomed feedback from residents at committee meetings and through direct contact, helping to shape our priorities.

Partnership working: Collaboration with local schools, sports clubs, and volunteer groups has been invaluable this year. The Parish Council would like to thank the Horticultural Society for their continued support and help to the Parish Gardener Megan, the British Legion for their shared interest in the surroundings of the war memorial.



Looking ahead

In the coming year, the Committee will focus on:

Progressing plans for a new cemetery, final landscaping, signage, and any outstanding works before the formal opening in 2025, including installing new gates. We anticipate it will be available for use once capacity is reached in the existing burial ground next to St Mary's.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) rollout: working with North Somerset council to deploy the new SID purchased with a £5,000 Police Grant, in partnership with the Speedwatch team.

Play areas: The Parish Council has formally approved taking over the management of Grange Farm Road play space and Horsecastle play area from North Somerset council – ensuring that these community spaces will now have oversight by the Parish Council; improving maintenance and safety standards and opportunities for future enhancements tailored to the community. This move reflects the Parish Council's ongoing commitment to enhancing recreational facilities.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. The volunteer members of the Amenities Committee are committed to maintaining and improving the spaces and facilities that help to make Yatton and Claverham such wonderful places to live. We look forward to welcoming you to future meetings!

Cllr Jessie McArdle

Chair, Amenities and Properties Committee Yatton Parish Council

Planning Committee

Chair: **Steve Humphrey**

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 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.

In the last year, May 2024 to April 2025, we held ten meetings, and we considered twenty-six planning applications. This was a considerable decrease from the previous year. The Committee recommended approval for twenty of these applications, which represented 77% and again is slightly less than previous years. North Somerset Council accepted our recommendation for thirteen of these and seven were refused. Of the six applications for which the Planning Committee recommended refusal, North Somerset Council also refused six. At the time of this report North Somerset are waiting for a decision on 4 applications and 2 have been withdrawn by the applicant

There was therefore a 77% concordance between the decisions of the Planning Committee and those of the Local Planning Authority, which again was slightly down on previous years

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 to aid the local rural economy. We also considered several large applications from developers.

Cllr Steve Humphrey

Chair, Planning Committee Yatton Parish Council

Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee

Chair: **Peter Lomas**

Vice Chair: **Graham Humphreys**

The Parish Council is run by eight members of staff who all contribute to its smooth running. 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).

I, along with my fellow Councillors, would like to offer them sincere thanks.

The council is pleased to be able to help local organisations through our Grants Policy. During the fiscal year covered by this report we have awarded the following grants:

• Youth Club	£40,000
• Cadbury Hill Management	£3,500
• Claverham Village Hall	£2,000
• Yatton Junior Football Club	£1,200
• Strawberry Line Management	£1,000
• Yatton United Charities	£1,000
• Strawberry Line Café	£745
• Air Ambulance	£500
• MS Therapy	£500
• Vision North Somerset	£500
• St Peters Hospice	£500
• PACT	£498
• 1st Yatton Brownies	£350
• Yatton Music Society	£300

• Wellspring	£250
• Vine	£250
• Yeo Valley Lions	£72

In addition, our budget and all payments over £500 are reported on the Parish website. Our accounts for the year have received an unqualified audit report.

The Committee is responsible for personnel matters including recruitment of staff and their working terms and conditions. Our policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, and the latest versions are published on the website.

The Parish Council jointly owns, together with Congresbury Parish Council, part of Cadbury Hill. We contribute towards the maintenance costs, and this is shown above.

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.

We also belong to NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and have earned their Quality Award. This demonstrates that we have achieved good practices in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Quality councils go above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further.

Finally, I would like to record my sincere thanks to my Vice Chairman, fellow Councillors on the Committee and the Parish Clerk for their help and invaluable input throughout the year.

Cllr Peter Lomas

Chair, Finance, Personnel & Administration Committee Yatton Parish Council

Statement of Accounts

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025
(external audit complete)

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Balances brought forward	265,059	282,639
(+) Annual precept	257,875	285,746
(+) Total other receipts	54,446	200,013
(-) Staff costs	167,434	172,728
(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0
(-) Total other payments (re-stated)	127,307	284,904
(=) Balances carried forward	282,639	310,766
Total cash & investments	293,479	318,131
Total fixed and long-term assets	1,098,040	1,262,765
Total borrowings	0	0

Parish Councillors

(at time of publishing – September 2025)

Claverham Ward (Claverham to Hollowmead)

Roger Wood	01934 832 182
Peter Lomas – Vice Chairman	01934 835 109
VACANCY	

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

Graham Humphreys	01934 835 469
Massimo Morelli	07745 763 010
Steven Lister	07702 055 061
Gordon Gibson	07309 083 467
VACANCY	

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

Jonathan Edwards	07785 352 714
Caroline Sheard	01934 832 796
Jessie McArdle	07794 466 843
Steve Humphrey	07968 984 229
VACANCY	

Horsecastle Ward (railway line to Kingston Bridge)

David Crossman	01934 832 154
Christopher Jackson (Chairman)	07879 413 423
Bryan Thomas	07715 362 601
Ann Hodgson	07929 484 547
Nick Adams	07860 177 604

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

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