

Parish Council Chairmans Annual Report 01/04/22/ - 31/03/23

During the last year we have come out of the other side of the pandemic and have learnt to live with the virus, and I have completed my first year as Chair.

I would like to thank the PC for their support in guiding me through the year and specially to Vice chairman Andy Keys Toyer.

The PC has gone through many changes we have sadly had resignations from Cllr's Bryan Mead, Susan Gilbert, and Malcolm Hunt. Malcolm was co-opted on to the PC in 2009 and became chair in 2011 his valuable insight will be a valuable insight a great loss.

We have welcomed the following PC members, Cllr Nerrisa Northover, Cllr Johnny Counsell, Cllr Nick Garrett. We currently have 8 members.

Sadly, we have recently had the deaths of previous Parish Councillor Les Cheeseman and District Councillor Mike Lewis.

I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families of both gentlemen.

Planning

The start of the year was dominated by the work put into the Neighbourhood Plan culminating in the referendum taking place on the 8th of September 2022.

Residents voted in favour of its adoption by 336 votes to 74. It was a very positive result.

A great deal of thanks must go to all those who put so much time and effort into this project, not only the Working Group with Malcolm and Jo Witherden at the helm, but also to the many helpers who designed and put-up posters, delivered questionnaires, pamphlets, and leaflets. and of course, the longsuffering residents who had to complete several questionnaires, absorb a mountain of information, and make an informed judgment. Many thanks to all of you.

It will remain the responsibility of the PC to make sure that, during the life of the plan, all future planning applications and other proposed changes are considered in the light of the policies set out in it.

Thank you to Cllr A Rickers for taking on the ongoing work required to ensure that the NP remains fit for purpose.

The year has ended with the devastating flood across all villages with many houses flooded.

The clean up is still ongoing and I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all those who have been involved in the clearing up after the event across the whole parish. There are too many to name all individuals however I would like to mention The Newt for there support in Yarlington and The Montgomery's and Nick Fone for their support in Galhampton and North Cadbury. Thank you

One of the PC many strengths is the onsite planning meetings that take place monthly.

Within the Parish we have undertaken the following

- Yarlington – 7 onsite visits – 6 Applications approved by the PC at the time and 1 still awaiting a decision.
- Galhampton – 6 onsite visits – 5 approved by the PC and 1 still waiting a decision. This includes the work to be undertaken at the old Harvester site.
- North Cadbury – 13 onsite visits – 9 approved - 2 still awaiting a decision and 2 withdrawn.

Growth of the Newt within the Parish

The growth of the Newt within the Parish is still of concern to many residents who are in proximity to Avalon Farm, Galhampton and Yarlington. The work at Avalon Farm continues and has had a significant impact on the overall landscape of Parish changing it for ever.

Consultation is currently taking place on foreseeable works that could have an added impact to the landscape for residents both in Yarlington and Galhampton.

The Parish will continue to work together in conjunction with the Newt for the best possible outcome for all concerned.

Highways

Cllr John Rundle has continued his excellent work monitoring our local highways and trying to keep on top of the ever-increasing number of potholes that are appearing. Although I think the flood may have washed many of these away leaving even bigger issues to be dealt with. John has continued to work to increase our safety and has been instrumental in ensuring our local village roads remain safe in times of inclement icy weather with the placing of salt bins in North Cadbury. The aim is to repeat this in Galhampton.

ROW

Thank you to Sue Gilbert and Susan Fone for their continued work around the Parish in identifying and repairing our signage and ensuring we continue to have access through well maintained footpaths. Thank you to Cllr Nick Garrett for taking on the mantel of the ROW responsibility from Sue Gilbert.

No chairpersons report would be complete without a special thank you to the Parish Clerk Becky Carter for the ongoing work that she carries out behind the scenes. In essence Becky is the PC, and we could not carry on as a PC without her dedication to us.

The PC is a steadfast band of people who give their time freely to the Parish and who diligently carry out their roles many times behind the scenes. Giving up large amounts of their free time for the good of the residents. Without them we would not be able to roam our countryside safely, and we could end up like the Vicar of Dibley up to our necks in potholes.

Keeping residents informed on local matters is a priority to the PC. We aim to achieve this through social media and the PC website. Parish Cllrs also support local Village Halls through attending coffee mornings and representing the PC on Village Hall committees.

Although we cover 3 + villages we are one PC with a vested interest in all areas and as such we aim to serve all the parish equally.

As we move into a new County Council panorama with the new Unity Authority and the advent of the Local Community Networks, I foresee changes and challenges ahead for us in the coming year with different ways of working. I am sure though that as a PC will the challenges head-on and continue to support the Parishioners of North Cadbury and Yarlington.

Diane Rickers

May 2023