

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 2024
in Galhampton Village Hall, commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors Present:

Diane Rickers (Chairman)
Mareike Beyer
Chris Jose
Clare Leavold
Alan Rickers

John Rundle (Vice-Chairman)
John Counsell
Andy Keys-Toyer
Nerissa Northover
Maria Viney

In Attendance: Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse, Amanda Ware, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Supervisor for the Somerton & Wincanton Neighbourhood Team, the Clerk and twenty two members of the public.

Public Session

Wassail Fireworks. A member of the public asked if The Newt had publicised the fact that there would be fireworks at the annual Wassail. Zoe Young, Community Liaison Officer for the Newt, confirmed that the event had been advertised ‘with cannons and fireworks’ with permission granted from Somerset Council (SC).

New A359 bridge at Avalon Farm. Following a question from the member of the public, Zoe Young confirmed that there would be another 24hr closure of the A359 to place the concrete deck on the new bridge. Residents asked for more advance notice of the road closure and improved signage, to which Zoe agreed to feedback. She also reminded those present that the bridge will be made a permissive bridleway providing a safe route to connect the Macmillan way without having to walk or ride along the main road.

Wessex Internet (WI). North Cadbury residents, who had previously registered an interest with WI for superfast fibre broadband, had been informed that, as interest was significantly lower than required, it was concluded that it would not be commercially viable to go ahead with the roll out in North Cadbury. The Clerk had since approached WI to ask if it would be possible to try once again now that there was more awareness of the scheme, but to date had not received a response and would hasten.

Report from The Newt and Emily Estate

Zoe Young, The Newt’s Community Liaison Officer, gave the following report:

New A359 bridge at Avalon Farm. As discussed in public session, the road would be closed on 5th April with an additional date of 12th April if bad weather prevented completion of the work.

Stags Head Inn, Yarlington. Zoe confirmed that there was a successful meeting last night between The Newt and Yarlington residents resulting in a unanimous vote in favour of The Newt purchasing the pub with community involvement in the appointment of a suitable pub landlord/tenant.

Pound Lane, Yarlington. Zoe confirmed that The Newt would pay for the repair work to the Lane, following approval of the quote from the contractor.

Reports from Somerset Council

Cllr Hobhouse reported as follows:

River Cam Flood Working Group (WG). The final flood warning gauges had been installed. There were now eight devices along the river Cam to Bridgehampton. The 'App' to monitor the devices would be operational in approx. six weeks and was being developed in conjunction with the Met Office at Yeovilton weather station.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and Clare Field. Councillors asked Cllr Hobhouse that should planning application 21/01455/OUT for the proposed development of 81 houses on land at Ridgeway Lane, North Cadbury (Clare Field) be approved, is there anything that the PC could be doing in the background to prepare for a legal challenge and its effect on the validity of the NP? Cllr Hobhouse considered that a recent planning appeal in Wiltshire would set a precedent for other Councils with NPs as an application was passed in November 2022 but then overturned on appeal in March due to the NP. This would help support any appeal application that NC PC may need in the event the Clare Field application was approved.

Drainage A303. Following a response to a neighbouring parishes Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the Department for Transport regarding drainage from the A303, it was clear that there is no work being done to maintain the assets and probably none has been done for many years. The upgrade to the A303 in 2018, which was cleared by the EA and Flooding Team at SC, continues to overflow into drainage at Podimore.

24/32. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given.

Council to receive apologies for absence and, if appropriate, to resolve to approve the reasons given.

RESOLVED: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Nick Garrett. Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger also tendered his apologies.

24/33. Declarations of Interest.

Members to declare any interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Local Authority (Model Code of Conduct) adopted 11th May 2022.

(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: None declared.

24/34. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st February 2024.

RESOLVED: The minutes were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24/35. Parish Council Vacancy.

To consider applications received and conduct vote to fill casual vacancy on the Parish Council by co-option.

RESOLVED: There was one eligible candidate for the vacancy, Mrs M Clare Leavold. The PC voted unanimously in favour of Clare Leavold who was co-opted onto the PC and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office (DAO).

24/36. Increase in Crimes and Anti-Social Behaviour.

To discuss with Avon and Somerset Police the recent increase in crimes and anti-social behaviour/prevention measures.

Cllr Hobhouse reported that there had been an increase in crimes and anti social behaviour in Castle Cary. There was a break in at Castle Cary Pre School, which was reported but no action taken. CCTV recorded that the same gang tried to take down the CCTV, which he dealt with and reported to the police, but, again, no action taken. The same 'gang' were involved in a fight in the White Hart Pub, which was caught on CCTV and attended by the police. Initially no charges were going to be brought as no witnesses would testify, however, a witness has since come forward and three members of the gang would now be charged with assault and affray.

Residents present gave their statements as witnesses to or involved in recent incidents of assault, car damage/accidents, anti-social behaviour, dangerous driving, driving without licences and no

road tax. It was evident that the same gang and those related to members of the gang were involved in the accidents and assault in Galhampton and also break ins at the Tennis Courts, North Cadbury.

There followed a lengthy and robust discussion with PCSO Supervisor Amanda Ware. She stressed the importance of reporting anything suspicious to the police on 101, as the non-emergency number, or 999 if there was a crime in progress or attendance by the police or any service was required as a matter of urgency. If in any doubt, she recommended dialling 999 as the call would be assessed and forwarded to the appropriate service. She reiterated that the police can only take action if crimes are reported. If there is an evident increase or regularity in crimes this would, therefore, enable them to increase police patrols in the area. All incidents can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers.

RESOLVED: Cllr Hobhouse and PCSO Ware would discuss all incidents at the meeting arranged with Sgt Adam Marsden and other serving police officers.

PCSO Ware agreed for visible foot patrols to be carried out in the village and would stay behind after the meeting to speak to residents.

24/37. Planning.

a. To consider the following planning applications (PA):

i. **PA 23/02450/FUL & 23/02451/LBC.** Amended plans in relation to access to the site now being from the new access road constructed to serve the new adjoining residential development. Also, the two new windows on the southeast (gable) elevation have been omitted and the design/layout revised to include the provision of some additional roof lights in lieu of the windows removed. The positioning of the roof lights has been checked and these will not impinge upon any truss or purlin location-these elements comprising the more historic surviving parts of the roof (the rafters are modern) at Old Hunt Farm, Galhampton Hill, North Cadbury, BA22 7BA.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously to recommend **APPROVAL** if the revised plans were acceptable with the Conservation Officer.

b. Somerset Council Decisions.

i. **PA 24/00132/FUL.** Single storey rear extension to existing commercial premises (Use Class E) following removal of existing modern extensions, addition of low-profile rooflights to rear, new timber framed window to blocked up opening in north elevation, replacement of entrance door and screen at Wheelwrights, Pound Lane, Yarlington, BA9 8DG - **APPROVED.**

24/38. Finance.

a. **Balance of the Councils Bank Account & Bank reconciliation.**

To report on Council's Bank Account.

RESOLVED: The Clerk previously circulated the PC's Accounts, which were agreed.

b. **Accounts for payment:**

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure:

i. Signs Made Here – footpath signs x 57	£236.00
ii. Clerk's Allowances & Expenses Mar 24	£48.10
iii. Reading Room Hire, NC 21 Feb 24	£19.00

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

24/39. Emergency Planning and Flood Mitigation.

Update on the formation of a Community Emergency Plan and flood mitigation.

Cllrs A Rickers, Rundle and Viney reported that they met recently to discuss the formation of a Parish Emergency Plan and proposed that, initially, each Village Hall should form its own Emergency Plan to better serve the needs of each village. The individual Plans would then be bought together to form the Parish Emergency Plan.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously that the Village Halls should proceed as proposed with support and guidance from 'Somerset Prepared'.

Cllr Beyer reported as follows:

Gauges. One more yellow alert from the Corkscrew Lane gauge during the last month. The trigger levels for the two gauges in Yarlinton have been adjusted, but need to be further assessed.

Cllr Jose and his wife, who live at The Cottage, Brookhampton Farm, North Cadbury, have volunteered to be the third contact to receive the alerts and record evidence during high water levels. Anyone who would like to be notified of alerts while the app is not yet up and running can contact Cllr Beyer. More volunteers would be appreciated if possible.

Section 19. The newsletter from SC with regards to this has now finally been published. The report for the section 19 will be written up in June and any further evidence needs to be received by then.

Flood Action Group (FAG). Cllr Beyer met with Cllr Jose and his wife to discuss the forming of a FAG, which is now in progress and she would shortly contact other affected residents. Lorne Thompson from the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust is happy to support this group with technical advice about NFM (Natural Flood Mitigation), liaising with landowners and also help with securing funding.

In addition, residents were considering organising an event for the anniversary of the May floods. Cllr Beyer had recently registered as a Flood Warden and attended the Flood Cafe event in Glastonbury to network with other people campaigning for flood protection. She had also arranged a meeting with Zoe Young, re flood mitigation on land owned by Emily Estate. .

24/40. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report.

PC Representatives to provide progress reports.

RESOLVED: Cllr Rundle presented his Highways report, which can be found at Attachment 1.

The Chairman read out the following report on behalf of Cllr Garrett: "We have some advance with the Newt's new Liaison Officer, Zoe Young, over footpath issues. We are due to meet after I am back in the UK in order to discuss RoW and RoW clearing/stripping across all the Emily Estate properties, in the hope that we can fix the issue for once and all. Cllr Keys-Toyer and I both attended the SC RoW meeting online, but little came of it except being told that there is unlikely to be any money to do anything and PCs should raise money to do it all themselves, but still be aware of all liability issues and consider appropriate insurances if doing any self-help!"

Cllr Hobhouse reminded the PC that Rory Montgomery had offered his digger to help repair the damage to Ridgeway Lane once it was dry enough. He also agreed to speak to the riparian owners of the blocked ditches. Zoe Young advised that Emily Estate would carry out any maintenance necessary if issues are reported to her or Robert Askew, Village Steward.

24/41. North Cadbury and Yarlinton Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

Update from the NP Monitoring Group.

RESOLVED: Cllr A Rickers reported that of the nine projects in the NP, six are currently being worked on. Two projects are on hold; the land for the off road parking at the school and the footpath to Galhampton Country store. One project is yet to be started; 'Locally Important Buildings', which need to be identified so that they can be designated with SC.

Road Safety Improvement Plan. One of the projects relates to the speed of vehicles through the Parish. The Automated Speed Watch cameras were to form part of that project, however, the type identified were not supported by the Police. Cllr Hobhouse advised that a trial was going ahead in Brent Knoll whose PC, with the help of Avon and Somerset Police, had bought an automatic number plate recognition camera, which looks similar to speed cameras being yellow and very visible. Drivers who speed past it will get warning letters from the police. Cllr Hobhouse reminded those present that Community Speed Watch (CSW) started in Somerset and back up for CSW teams should still be provided by the police patrol bike with radar gun and as agreed when the scheme first started. The CSW no longer operated in Galhampton as it had become too dangerous with drivers threatening the volunteers and driving at them.

24/42. Local Community Networks LCNs).

Report from LCN meeting on 22 Feb 2024.

RESOLVED: Cllr Keys Toyer gave his report on the meeting, which can be found at Attachment 2. The minutes were previously circulated by the Clerk. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th April at 7.00pm in Queen Camel Memorial Hall.

24/43. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. Planning Meetings – Confirmed change of day/time to the second Wednesday of the month at 5.00pm due to British Summer Time.

b. Charity/Community Work. The PC had received an offer of a charity workday from thirty people staying at Cadbury Court in September, i.e., litter picking/gardening for a charity etc.

Action: Deferred to next meeting.

Next meetings: Yarlington Annual Parish meeting to be held on 24th April 2024 in Yarlington Village Hall and followed by the ordinary PC meeting.

Due to the meeting running for two hours, the meeting closed at 9.00pm in accordance with PC Standing Orders.

Signed

DatedChairman

DRAFT