

# North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council (PC) Meeting held in The Reading Room, North Cadbury on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020, commencing at 7.00pm

## **Councillors Present:**

Malcolm Hunt (Chairman)

Sue Gilbert

Andy Keys-Toyer

Archie Montgomery

John Rundle

Alan Bartlett (Vice Chairman)

Roger House

Bryan Mead

Alan Rickers

Katherine Vaughan

In Attendance: C.Cllr Mike Lewis, D.Cllr Kevin Messenger, the Clerk and seven members of the public.

## **Public Session**

Representatives from the Galhampton Community Fund (GCF) were present to discuss their proposal to fund the replacement of the Galhampton signage at either end of the village on the A359 and paint new road surface markings. They had discussed the proposal with Mr G Warren, Somerset County Council (SCC) Traffic Engineer, who agreed to pay for the installation as direct replacement of the existing signs. Cllr Rundle, PC Highways representative, agreed to liaise with the GCF and Mr Warren.

A representative from the North Cadbury and District Gardening Club requested an update on the status of the Parish Website. The Clerk advised that the PC would have funds available in April 2020 to proceed with re-building the Parish Website. In the meantime, if an organisation was having difficulty uploading information to the site, they could send it to the Clerk for her to try.

## **North Cadbury and Yarlington Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG)**

Cllr Keys-Toyer reported that the NPWG held numerous meeting since the last report in November 2019. They had built and fine-tuned the NP website, which went live this week. The WG were currently forming a strategy with the Chairman of the PC to challenge the reclassification of North Cadbury from ‘Rural Settlement’ to ‘Village’.

The WG were in the process of producing the NP survey, which was very different from the Community Plan. The survey was currently with Jo Witherden, Planning Consultant for ratification with the aim to print and distribute in early February 2020.

The next task would be to produce a Housing Needs Survey and to analyse the returned survey forms.

Costs incurred continued to be paid from the Locality Grant for 2019/20 with no expense incurred by the PC. Any unspent funds would be returned to Locality and the WG would then have to reapply for a grant for FY 2020/21.

Cllr Keys-Toyer hoped the PC would continue to support and encourage the WG in what it hoped to achieve and to realise the benefits to the whole joined parish of having a robust NP in place. Not only would this help shape future development, which was inevitable, but would also bring considerable funding to the Parish, by increasing the level of Community Infrastructure Levies, which can be spent on improving or increasing local amenities.

## **Reports from County and District Councillors**

District and County Councillors may give short verbal reports on matters affecting the Parish.

a. C.Cllr Lewis. Further to the discussion in public session regarding Galhampton signage, C.Cllr Lewis advised that the Parish could consider working with neighbouring parish and town councils and share vehicle activated speed signs Indication Devices (SIDs), which would be used in rotation.

C.Cllr Lewis reported that discussions were ongoing between Council and District Councils regarding the proposal for a unitary authority; if an agreement could not be reached the Government could step in and insist on a merging the Councils.

b. D.Cllr Messenger reported that there were two presentations at the recent Full Council meeting of South Somerset District Council (SSDC) from the Environment Strategy Team (EST) and Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). The EST provided a progress report and the SRA suggested that, instead of being consulted following commencement of any development, councils could request that they are consulted prior to commencement of work. D.Cllr Messenger asked if the PC had considered taking advantage of the 'Great Parish Tree Giveaway' scheme. The Clerk agreed to apply to the scheme, as the PC did not have to accept the trees if no suitable sites had been identified.

#### **20/01. 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:** None.

#### **20/02. 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) Order LO9-12 May 2018.

(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

**RESOLVED:** None.

#### **20/03. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

#### **20/04. Vacancies on the Parish Council**

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

**RESOLVED:** There was one eligible candidate for one of the vacancies, Mr B Mead, who was co-opted unanimously. Cllr B Mead took his position on the council and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office (DAO).

#### **20/05. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report.**

PC Representatives to provide progress reports.

Cllrs Rundle and Vaughan presented their reports, which can be found at Attachments 1 and 2. Cllr Vaughan also reported that Mrs Fone, Parish Paths Liaison Officer and Eve Wynn, RoW Warden, were researching funding sources to help fund and produce circular walk maps.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr R Coate, SCC Senior RoW Officer, to thank Eve Wynn, RoW Warden, for all her hard work and involvement with initiating repairs to the Parish RoW and liaising with the Mendip Ramblers. C.Cllr Lewis agreed to ascertain whether there were any grants available at SCC for the production of the walk maps.

#### **20/06. Planning.**

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

i. **PA 19/02479/FUL** and **PA 19/02480/LBC**. The carrying out of internal and external alterations and conversion of stable building into 4 units of holiday accommodation (amended from residential units) at the former stables, North Cadbury Court, Woolston

Road. (***Cllr Montgomery declared an interest in the land and left the room at 8.08pm.***) No objections had been received to the proposed change of description and use applied for, to holiday accommodation from residential units.

**RESOLVED:** The PC agreed unanimously to recommend that the application be **APPROVED.** (***Cllr Montgomery returned to the room at 8.10pm.***)

ii. **PA 19/03284/FUL** and **PA 19/03285/LBC.** The erection of a single storey glazed extension to Threshing Barn to provide enlarged hotel reception area at Shatwell House, Shatwell Lane, Yarlinton. (Pitcombe Parish with comments invited from Yarlinton Parish).

**RESOLVED:** The PC was aware of the development and agreed that it had no observations.

b. **SSDC Decisions.**

i. **PA 19/02235/OUT.** Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of 5 dwellings on land at North Town Farm, Higher North Town Lane, North Cadbury – **APPROVED.**

**20/07. Finance.**

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

The Clerk previously circulated the PC Accounts.

**RESOLVED:** The PC Accounts were received and approved.

b. **Accounts for payment**

Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure:

Jo Witherden Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd. Inv 0446 £948.36

Jo Witherden Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd. Inv 0464 £948.36

WesternWeb Ltd. Inv 21482 (publish & promote website) £636.00

WesternWeb Ltd. Inv 21487 (Add FAQ page to website) £72.00

WesternWeb Ltd. Inv 21500 (set up webmail) £36.00

Parish Online Dec 19 to Dec 20 £81.00

Parish Council Expenditure:

Wells Property Maintenance – RoW repairs £300.00

1<sup>st</sup> Images Signs – graphics for fingerpost £84.00

SALC Allotment Training 13 Nov 19 £35.00

Reading Room Hire 27 Nov 19 £14.00

Clerk's Expenses Dec 19 to Jan 20 £33.50

**RESOLVED:** Approved.

c. **To consider Budget & Precept figures for 2020/2021.**

To agree on a figure for the Precept. Proposal to increase precept from £12,500 to £13,000. The Clerk distributed and presented the draft precept for 2020/2021 with supporting notes (Attachments 3 and 4).

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed unanimously to increase the precept from £12,500 to £13,000 and increase the level of funds available for charitable donations from £400 to £650 in order to allow a more meaningful sum to be given. The Clerk agreed to ask for a copy of St Margaret's Hospice accounts.

**20/08. The Catash Inn North Cadbury**

To consider re-listing as an Asset of Community Value (expires 4 Feb 2020).

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs agreed unanimously to re-list The Catash Inn, which the Clerk would progress.

**20/09. VE Day 75 celebrations 8 – 10 May 2020**

Cllr Rickers reported that Galhampton Village Hall Committee were organising a Dinner Dance in the afternoon of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, with a live band playing music of the era and a display of memorabilia. Cllrs were advised that North Cadbury School may also be holding a Tea Dance

and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to hold a special service, at which the school children could attend.

**RESOLVED:** The Chairman agreed to liaise with representatives from the Galhampton Village Hall Committee, North Cadbury School and the PCC in order to arrange a meeting to help coordinate events.

**20/10. Items for Report and Future Business**

Cllr Keys-Toyer asked if another Cllr would like to represent the PC on the North Cadbury Allotment Association (NCAA) Committee, as an allotment holder himself, he was advised that he may have an interest. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Keys-Toyer should remain as the NCAA PC Rep as it was important to maintain communication and it was very unlikely that an occasion would arise whereby an interest would need to be declared.

**Next meeting:** Ordinary Meeting to be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 7.00pm in Galhampton Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....

## Attachment 1

# **NORTH CADBURY & YARLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **HIGHWAYS REPORT JANUARY 2020**

Since our last meeting I have had the opportunity to tour all the parish roads and lanes with John Nicholson from the highways department at South Somerset District Council and I was quite surprised how well he knew the area. Having said that it was quite apparent that resources are stretched and repairs that I would like to see dealt with in the short term are not going to happen very quickly unless there is a safety issue. I subsequently sent John the list that I circulated before the last meeting and all but one area will be not be looked at for another two to three months.

I have also been out and about on several occasions over the past few weeks and have witnessed numerous areas that are prone to flooding, particularly around Yarlinton. This was also evident when I was with John Nicholson and it appeared that one of the root causes of this was the state of the ditches - in many cases they are blocked or completely overgrown. The following photo is a prime example where the ditch, which is set back alongside the hedge, is overgrown as are the drainage points into the ditch so rainwater ends up flowing down the edge of the road and you can see the resultant erosion.



**Yarlinton**

There is now a question as to who is responsible for keeping these ditches clear. The highways department seem to indicate that it is the landowners responsibility but having had a discussion with Archie and Janet M. it would appear that it does fall to the landowner where the ditch is set back from the road ( as in the above case ) but where the ditch is right next to the road then the council should be responsible.

Archie has suggested to me that it would be very useful to have a map showing the areas prone to flooding and colour coded as to who is responsible for keeping it clear. This makes a lot of sense and something that I will look into although it may take some time - establishing who owns what could be the problem.

### **Parish Hill North Cadbury**

Another area of contention is drainage pipes under the roads which are quite clearly the councils responsibility. You will all have noticed the run off of water on Parish Hill which has been a problem for some time and Archie has cleared the drains but the recent heavy rainfall has resulted in a constant flow over the road. If this freezes it would be quite dangerous so it has been reported to SSDC and John Nicholson came back to me almost immediately with a very detailed map asking me to indicate exactly where on the hill the water was flowing - I am therefore hopeful that some action will be taken shortly.



**PARISH HILL**

### **Three Ashes Junction North Cadbury**

Most of you will be aware of the problems with this junction and the fact that an accident occurred on Boxing Day which resulted in the destruction of the signpost. Nobody seems to have witnessed this and it was not reported to the police.

Prior to this incident I had already been in touch with SSDC requesting that the chevron signs on the bend be repaired and cleaned and I was advised that this work was already in the hands of their contractors. I spoke to them again following the accident and am told it will be completed within 28 days.

As you know the signpost here is to be replaced by a new cast iron one financed by the Emily Estate and Ed White tells me that he is trying to get the delivery of this brought forward. It is perhaps a good job it was not in place as the occupants of the vehicle that crashed might have been badly injured or worse.

I am convinced that this accident and probably some of the many others that have occurred at this junction are the caused by the boy racers who use this road as a race track. I have spoken to PCSO John Winfield who tells me that the police are well aware of this - apparently there is a breakfast club that meet at Haines Museum on the first Sunday of the month, most of whom are just petrol heads who like to show off their pride and joys, Ford Mustangs etc but amongst them there are some who like to race around the 359/371/303.

In an effort to restrict this activity the police attended this months meeting together with representatives of the fire and ambulance services and next month the speed enforcement team are going to attend.

I have suggested that it might be appropriate for the speed enforcement team to have a camera situated at either Three Ashes or the Galhampton junction, near The Orchard, on occasions when this club meets and John Winfield is going to look into this.





**THREE ASHES**



**CHEVRON SIGNS**



**STOKE LANE YARLINGTON**

### **Highway Erosion in Stoke Lane Yarlington**

Some of you may have noticed that the lower part of Stoke Lane where the road surface had disintegrated and was prone to flooding has now been resurfaced and new drainage installed. A good job done here with proper concrete run offs which should prevent future flooding.

### **Other Matters**

There are numerous other areas where the metal surface is beginning to break up such as Pound Lane and Crockers Hill in Yarlington, Sandbrook Lane North Cadbury and Hearn Lane Galhampton all of which have been reported to the council but as always it is a question of priorities. They have all been marked for reassessment post April 2020 and appropriate budget allocation.

John Rundle

## **Update on Parish Hill**

Since typing the above there have been developments on the drainage problem here. You may have heard that there was an accident here on Sunday morning in which a car flipped over on its side. When I arrived the occupants ( three young ladies ) were wrapped up in blankets in the cab of a fire truck, they were badly



**CAR BADLY DAMAGED ON DRIVERS SIDE**



**BLACK ICE**

shaken but, as far as I could see, not injured. The police and a fire crew at

I spoke with Archie and he kindly put some large slow/ice notices on the hill. On Monday I contacted John Nicholson and he visited the site today and has issued an order for a jetting team to clear the blocked pipe as soon as possible.

The forecast is for warmer temperatures over the next few days and hopefully the problem will be cleared before it freezes again.



## Attachment 2

### North Cadbury and Yarlington Parish Council Rights of Way Report – January 2020

Meeting was held with Eve Wynn, Susan Phone and Katherine Vaughan on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

#### Works in Hand/Completed

Footpath reference:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| WN 19/98 | A stile has now been installed beside the locked gate. The broken stile posing a danger has been repaired. Letter of thanks to be sent to Sue Seager of Emily Estate for completing these repairs.  |
| WN19/101 | Signpost missing on A359 – as above. Currently a temporary mobile home obscures the footpath.   |
| WN19/105 | A fast track alternative to a TRO was identified by SCC and in September the landowners agreed for removable bollards to be installed. Funding was also allocated for the renovation of the surface of this route subsequent to installation of the bollards. This work was to be undertaken within 6-8 weeks but no progress has been made. KV/EW to contact SCC. It is important that this work is completed ASAP as this path is an important part of a circular walk. |
| WN19/17  | Stiles to be repaired/rebuilt. Eve Wynn met with landowner. County contractor will complete work.   |
| WN19/6   | Stile to be repaired/rebuilt – as above.  |
| WN27/32  | Large bridge to be removed/rebuilt. Eve Wynn has permission from the landowner to access the bridge from his land.  |
| WN19/96  | Waymark post needed at eastern end of 19/96 at junction with 19/81 and 19/82. Rights of Way Warden is aware.  |

#### Additional Identified Problem Areas

##### **Yarlington**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| WN31/9 & 10 | Following a successful meeting with the landowner, waymarks have been correctly positioned, inappropriate electric fences removed and EW is arrange the installation of 2 pedestrian gates to facilitate access.   |
| WN19/67     | The problem of unpleasant stagnant water and overflow onto the bridge has been addressed by Manor Farm. Also the landowner has erected a railing to prevent walkers from slipping into the brook. There just remains the application of hardcore to certain areas of the footpath. |
| WN19/78     | Access through hedge, better signing and way marking needed.   |

#### Faults to be funded by Somerset County Council 3 days at £150 per day

(All in North Cadbury)

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| WN19/60 | broken stile next to electric fence at crossing with track.  |
| WN19/84 | Stile OK. A signpost has been installed on Corkscrew Lane. Ramblers will install a handrail on the sleeper bridge. |
| WN19/88 | no access, overgrown and stile repairs required.   |
| WN19/42 | bridge repairs required (Leyland Trail) Directional signpost required.   |
| WN19/54 | Stile replaced by Ramblers.  |

There are waymark signs missing from various tracks in North Town. Contractor will replace these.

**Faults requested to be funded by North Cadbury Parish Council** 2 days at £150 per day

(All in Galhampton)

- WN19/1 (Smallway Lane east) access of lane overgrown, broken stile, no finger post
- WN19/1 southern end at junction with Frog Lane no access, overgrown, no stile or way marking
- WN19/54 bridge and stile broken and overgrown (in field boundary at west end of first section)
- WN19/43 re site finger post on Corkscrew Lane
- WN19/81 & 96& 82 finger post and way mark needed at junction of these 3 paths.

Breakdown of works to date: 3 days @ £150 per day funded by SCC. 2days at £150 per day funded by NCPC.

Suggest letter to Rob Coate (Eve Wynn's boss) on behalf of Parish Council, commending Eve for consistent and enthusiastic work on our behalf, particularly her recent efforts in organising Rambler volunteers.

Susan Fone (who generously provided lunch for the ramblers) is now able to proceed with the production of colour-coded maps and directions for circular walks. She hopes to have completed them by June. It may be possible to develop these into a booklet. EW will explore possibility of funding from Leisure Department of County Council.

## Attachment 3

NORTH CADBURY & YARLINGTON PC PROPOSED BUDGET 2020/2021						
	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Budget	2019/20 Probable	2020/21 Estimate		
<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>		
Precept	11,998.00	12500.00	12,500.00	<b>13,000.00</b>		
Interest on Bank Account	5.25	8.00	6.00	13.00		
Grants	0.00	0.00	5,296.00	0.00		
CIL	0.00	0.00	543.84	0.00		
VAT & Insurance Refunds	210.54	40.00	179.60	533.21		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12,213.79</b>	<b>12,548.00</b>	<b>18,525.44</b>	<b>13,546.21</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Salary	3,884.56	3945.00	3,945.00	3,984.45		
Honorarium Payments	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00		
Postage, Stationery, Photocopying etc	151.51	200.00	100.00	150.00		
Publications (Excalibur)	60.00	160.00	160.00	160.00		
Insurance	319.98	350.00	326.98	350.00		
Clerk's Car Expenses	173.39	200.00	120.00	150.00		
Audit/legal Fees	840.00	0.00	0.00	50.00		
Hire of Halls	133.02	150.00	220.00	220.00		
Subscriptions (SALC/CCS/CPRE)	330.34	340.00	323.10	340.00		
Website Maintenance/Revamp	53.88	600.00	0.00	500.00		
Noticeboard Repairs /De-Icing Material	340.00	350.00	350.00	110.00		
Dog Bin / Footpath Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		
PC Elections/Training	77.50	650.00	400.00	300.00		
Church clock/War Memorial	0.00	200.00	222.00	250.00		
Neighbourhood Plan	0.00	0.00	2,768.16	1,500.00		
<b>Grants</b>				<b>8,684.45</b>	*	minimum of 25%
Contingencies	46.96	1,500.00	500.00	1,500.00		of expenditure (£2,171.00)
Upkeep of churchyards - N Cadbury PCC	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00		IAW Practitioners Guide
- Yarlington PCC	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		
N Cadbury V Hall	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00		
NCVH re Playing Field	2,066.00	1,692.00	1,692.00	1,901.50		
Galhampton V Hall	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		
GVH re Playing Field	1,578.32	1,600.00	1,099.18	1,071.36		
SSCAT Bus/ Library	200.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		
Yarlington V Hall	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00		
Citizens' Advice Bureau	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00		
St Margaret's Hospice	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00		
Other S137 grants & donations	0.00	250.00	200.00	200.00		
Fingerposts / Signage	68.03	100.00	75.09	0.00		
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>12,593.49</b>	<b>15,357.00</b>	<b>15,721.51</b>	<b>15,957.31</b>		
				546.21		Less Income
				<b>4,597.28</b>		Less estimated carry over
				2,171.00		plus 25% expenditure
<b>Reserves (Carried over to next FY)</b>				<b>12,984.82</b>		<b>"= Minimum Precept"</b>
Neighbourhood Plan	3,327.84	(Incl Jan payments)				
Youth Worker/SSCAT Bus	400.00					
Fingerposts / Signage / Footpaths	1,024.91					
General Reserve	<b>4,597.28</b>	(General Reserve from Accounts to 22 Jan 20)				
<b>Total Reserves (Probable)</b>	<b>9,350.03</b>					

**NORTH CADBURY & YARLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**NOTES ON PRECEPT 2020/2021**

**1. Employment**

Pay scales are based on the local government pay scales negotiated by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. The NJC has stated that there will be no progress on negotiations until 2020 as they want time to assess the impact of the General Election. In some years gone by, the announcement has been made later than April (i.e. after the time the new pay scales start).

**2. Clerk's Expenses**

The mileage rate has been budgeted at **45p per mile** in line with SLCC and NALC Car Allowance for Local Council Clerks. In line with common practice, the Clerk will continue to receive £10 monthly as an honorarium payment to cover expenses such as phone and electricity. I have reduced my annual mileage by £50 by only posting Agendas on the parish noticeboards in line with Standing Orders, as minutes are accessible online via the parish website.

**3. Other Parochial Activities**

All the notice boards have been refurbished over the last 3 years, therefore, I have only included £110 for de-icing material, which will bring the reserve total to £300, if unused by the end of March.

£250 has been included in the budget for the servicing of the church clock; historically the PC has also paid one third of any repair work.

Fees are no longer required for external audit as the PC agreed to be an exempt authority as its income and expenditure are below £25,000, however, I have included £50 in the event we wish to employ SALC to carry out a one off internal audit.

I have included £500 for Rights of Way repairs, which will bring the reserve up to £1,000 (less approved expenditure of approx. £350 to RoW repairs in Galhampton).

The PC continues to hold £400 in reserve for the Youth Worker which has accumulated since FY 16/17, therefore, I have not included any further funding. The PC has agreed funding of £200 for the SSCAT Bus and £100 for Castle Cary Library, which will be held in the same reserve as the Youth Fund until a final decision is made.

I have included £300 for councillor training.

I have included an additional £500 for the development of a new parish website, bringing the reserve total to £1,000.00, however, I would like to discuss the possibility of the PC 'adopting' the NP website at the end of the NP exercise, if this would be feasible?

The refurbishment of the parish fingerposts is nearing the end, with only a few posts to go, thanks to Andy, John and their team, therefore, I have not included any additional funding, which will leave the reserve for Highway signage/fingerposts at £1,025.00.

Last year we increased the contingency from £1,000 to £1,500 and put aside £500 in the event any legal fees are required; I have maintained the level of contingency at £1,500. I do not anticipate the need for legal fees in FY 20/21 other than those paid through the NP reserve.

The Neighbourhood Plan WG will reapply for additional grants for the next FY and anticipate that the NP will be cost neutral to the PC, however, it would be advisable for the PC to hold £2,000 in reserve as a 'float'. The PC recently received funds of £543.84 from community infrastructure levies (CIL), which can legitimately be used towards the production of a NP, therefore, I have included £1,500 in the precept.

**4. Churchyard grants**

The system for paying churchyard grants was reviewed in 2018 when the PC agreed to increase the grants to £1,200, from £1,000 for N Cadbury PCC and to £500 from £350 for Yarlington PCC, fixed for three years and will be reviewed in January 2021.

**5. Hall grants and Village Halls Refurbishment (VHR) Reserve**

Galhampton VH Committee were granted the remaining £5,500 from the VHR fund in February 2018, following which the PC agreed to close the VHR as all Halls were recently refurbished and no additional grants were foreseen. The PC, therefore, agreed to increase the routine maintenance grants to £150, £100 and £50 for North Cadbury, Galhampton and Yarlington respectively.

**6. Playing Field grants**

Both treasurers have submitted their estimate/expenditure for grass cutting and playing field maintenance which is included.

**7. Charitable donations**

In previous years, an allocation of £250 has been included for locally orientated charities/organisations and £150 for South Somerset CAB. I propose that the PC considers increasing the S137 grants to a total of £500 from £400, this would allow a more meaningful sum be given, for instance, to St Margaret's Hospice.

**8. Precept and General Reserve**

The estimated General Reserve at 31/03/20 is £4,597.28. The minimum reserve recommended is 25% of annual expenditure i.e., c£2,200.

**In January 2017, the PC agreed to a staged increase in the precept by £500 to £11,500 in 2017/18, an additional £500 in 2018/19 to £12,000 and £500 last year to £12,500. I propose that the PC increases the precept by a further £500 for FY 20/21 to £13,000, which equates to an increase of approx. £1.07 per household per annum, the equivalent of 4.28%.**

**There are hopefully ample provisions in the 2020/21 budget (including a £1,500 contingency and more than adequate General Reserve). It is considered unlikely that the Council will be under real financial pressure during this period.**

*RCarter*

Becky Carter  
Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2020