

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Carter, Portman House, North Barrow, Somerset, BA22 7LZ
Tel: 01963 240226

e-mail: parishclerk@northcadbury.org.uk

<http://www.northcadbury.org.uk>

“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 7.00pm
in Galhampton Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Diane Rickers (Chairman)
Mareike Beyer
Nick Garrett
Andy Keys-Toyer
Maria Viney

John Rundle (Vice-Chairman)
John Counsell
Chris Jose
Alan Rickers

In Attendance: Somerset Councillors Henry Hobhouse and Kevin Messenger, the Clerk and seventeen members of the public.

Public Session

No comments.

Report from The Newt and Emily Estate

Apologies received from Mr P Rawson.

Report from Black Eight Community Group

Mr J Brooker read out the report on behalf of the Group with regard to opposition to the proposed Yarlington Manor Farm Development (attachment 1).

Reports from Somerset Council

Cllr Hobhouse reported as follows:

21/01455/OUT Outline application for up to 81 houses and access road etc. on land at Ridgeway Lane, North Cadbury. Cllr Hobhouse had recently spoken to David Kenyon (Specialist) Case Officer, who is minded to refuse the application.

Rights of Way (RoW) Repairs. Rory Montgomery is willing to lend a digger over a weekend to help restore the surface of bridleway WN19/105, which was badly damaged by 4x4 drivers/contractors. This would need to wait until the weather turned colder/drier.

Flooding – River Cam. There was flooding today at the bottom of the River Cam. He would speak with regards to setting up a River Cam Flood Warning Scheme later in the meeting at item 23/155.

Somerset Council (SC) Finance. The Audit Committee met this week. The Section 151 Officer warned that SC may end up in a Section 114 situation in February 2024. This would mean that all non-statutory expenditure, such as funding for Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Local Community Networks (LCNs) would no longer be provided if a s114 notice was issued. He agreed that it would be advisable for the PC to increase its precept to help fund such organisations and other non-statutory expenditure.

Cllr Messenger reported as follows:

Councillor Dixie Darch, Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change had sent a letter of concern to MP Graham Stewart about net zero and the effects on Somerset.

Recycling. 100% plastics stayed in UK for recycling.

23/149. 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 received.

23/150. 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.

23/151. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2023.

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

23/152. Parish Council Vacancies.

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

RESOLVED: No applications received. The Clerk would continue to advertise the Yarlinton vacancy.

23/153. Planning.

- a. Somerset Council Decisions. None received.

23/154. 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. North Cadbury Playing Field Maintenance Grant	£1,614.00
ii. North Cadbury Village Hall Hire 27 Sep 23	£19.00
iii. SALC Affiliation Fee Apr 23 to Mar 24	£322.45
iv. SALC Training Inv 2806	£50.00
v. Grant – Citizens Advice Somerset	£150.00
vi. Clerk – printer ink	£33.92
vii. WesternWeb Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan domain 2 yrs	£126.00

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously. The PC would consider an additional grant to CAB Somerset at the end of the FY. The PC would start the wind down of the Neighbourhood Plan Website over the next year and transfer the data to the PC website.

23/155. Flash Flooding Events 9 May 2023

Update/reports and to discuss the formation of a River Cam Flood Warning Group (WG).

Cllr Beyer reported on the Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Event held on 5th October and on a meeting in Shepton Montague with Gareth Varney (EA) and Paul Elliston (SRA/Civil Contingency) which followed up from the telemetry workshop at the Somerset Prepared event. She gave the following recommendations:

- Create an Emergency Plan
- Designate and ensure awareness of 'Safe Places', such as village halls
- Be able to identify 'vulnerable' members of the public
- Full funding for two River Level Monitoring Gauges for telemetry and alerts as early warning systems, including all extras and maintenance, is available through the pilot project run by the Environment Agency (EA) and Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), for

installation in Yarlington and North Cadbury in the current financial year. Two designated points of contact to receive alerts.

- Invited to a meeting in Shepton Montague with Gareth Varney (EA) and Paul Elliston (SRA/Civil Contingency) following up from the telemetry workshop at the Somerset Prepared event.

Cllr Hobhouse reported that he had asked all affected parishes to include the formation of a River Cam Flood WG on each council's agenda. The aim is to develop a warning system that will give time for people in the villages to initiate flood defences. Grants were available for the purchase of the laser gauges, but not for the full amount. Each gauge would cost approx. £1,500 to include the gauge, solar panel and connection to the 'cloud'. Cllr Hobhouse's son was willing to set up the system at no charge to collate all alerts within the River Cam area. Martin Lilley, a resident who had written Queen Camel's Flood Plan, had offered to write Flood Warning Plans and Flood Warning Systems with members of the other PCs.

At the end of November, following his attendance at all affected parishes meetings, Cllr Hobhouse would call a meeting to discuss the scheme with two representatives from each parish. Cllrs Beyer and Viney agreed to be the POCs for North Cadbury and Yarlington.

Cllr A Rickers advised that the Gov.Uk website had a flood warning system <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings>. There were also a variety of free Apps.

Cllr Beyer contacted Tim Cook to request information about the Section 19 report. She was told that the SC flooding team who deals with the Section 19 is currently compiling a newsletter which will be widely circulated and should also be sent to anyone registered with SC as affected by the floods.

Cllr Viney reported on the Yeovil Rivers Community Trust (YRCT) meeting. They were approaching landowners to advise them of grants available from the Government to put remedial measures in place and look at other options to help mitigate flooding. Emily Estate were in support of this and were already reviewing and implementing flood mitigation measures.

Cllr Rundle reported on the £1,000 grant offered from the Somerset Freemasons to be administered by the Church for those who were in need following the flooding event. He would liaise with the churchwarden as to the fairest and most appropriate way to allocate the funds. There was also the possibility of an additional grant from the Freemasons.

23/156. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report.

PC Representatives to provide progress reports.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Rundle and Garrett presented their reports, which can be found at Attachments 2 and 3. Cllr Counsell volunteered to attend the Brushcutters/Trimmers Refresher training and assessment course to assist Tim Gilbert, Parish Strimmer, to maintain and keep the parishes RoW open.

23/157. North Cadbury and Yarlington Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

Update from the NP Monitoring Group.

RESOLVED: Cllr Rickers reported that there were no planning applications (PA) at the moment, however, he confirmed that all PAs are reviewed against the NP at every on-site planning meeting and developers should respect the policies within the NP.

23/158. Local Community Networks LCNs)

To report on LCN meeting 4 Oct 23 confirm attendee at the next LCN meetings on 6 Dec 23 and 22 Feb 24.

The Chairman and Cllrs Keys-Toyer attended the meeting in person and Cllr Beyer attended online. The event was well attended and the main topics of discussion were Transport, Footpaths and Flooding. One proposal was to fund a 'Lengthsman' to maintain RoW in good order. Cllr Keys-Toyer agreed to be the representative on the LCN Working Group (WG) for RoW and Cllr Beyer agreed to be the rep. on the LCN Flood WG. The Chairman participated in

the WG for Transport in which the Police Community Support Officer was involved and discussed matters such as speed indicator devices (SIDs).

The recruitment of a Youth Work Team Leader (South East Somerset) was also discussed; details of which can be found via the following link including volunteering possibilities:

[https://www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk/jobs/youth-work-team-leader-\(south-east-somerset\)](https://www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk/jobs/youth-work-team-leader-(south-east-somerset))

The information was also available via Castle Cary Town Council's website.

23/159. Galhampton Community Speed Watch (CSW) Report

Proposal from Galhampton CSW to purchase two 'AutoSpeedWatch' cameras to be mounted within the 40mph speed restriction on the A359 pending approval from Somerset Highways.

RESOLVED: Cllr A Rickers presented the proposal on behalf of Galhampton residents. The devices would be purchased with funds raised by the community, grants and local businesses. Cllr Rundle was liaising with Somerset Highways regarding authorised locations. The proposal was supported unanimously by the PC who also wished to record its thanks to the CSW volunteers.

23/160. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. Fingerposts. Cllr Keys Toyer reported that the historic fingerposts in the parish needed cleaning and asked for volunteers willing to help to contact him or Cllr Rundle.

b. Yarlington. Cllr Viney reported that a number of residents who recently ordered new carpets to replace those damaged by the floods, through Cullingford Carpets, Wincanton, have been told that the company had gone into receivership.

BT were continuing to move all its customers from the old analogue public switched telephone network (PSTN) to a fully digital network and plan to have moved everyone over before Openreach stop the PSTN (and ISDN) service in 2025. Several residents had expressed their concerns as not all households had broadband internet. Cllr Viney asked how communities and the PC could help the elderly with the switch over.

c. The Newt/Emily Estate. Cllr A Rickers reported on the Shepton Montague (SM) PC meeting held on 10th October 2023, which he attended with the Chairman and Cllr Viney and at which the Newt's PA to develop Lily Farm, Cattle Lane, SM to provide nine units of short term holiday accommodation was on the agenda for consideration. Councillors from SM PC were also present at tonight's meeting and spoke regarding the growing feeling of dissent towards the Newt's 'planning creep'. It was suggested that the affected PC's form a sub group to collate information and monitor the Newt's plans in the area in order to speak as 'One Voice', which was agreed. People were encouraged to write to Sarah Dyke as the Local MP and take photographic evidence. There then followed a full discussion on what would happen to the land and buildings owned by the Newt if Mr Bekker was no longer owner and properties/land no longer required for tourism, e.g. the 'Roman Villa'. It was, therefore, suggested that there should be restrictive covenants on the property/land. It was also proposed that the large number of tracks that the Newt had constructed throughout its entire Estate to transport guests to and from facilities and accommodation amounted to a large amount of land that would add to surface run off and reduce any soakaway, especially when considering the recent flood events and continued high volumes of rain.

d. On Site Planning Meetings. It was agreed to hold on site planning meetings on the second Monday of the month, commencing at 2pm due to the end of Daylight Saving Time.

There being nothing further to report the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Next meeting: to be held on 22nd November 2023 in The Reading Room, North Cadbury

Signed

DatedChairman