

# 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](mailto:parishclerk@northcadbury.org.uk)

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

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## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

held on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024** in

The Reading Room, North Cadbury commencing at 7.00pm

### Councillors Present:

Diane Rickers (Chairman)

Mareike Beyer

Chris Jose

Nerissa Northover

Andy Keys-Toyer

Johnnie Counsell (Vice-Chairman)

Nick Garrett

Clare Leavold

Alan Rickers

**In Attendance:** The Clerk and two members of the public.

- ❖ **Public Question and Comments:** A member of the public had questions regarding the planning application at Manor Farm, Pound Lane, Yarlington. There was nothing further to report as the PC was awaiting revised plans.
- ❖ **Report from The Newt and Emily Estate:** Zoe Young, Community Liaison Officer, tendered her apologies.  
Cllr Leavold gave a brief report on the recent community meeting with The Newt.
  - Purchase of Stags Head Inn was progressing
  - Date for completion of trout pond possibly 24<sup>th</sup> November?
  - Road closure for 3-5hrs for an electric cable to be laid and to allow access to remove a crane.
- ❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:** None present.

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### 24/124. Apologies for absence:

To receive any apologies for absence.

**RESOLVED:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Maria Viney.

### 24/125. Declarations of Interests:

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any Pecuniary or Other interests they may have under the Localism Act 2011 and NALC Model Code of Conduct adopted May 2022. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

**RESOLVED:** None declared.

### 24/126. Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the ordinary PC meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September and on site planning meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

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

### **24/127. Parish Council Vacancy:**

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

**RESOLVED:** No applications received. The Clerk would continue to advertise the North Cadbury vacancy.

### **24/128. Planning:**

#### **a. Somerset Council Decisions.**

i. **PA 24/01741/HOU.** Erection of single storey side extension at Three Ashes Cottage, Galhampton Road, North Cadbury, BA22 7BU– **APPROVED.**

ii. **PA 24/01696/HOU.** Proposed Veranda to the front elevation, and a single storey side and rear extension at Chanters, High Street, North Cadbury, BA22 7DP– **APPROVED.**

#### **b. Planning Meetings.** To confirm frequency and dates of on site planning meetings.

**RESOLVED:** Planning meetings to be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month to coincide with the same day as ordinary parish council meetings. The exceptions would be for November and December on site meetings, which would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The Chairman asked for councillors to confirm their availability at the meetings and stressed the importance of attendance at planning meetings as they were official parish council meetings. Cllr Beyer gave her apologies for on site planning meetings due to ongoing difficult personal circumstances and work overload expected for the near future, however, she would continue to be fully committed to being engaged with flood related issues and flood emergency planning.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman again wished to stress the importance of attendance at planning meetings and for attendance to be equitable across the council. Cllr Beyer stated that she was aware of this and gave a more detailed explanation for her apology but did not wish to elaborate further. Cllr Northover asked if she would be willing to attend if necessary to form a quorum, to which she stated that she would continue to be happy to be contacted as back-up and would attend if possible. Cllr Jose stated that this would be a rare occurrence as there was generally good attendance at planning meetings.

The Chairman stated that Cllr Beyer's expertise on flood risk was required at planning meetings, however, Cllr Beyer explained that she had no knowledge or expertise regarding how developments could affect the risk of flooding but she could find the relevant contacts who may be able to advise on this, which drew further comment.

Cllr Beyer asked for her explanation to be respected and requested that there would be no further discussion as she felt uncomfortable to be put under pressure. Following a robust and emotive discussion and in order to draw the issue to a conclusion the Clerk suggested that there be a show of hands to ensure that all councillors were given the opportunity to refuse/accept Cllr Beyer's apologies, which was not disputed and Cllr Beyer's apologies for attendance at on site planning meetings were approved by a majority.

### **24/129. Finance:**

#### **a. **Balance of the Council's Bank Account & Bank reconciliation:****

To receive the full council accounts and bank reconciliation.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk previously circulated the PC's Accounts, which were agreed and Lloyds Bank balances at 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in the Treasurers Account of £835.62 and Business Bank Instant Account of £33,096.82, reconciled, approved and signed.

#### **b. **Accounts for payment:****

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure:

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| i. WesternWeb Ltd – domain renewals for 2 yrs | £90.00 |
| ii. SALC Chairperson Training Invoice 1251    | £35.00 |

**RESOLVED:** Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

#### **c. To appoint an internal auditor.**

**RESOLVED:** Two quotes received to date for £165 and £335. Cllr Leavold agreed to ask Crewkerne Town Council if they could provide the contact details of their internal auditor so that the Clerk could try to obtain a third quote.

**24/130. North Cadbury and Yarlington Neighbourhood Plan:**

Update from the NP Monitoring Group.

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs A Rickers and the Counsell would meet shortly to review the list of planning applications against the NP prior to the planning meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**24/131. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report:**

PC Representatives to provide progress reports.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Jose presented his Highways report, which can be found at attachment 1 and Cllr Garrett presented his RoW Report, which can be found at attachment 2.

**24/132. Emergency Planning and Flood Mitigation:**

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

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Beyer reported as follows:

Cllr Beyer was extremely grateful for the amazing job that Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) had carried out with regard to community engagement and, in partnership with the Environment Agency (EA), the installation of river level warning gauges.

The Section 19 investigation for the May 2023 flood event is now in its final draft, ready for one final opportunity to comment from communities and external stakeholders. Parish and Town Councils have until end of December to comment prior to publication in January 2025.

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. £30,000 of funding was available for the Cam Valley, half of which would be used for natural flood mitigation and would need to be spent by March 2025. Emily Estate had agreed to all recommendations for Pitcombe Parish and there was also potential for the North Cadbury and Yarlington parishes.

Cam Catchment Group Meeting – 18th October 2024. The Cam Catchment Group was set up to discuss the nature and future funding of the community telemetry system installed within the valley. It incorporates a representative from eight parishes within this watershed, namely Yarlington, North Cadbury, Compton Pauncefoot & Blackford, South Cadbury & Sutton Montis, Sparkford, Queen Camel, West Camel, Yeovilton & District. Seven river level gauges have been added to the catchment along with one rainfall intensity gauge at the top of the catchment at Bratton Seymour. A bid that has gone into the SRA for two more years of funding, but it was important that we start planning for a longer-term future without SRA funding. The Group will know by March 2025 whether the bid has been successful and, if it is, there will be funding in place to cover ongoing running costs until March 2027. Paul Elliston also mentioned that a partnership with PegelAlarm App to add the Community Telemetry gauges to their system such that individuals would be able to subscribe to individual gauges and set their own personal alarming thresholds, was currently being developed by Tim Adams from Blackford. Cllr Hobhouse revealed that he had funding in place to allow for this development to take place.

Community Telemetry – Future Funding. Paul Elliston, SRA Community Engagement Officer, stressed that, as mentioned at the training event on 2nd September, the team behind the pilot would be doing all it could to minimise if not eliminate the need for communities to financially contribute to the telemetry system once the SRA funding ceases. Cllr Beyer reported that during the discussions it was felt fair that, if needed, the best way would be to divide costs amongst the benefiting parishes according to population numbers. This would result in costs of approx. £150 per annum for the NC&Y parish to keep the gauges functioning and pay for the minimum requirements of the online platform. A detailed breakdown of potential costs would be supplied in the near future. Councillors approved such a level of expenditure in principle, pending further detail.

Emergency/Flood Plan. Paul Ellison stressed again the need for a local flood plan due to the short lead time the gauges would give for a flooding event. He would be happy to help with this if required.

Cllr Beyer would ask for local emergency contacts for the flood warden or warning group volunteers to contact if it was felt that an alert or alarm needed to be triggered.

**24/133. Local Community Networks LCNs:**

Reports.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Keys-Toyer gave a brief report on the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October as follows and as attended by five councillors:

Flooding Working Group has not met since last LCN meeting. Discussion with Tim Adams, Blackford, regarding the Flood Warning Gauges and their incorporation onto the PegleAlarm App. We are still waiting for SRA to publish their section 19 findings.

Footpaths Working Group has not met since last LCN meeting

Highways explanations of The Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot (which the PC are not signed up for at the moment). There was an outline of services that would be available with daily rates, followed by a brief explanation of the Volunteer Training by SC and a plug for the Parish Priorities Questionnaire, for which the PC would receive the link soon.

Guest speakers Fodo Higginson, Community Health & Wellbeing Officer, gave a lively talk about what they do and what grants may be available for Community Projects. Sue Place, CEO, The Balsam Centre, gave a long talk about what the Balsam Centre was involved in.

**24/134. Items for Report and Future Business:**

a. Footpath Diversions. Cllr Northover wished to provide further explanation on the informal consultation for proposed footpath diversions in the parishes of North Cadbury, Sparkford and Compton Pauncefoot. Cllrs explained that the PC represented the views of its parishioners and submitted its response accordingly. Should a formal application be made the application could be re-considered at that time.

b. Damaged/missing mile stone monument on A359. Cllr Counsell suggested that the PC takes the remaining parts of the mile stone to 'The Repair Shop', which was agreed wholeheartedly.

**Next meetings:** On site planning meetings to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and ordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November in The Reading Room, North Cadbury.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....Chairman