

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 25th March 2026** in Galhampton Village Hall at 7.00pm

Councillors Present:

Nick Garrett (Chairman)
Caroline Bowen
Andy Keys-Toyer
Nerissa Northover
Maria Viney

John Whitehead (Vice-Chairman)
Chris Jose
Clare Leavold
John Rundle

In Attendance: Somerset Councillors Henry Hobhouse and Kevin Messenger, the Clerk and four members of the public (MOP).

❖ **Public Question and Comments:** No comments.

❖ **Report from The Newt and Emily Estate:** The Chairman read out the following report on behalf of Zoe Young (ZY), Community Liaison Officer for The Newt:

- The Farmyard Extension. Our initial phase of enabling works is almost done with demolitions completed and access/parking nearing completion. We will shortly be carrying out works to construct stormwater attenuation basins which is part of the approved drainage strategy. We hope to have our main contractor starting on site during April and the main works are expected to take 24 months.
- Parking in Yarlington. We are developing a plan to provide additional car parking, which can be used by both the church and pub customers to help alleviate congestion at peak times.
- Sleight Farm. Construction work is progressing very well at Sleight Farm and we expect to be able to accommodate first cut of silage in the new clamps there this May and with the buffalo starting to move over in October.
- Sleight Farm Access Track. The works to upgrade the farm track from Shatwell to Sleight Farm are ongoing now and expected to complete in the late spring.

The following questions were asked following the report and Zoe Young's response after the meeting are provided:

- Where will the car park be and if there is ongoing consultation with anyone in Yarlington about where that car parking would be, and if so, with whom?

[Paul Rawson has been in direct communication with the residents who back onto the paddock in question, and ZY will share further detail on the proposed plan as soon as it's available.]

- There was unease amongst some councillors and MoP regarding the reported name for the new "Sleights Farm", Yarlington and associated new track "Sleight Farm Access Track" following the very contentious nature of the planning application process and, to many residents, still the concern on the location of the new farm by the Sleights, it could be perceived as highly insensitive; is this actually the intended name for the new farm?

[I'm sorry to hear that the name has been perceived as insensitive, this was certainly not the intention. It is the name being used for the project and I will ensure the feedback you've shared is passed on.]

❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:**

a. Councillor Henry Hobhouse reported as follows:

- Somerset Council increased its precept by 4.99%. The budget was balanced for the next FY. The Government had agreed to pay off 90% of SC's debt of £111m for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), however that left £17m outstanding, which will have risen to £80m-£90m by 2028. 60% of SC's budget was spent on adult and children's social care.
- Repairs to Castle Cary's sink hole on Station Road were scheduled to commence on 20th April 2026; the road would be closed for 10 weeks to 3 months.
- Work would also commence in July on the bank slip on the A371 in Castle Cary, which would be closed for between 3 and 6 months. 4m high steel piles would be installed on a 120m stretch of the road to reinforce the bank.
- The Wincanton Neighbourhood Policing Team will be available at Market House, Castle Cary between 3.00pm and 4.00pm on 13th April 2026 to discuss any problems or issues residents are experiencing, or to answer any questions regarding crime prevention or personal safety. The Team will be available to discuss any concerns and to talk about the work they're doing in your community.

b. Councillor Kevin Messenger reported as follows:

- Local MPs Sarah Dyke and Adam Dance have been working hard in parliament regarding flooding in Somerset and the new £1m Ministry of Defence contract for Leonardo to produce medium lift helicopters under the New Medium Helicopter (NMH) program.
- The Government has announced the names of seven locations for proposed new towns. Each proposed location is expected to deliver at least 10,000 homes, with several delivering 40,000 or more in the decades to come. There were no new towns proposed in Somerset, the closest location would be south Gloucestershire.
- Somerset will receive £89m from the Government to spend on flood prevention measure and climate change; £15m had already been allocated towards the Bridgewater Tidal Barrier scheme.
- The poor state of the roads was discussed at the South East LCN Highways Working Group held on Tuesday 3rd March at which Tracy Harris (TH), SC Assistant Highways Service Manager was present to answer questions. The recent bad weather had not helped, however, funds were now available from Government for pothole repairs.

Agenda:

26/32. Apologies for absence:

To receive any apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs Cameron Knee and Richard Rundle. Zoe Young (ZY), Community Liaison Officer for The Newt, also tendered her apologies.

26/33. 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 received.

26/34. Minutes:

To approve the minutes of the ordinary PC meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026.

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

26/35. Planning:

a. Somerset Council Decisions:

i. **PA 23/02450/FUL.** – Carry out alterations and conversion of barn to dwelling at Old Hunt Farm, Galhampton Hill, North Cadbury, BA22 7BA - **APPROVED.**

26/36. 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 27th February 2026 in the Community Account £240.93 and Business Bank Instant Account of £35,624.76, reconciled, approved and signed.

b. Accounts for payment:

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure:

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|---|-----------|
| i. WEL Medical – Brookhampton defibrillator & cabinet | £1,348.80 |
| ii. Clerk's allowances & expenses March 2026 | £46.75 |

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

26/37. Provision of Community Public Access Defibrillators (cPADs):

Update on the provision of additional cPADs and training.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bowen reported that the new cPAD for installation in Brookhampton had been delivered and the optimum location was being looked into with the homeowner who would be providing the power to maintain cabinet temperature/light.

Cllr Bowen advised that all cPADs should be registered with thecircuit.uk who provides the NHS ambulance services with vital information about defibrillators across the UK so that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, they can be accessed quickly to help save lives. The Circuit may also provide a contribution towards replacement pads etc.

Cllr John Rundle reported that North Cadbury Village Hall (NCVH) Committee were looking into providing training on cPAD use and first aid.

Cllr Viney suggested that Yarlington residents would attend the training at NCVH as before.

The Clerk reported that the provision of cPAD and first aid training would be discussed at the next Galhampton Village Hall Committee meeting, as advised by the new committee member responsible for overseeing the two Galhampton cPADs.

26/38. Parish Website:

To approve the provision of a new or improved parish website.

RESOLVED: Deferred to next meeting in the absence of Cllr R Rundle.

26/39. Parish Noticeboards:

To consider proposal to remove the North Cadbury notice boards at North Town, Chapel Lane and Woolston, which are beyond economic repair.

Following the posting of notices in the notice boards that were due to be removed and not replaced, asking for residents to contact the Clerk if they wished to keep the boards, the Clerk had received requests from four North Town residents asking for the board to be retained. A resident had also offered to carry out basic maintenance to the board as and when the need arose.

No comments had been received regarding the Woolston or Chapel Lane notice boards.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to remove the Woolston and Chapel Lane notice boards once they were no longer viable. The Clerk agreed to accept the kind offer from the resident willing to maintain the North Town notice board following any estimate for materials for approval.

26/40. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report:

PC Representatives to provide progress reports and to consider gully and drain clearance.

a. Highways Report. Cllr Jose reported that SC has plenty reported work still to do and he would continue to chase it. He also provided a verbal report on the South East LCN Highways Working Group meeting held on 3rd March which he attended with Cllr John Whitehead.

b. RoW Report. The Chairman reported as follows:

“During this last month there has been progress on WN19/105. On Wednesday 11th March the Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO) and Eve Wynn, SC RoW Warden, inspected the state of WN19/105. The contractor has cut back the out growing vegetation from the hedges of the route. He has done this to a limited degree, sufficient to allow passage for walkers or riders, but not to encourage unlawful motorised traffic. At Eve’s request some of the cut debris has been left to impede traffic.

Eve is going to bring in a contractor to dig out the ditch on the east side of the southern part of the lane. This will allow free drainage and for the surface to dry out. The surface water is unable to drain away from the surface of the route and has formed a small lake with deep mud, rendering it impassable for walkers. This work will absolutely not affect the badger setts on the bank.

Eve is also going to arrange replacement of the missing bollard at the north end of the route off the A359. This work will happen as soon as the ground has dried out to allow access for the necessary vehicles.

Additionally, many of the issues listed in the PPLO’s February Report have now been resolved.

Please can all members of the parish continue to report any issues via the Explore Somerset website - [Explore Somerset –](#)

The Clerk reported that she had circulated a reminder to councillors and local landowners of landowner responsibilities to keep all manner of RoW open, especially where crops have been sown or animals are grazing and as requested by the PPLO.

26/41. Cam Catchment Resilience Project (CCRP) reports:

Cllr John Whitehead reported on behalf of CCRP as follows:

- Work to build 19 dams on over 160 hectares had been completed on J Buxton’s land in Galhampton. A full report would be provided for the next meeting. Funding for the surveys and work was provided by Wessex Water.
- Surveys had been completed on the Upper Cam between Yarlinton and Brookhampton and a report would be provided for the next meeting that would include recommendations for management.
- Farmers Working Advisory Group – There was a big push in the catchment area to talk to farmers regarding natural flood mitigation.

Cllr Messenger advised that small community grants were available from Viridor Waste Management that supported environmental, community and sustainable projects.

26/42. North Cadbury and Yarlinton Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring:

RESOLVED: Cllr Keys-Toyer circulated reports in advance of the planning meetings at Old Manor Farmhouse and Woolston Manor Farmhouse, Woolston Road, North Cadbury, which compared the plans with how they might sit with the NP.

26/43. Local Community Networks LCNs:

Cllrs Jose and Whitehead attended the South East LCN Highways Working Group meeting held on 3rd March 2026, at which they raised the issue of blocked drains. Tracy Harris (TH) advised that gully work has been scheduled in North Cadbury; all work is recorded and visits can be evidenced. She confirmed that funding is now in place to drastically increase the amount of works taking place to clear gullies. From April 2026, the work across the county is due to increase from 23,000 up to 119,000 per year.

Cllrs also raised the issue of raised edges of roads due to tractors damaging the road. The LCN Link Officer would attend the Avalon and Poldens LCN Highways Group where this issue is on the agenda and agreed to report back.

26/44. Items for Report and Future Business:

- a. Cllr Rundle reported on the Wessex Internet (WI) community presentation held on 9th March in North Cadbury Village Hall. WI anticipated having the infrastructure in place by the end of June 2026, at which time they would be taking on customers for their ultrafast full fibre broadband.
- b. Origin 3 update/report on the proposed Brookhampton development – agenda for next meeting.
- c. Interview/s for the Clerk vacancy would be held on Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 6.00pm.

Next meeting: Yarlington Annual Parish meeting and Ordinary meeting to be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 22nd April in Yarlington Village Hall.

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed
Chairman

Dated