

“Draft” Minutes of North Cadbury Annual Parish Assembly

A meeting of the Parishioners

Held on Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 7pm at
North Cadbury Village Hall, High Street, North Cadbury BA22 7DP

There were seven members of the public (MoP) present, Somerset Councillors Henry Hobhouse and Kevin Messenger, members of the Parish Council (PC) and the Clerk.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Parish Councillors Chris Jose and Cameron Knee.
2. **The Minutes of North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2025** were received, approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Nick Garrett as Chairman of the meeting.
3. **The Chairman of the Parish Council** presented his report, which can be found at Attachment 1.
4. **Reports from Somerset Councillors:**
 - a. Cllr Hobhouse reported as follows:
 - i. Somerset Council Planning. The PC and the local councillors will no longer be able to take planning applications to committee under the Council’s new format for planning from September 2026. This change will stop the PC from being able to act as a trip wire for the local communities to get things to be democratically dealt with and the whole of this change removes democracy from planning.
 - ii. Castle Cary Road Closures. The work has started on the sinkhole on Station Road, Castle Cary. They are now down to 15 feet and have found major problems with the sewer, which caused the sinkhole. The closure has now been extended to 31st July from 1st July to deal with the sewer. The contractor to carry out the work on the A371 at Ansford Hill will be appointed in July. The road closure will commence in either September or October and run for between three to six months while they pile 180 metres of the bank raising the edge of the bank to 4 metres high and increasing the width of the pavement.
 - iii. Yarlington Trout Ponds. The two trout ponds were created with 1m headroom at the outlet with mechanisms in place to hold back water in the event of any future flood events.
 - iv. Wessex Water Community Drop In. Will be held on 4th June 2026 in North Cadbury Village Hall from 3.00pm to 7.00pm to answer questions and discuss the two projects

to be completed this year between July and November 2026 to replace ageing water mains and sealing sewers. Road re-surfacing will take place once the work is completed.

v. Castle Cary Railway Station. Castle Cary station is now servicing 370,000 passengers a year due to the new car park facilitated by the Newt in Somerset. There are now four permanent staff looking after the passengers. The ticket hall and waiting room are being upgraded. A new ramped bridge over the railway is delayed and now due to be fitted in 2027 after the Glastonbury Festival; there will be no lift system in place until after the festival. Great Western Railway is negotiating for the provision of a third car park.

A new bus service linking Glastonbury and Street with Castle Cary railway station will commence in June 2026. The new bus route, via Keinton Mandeville and along the B3153, will connect specifically with trains to and from London, Exeter, Plymouth, Paignton, Salisbury, Weymouth and Gloucester, although the route was yet to be finalised.

b. Cllr Messenger wished to thank Cllr Keys-Toyer and the Clerk upon their 'retirement' from the PC for their hard work on behalf of the Council and residents. He reported as follows:

i. Thanks to Local MPs. Our three local MPs, Adam Dance, Sarah Dyke and Tessa Munt, have been working extremely hard to ensure employment and health opportunities are dealt with in Yeovil. They have won the contract at Leonardo's for 24 medium helicopters, they have reopened the maternity ward at the Yeovil hospital and Adam Dance is looking for more assistance in the funding of special needs children. In Chilton Cantelo there is a special school that charges 100,000 pounds a year per child for special educational needs.

Sarah Dyke put forward a motion to cut tax on red diesel by 10% to assist farmers during the war with Iran. We believe that this has now been done and credit must be given to her for pushing it forward. After the second world war Churchill said that we must never be in the position that we were in 1939 when we were importing the majority of our food. Sadly, we are now in that position, and we need to ensure that more of our food is produced in this country and less is imported.

Local MPs Sarah Dyke and Adam Dance have also been challenging the Government to do more to prevent flooding in Somerset and the effect floods are having on Somerset's residents, agriculture, state of the roads etc. Sarah Dyke welcomed the Government's Flooding Minister to Somerset for a day of visits to flood-affected communities.

ii. Agratas. The Agratas battery plant at Woolington has now finished stage one and the building is being fitted out. It will eventually employ 4,000 people, which is the same as employed at RNAS Yeovilton. There is the opportunity for local contractors to supply services for stage two and three but they need to get in contact with Agratas.

iii. Castle Cary Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). There are two Police Community Support Officers and one full time constable carrying out high visibility patrols in high footfall areas in an attempt to target ASB in Castle Cary.

5. Reports from Local Groups and Organisations

a. North Cadbury Women's Group. Angela Hunt presented the report on behalf of the Group:

The Women's Group has enjoyed an eclectic mix of talks this year ranging from Medical Assistance Dogs, the Potsdam Exhibition, and Bristol Blue Glass, with Alternative Therapies and Drawing with Charcoal to come. Outings to the Willow Centre, and The

Smokery on the Somerset Levels are arranged this summer, and our monthly lunches continue with a core of attendees.

The group is flourishing, but sadly the Committee is losing at least four members next January, and in spite of many appeals we have had no volunteers to take their places. I am afraid that as most members are of the Third Age we have all done our time on various committees, and there comes a time when other commitments take precedence. Because of this it looks as though we shall have to close the group down at the end of the year. We are to discuss this at a meeting in June, but suggestions have already been made that we evolve into a lunch group to keep the social side going. We shall have to see what transpires at the meeting.

b. North Cadbury Village Hall. Ann Cook, Secretary to Trustees of North Cadbury Village Hall presented the report on behalf of the Trustees:

From our October AGM we have a committee made up of six representatives from regular user groups and ten elected members, all of whom are trustees of the charity responsible for maintaining the Hall, the playing field and Hall Cottage.

The last year has been a busy year for the committee and community volunteers and the last few months especially so.

Our monthly 200 club coffee morning gives folks the chance to meet with friends and neighbours. 200 Club members support Hall fundraising through their lottery number.

We have shown a variety of films – audience size is variable but it makes it possible for the community who are not Netflix users to see films without travelling far.

The VE Day 80th anniversary picnic, the Harvest Lunch, organised with St Michael's Church and the Pancake evening were well supported community events for all ages.

Band and dance nights have been fun. In January 'The BA22's', our local musicians and singers, came on stage to entertain using the newly purchased audio equipment and to raise more funds towards the audio-visual upgrades.

Quiz nights have ensured the 'little grey cells' are kept in working order.

The Mother Goose panto put on by Camelot Players raised £2691.83 for hall funds.

The Brue Boys choir entertained us with their wonderful singing. The Barn Dance had feet tapping and prancing. The recent jumble sale raised £1,534.

The closure of 'The Catash Inn' at the start of 2026 left a social gap in our community. The committee decided to organise POP-UP PUB NIGHTS to enable folks to meet friends and neighbours, enjoy board games and have a drink from the bar, all of which the community have enjoyed. The last of these will be on Friday as we expect the Catash to open next week.

Donations, fundraising and grants have enabled us to purchase audio equipment, upgrade our projector, move the screen to the front of the proscenium arch and upgrade the lighting in the kitchen and toilets.

We have painted the main hall and a repair to the foyer roof has been done recently.

The play equipment is regularly inspected, the grass cut during the growing season and our trees are checked by tree surgeons.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining the Hall Cottage, which is Grade II Star listed so presents challenges when considering the required work and maintaining the thatched roof. The cottage is rented. Over the year redecoration has been done in the dining room, living room and a bedroom, re-carpeting of a bedroom, windows repainted and the five-year electrical check completed.

On behalf of the trustees of the North Cadbury Village Hall charity, I would like to thank all our community volunteers for their work over the year and the Parish Council for their support with grants for playground maintenance and towards the recent upgrades.

c. North Cadbury Tennis Club. Janet Montgomery reported on behalf of the Club: There are currently 76 members, which was slightly down from last year. Wednesday night was Club Night. The Club holds a Social tournament and BBQ, for which there was good weather and a mix of seniors and juniors. The Men's team play in the Yeovil league. Coaching is available.

d. North Cadbury Allotment Association. Cllr Andy Keys-Toyer gave his report as PC representative for the NCAA:

The North Cadbury Allotment Association AGM was held on 9th April 2026 at the Reading Room, North Cadbury, with members attending and apologies received from several absent members. The minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved and the Chairman's report was presented. An interim Treasurer's report will follow once a new community bank account has been established, as the existing account could not be transferred to the incoming Treasurer.

A new committee was elected unanimously for 2026/27, with Simon Hawksley appointed Chairman, Nick Sneesby as Secretary and Richard Harding as Treasurer. Members thanked outgoing Chairman Nick Kaimakami for his work during the past year and wished him well following his move to Cornwall.

Key discussions included the need for repairs to unsafe boundary fences, ongoing concerns about water provision and the possibility of investigating a borehole and additional water storage solutions. The committee also discussed improving manure storage arrangements and confirmed that plot holders remain responsible for mowing and maintaining communal areas adjacent to their plots. Plot fees remain unchanged at £28 for 2026/27, including insurance, with payment details to be circulated once the new bank account is active.

Following the AGM, a new prospective allotment holder contacted the Association and may be added to the waiting list. The incoming Chairman also confirmed plans to update the parish contact details and introduce a generic association email address for future continuity.

e. North Cadbury Church. Cllr Nerissa Northover reported on behalf of the Church:

As mentioned in last year's report we are in a time of transition, coming together with the former Cam Vale Parishes, to form a new Group (Benefice) known as The Vale of Camelot Churches. Rev Caroline Walker our Interim Minister has been with us for 17 months and has just 14 months left to run on her placement. She has the unenviable task of forming the new Group and streamlining it to be an attractive proposition for a new permanent Priest, whilst at the same time maintaining the day to day running of the 10 churches which make up the Vale of Camelot Churches.

We are still able to offer at least one service each Sunday in either North Cadbury or Galhampton, as well as special services for Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc. The only exception is on the 5th Sunday of the month (3 or 4 times a year) when all of the churches come together somewhere within the Group for a United Service, usually followed by refreshments and an opportunity to get to know others from across the Group.

Also in the last year Caroline Walker has reintroduced the Bible Study Groups and weekly prayer meeting.

We continue to run a weekly pre-school group, Lego-fest in the school holidays, monthly community coffee mornings, lent lunches, and other ad hoc activities.

We are a small, but friendly congregation, and we love to welcome the wider community at the main Festival Services (Christmas etc.), and whenever else they are able to join us.

A little understood fact is that the local church is entirely self-funded. We don't receive any financial support from the National Church. Our annual running cost last year was an eye-watering £50,000! This is tightly managed, to keep costs as low as possible, and this figure excludes work on the fabric of the building.

We are fortunate that the fabric of the building remains in reasonable condition for something 600 years old, but as with all old buildings there is a long list of jobs to keep it in good order. The five yearly architectural survey was completed last year and has highlighted a number of things which need attention within the next couple of years, (such as high-level masonry repairs, treating beetle infestation, roof repairs and damp treatment). On top of this we need to replace a condemned heating boiler and an aging sound system.

The Friends of St Michaels, the fund-raising arm of the church who assist us with the fabric repairs, are organizing one of their very enjoyable and informative military talks for later this year, and an Autumn Fair as part of our Harvest Festival Celebrations.

We are very grateful to Andrew and Ian for the wonderful job they do maintaining the church yard, which is large for a village of this size, and to the Parish Council for the financial contribution they make to this beautiful Parish resource.

f. Galhampton Village Hall. Fiona Hooper, acting Chairman, provided the following report on behalf of the Committee:

Since our last report we are now a charitable incorporated organization (CIO). One of the main reasons for this is to protect trustees from personal liability, which hopefully means more villagers will be willing to join the village hall committee. Finding new committee members is never easy and at our next AGM in September we will need both a new chairperson and treasurer.

The hall is in a healthy financial position with hirings covering our yearly running costs. This year's major project was upgrading the borders between the hall and the paddock. The wall and fence at the back of the hall are complete and the one at the front is waiting for its dressing stones. We have also upgraded the cooker in the kitchen.

The new village signs were erected earlier this year after being 2 years in the planning, although they were not quite the ones we ordered they look very smart at each end of the village.

The defibrillator at the church has been replaced because it was 11 years old and past being repaired. We have also purchased new pads for the one at the hall. Both of these have been done with the help of a grant from the parish council.

6. **Open Public Parish Forum**

a. Road Closure Signage. MoP wished to discuss the recent erection of Road Closure signage for Wessex Internet's fibre installation works, which they considered to be inadequate. MoP requested that this is fed back to Wessex Water in anticipation of the sewer and mains water works scheduled for July and August so that appropriate signage is used. Signage should be clear to ensure access is well notified; "Business open as Usual" is not on the current signage.

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting closed at 7.45pm and was followed by the North Cadbury and Yarlington Annual Parish Council and Ordinary meetings.

Signed
Chairman

Dated