

# North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
held as a consultative virtual meeting via Zoom software on  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm

## **Councillors Present (remotely):**

Malcolm Hunt (Chairman)

Sue Gilbert

Bryan Mead

Alan Rickers

Katherine Vaughan

Alan Bartlett (Vice Chairman)

Andy Keys-Toyer

Archie Montgomery

John Rundle

In Attendance (remotely): C.Cllr M Lewis, D.Cllr Kevin Messenger, the Clerk and two members of the public.

## **Public Session**

No comments.

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

Cllr Keys-Toyer gave the following report on behalf of the NPWG:

### **Finance:**

Grant Jun - Sept 20 £9572.00

Expenditure Jun - Sept 20 £8899.05

£672.95 under budget

Grant Oct - Mar 21 £9752.00

Projected expenditure Oct - Mar 21 £6815.02

**AECOM Report on Call for Sites:** We have received their first draft for our comments. We have highlighted various inconsistencies which they are addressing and will submit their second draft to us hopefully next week. Unfortunately the lead has been tested as Covid 19 positive, so it may be delayed further.

**AECOM Housing Needs Assessment:** We have received their first draft for our comments. Jo [Witherden, Planning Consultant] has highlighted various inconsistencies which they are addressing and will submit their second draft to us shortly.

**Heritage Report:** We have received Kim Sankey's first draft for our comments. We have highlighted various inconsistencies which she is addressing and will submit the final draft to us shortly. She has submitted her bill but we have withheld payment until we receive the finished report.

**Public Consultation:** Even though we use Nextdoor, Galhampton Facebook, the NP Website and have 111 signed up to our newsletters we are still not getting through to many in the Parish. So we will use physical mail drops to advertise the Public Options Consultations that we plan to hold in Village Halls at the end of Oct. 20. However we are aware that this may not be possible or indeed not attended so Plan B is to set up Virtual Consultations via easily accessible Powerpoint presentations with feedback questionnaires.

Mike Lewis, our County Councillor, kindly agreed to a virtual meeting with us to give us advice and feedback from his point of view.

Cllr Keys-Toyer requested the assistance of the District Councillors.

**ACTION:** Cllr Messenger agreed to hasten D.Cllr Hobhouse to contact the WG.

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

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

D.Cllr Messenger reported that the plan by Somerset's four district councils for two new unitary authorities in Somerset had been described in the press and at a Castle Cary Town Council meeting as a "U-turn". This was complete fabrication, with 84% D.Cllrs voting in favour of the District Councils' business case 'Stronger Somerset' for two new councils in Somerset as twin authorities, having always been opposed to Somerset County Council's (SCC) proposal for a single unitary authority 'One Somerset'.

D.Cllr Messenger reported that South Somerset District Council (SSDC) will hold their 'Great Parish Tree Giveaway' scheme again in autumn and asked for parishes to consider where additional trees could be planted. Cllr Montgomery raised the issue of ash die-back, which was worsening. He asked if SSDC and SCC had considered the implications ash-die back could have on highways, along which ash trees were predominantly planted. Ash trees were notoriously difficult to work on and highways may need to be closed to carry out the work. He asked if parish and town councils could be kept up to date with any possible plans of action as the disease could potentially be as catastrophic as Dutch elm disease over the next few years.

**ACTION:** Cllr Messenger agreed to discuss with D.Cllr Hobhouse.

C.Cllr. Lewis expressed the view that the Secretary of State is likely to rule that a unitary authority for Somerset should be implemented sooner rather than later. An election for SCC is due to take place in May 2021, however, it would seem logical that this would not take place and that a "shadow" unitary authority would be created in May 2021. The actual elections for the unitary authority would then take place in May 2022 when SCC and SSDC would be disbanded.

C.Cllr Lewis reported that Covid-19 was increasing in certain areas of the country, but not to such a great extent in Somerset. Both district and county councils were working together to try to ensure Somerset remained as safe as possible during the pandemic, with schools being a priority.

### **20/72. 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:** Apologies received and approved from Cllr R House. D.Cllr Hobhouse also tendered his apologies.

### **20/73. 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.

### **20/74. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the Virtual PC Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

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

### **20/75. Vacancy on the Parish Council**

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

The Clerk reported that there were three eligible applicants for the vacancy, however, only one applicant was available to attend tonight's meeting.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed to defer filling the vacancy until the next meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The Clerk would advise the applicants accordingly.

**20/76. Planning.**

a. SSDC Decisions.

i. **PA 20/01186/FUL.** Conversion of agricultural building to a dwelling with associated alterations and development on land at Sandbrook Lane, Galhampton - **APPROVED.**

ii. **PA 20/00787/FUL.** Demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site with 6 dwellings on land north of Hill Ash Farm, Woolston Road, North Cadbury – **APPROVED.**

b. The Clerk advised that amended plans had been received for **PA 20/91814/HOU** - the erection of a car port to the front of 5 Mitchells Row, Brookhampton.

**ACTION:** Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that if councillors wished to submit additional comments, their findings should be submitted to the Clerk prior to 30<sup>th</sup> September for her to assemble and submit the Council's response to meet the deadline of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.

**20/77. Finance.**

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

To report on Council's Bank Account.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk previously circulated the PC Accounts which were received and approved.

b. **Accounts for payment**

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure:

Parish Council Expenditure:

SALC/NALC – Affiliation Fee Apr 20 to Mar 21 £290.93

Friends of Castle Cary Library Grant £100.00

Helen Isaacs – Update of Facebook page £60.00

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Expenditure:

Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd. Inv 0552 £1766.73

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

c. Mailchimp. PC to consider installing Email marketing/newsletter distribution link from parish website - set up cost for subscribe button and page £30 plus VAT.

**RESOLVED:** Council **APPROVED** unanimously.

d. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) E01-20 | 2020-21 National Salary Award

To approve Clerk's Salary in accordance with The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1 Apr 2020 and backdated.

**RESOLVED:** Council unanimously **APPROVED** the Clerk's progression from spine column point (SCP) 20 to SCP 21 (an increase of 27p per hour), which would be backdated to 1 Apr 20.

**20/78. Highways and Footpaths Report.**

PC Representatives to provide progress reports.

Cllrs Rundle and Vaughan presented their reports, which can be found at Attachments 1 and 2.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Rickers to provide link to Parish Online from the members' only area of the parish website. Clerk to hasten Gary Warren, SCC Highways Engineer re possible speed restrictions along Woolston Road, North Cadbury.

Cllr Vaughan requested that if a resident was aware of any motorised vehicle using restricted bridleway 19/105 that connects North Cadbury to the A359, please could they take any details and report the incident to the police on 101 in order to ensure offenders are prosecuted.

**20/79. NALC: Consultation PC10-20 - Changes to the Current Planning System**

Parish Council to consider response to the NALC regarding The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on changes to the planning system (Government deadline 1 Oct 20).

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously that the consultation was more relevant for professional planners and would not comment as the PC does not have sufficient knowledge to make an informed response.

**20/80. NALC: Consultation PC11-20 - White Paper Planning for The Future**

Parish Council to consider response to NALC regarding The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government consultation on planning for the future (deadline 15 Oct 20).

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously to submit their comments to the Clerk prior to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for her to assemble a draft response for circulation/approval. Delegated authority was granted to the Clerk to submit the Council's response to meet the Government deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and NALC's deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**20/81. SCC £1m Climate Emergency Community Fund.**

Parish Council to consider whether to support and register as an interested party in the joint application from Somerset Wildlife Trust and Somerset Climate Action Network for £75,000 from the fund.

Mr Marcus Gilbert, 'Environment Champion' for North Cadbury, was present remotely to put forward his proposal for a Village/Parish Woodland.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously not to support the SWT on this occasion in the event the parish wished to apply to the Fund and the provision of Parish Woodlands would be on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

**20/82. North Cadbury Allotments – Local Green Space Designation.**

Parish Council invited to comment on proposal through the North Cadbury and Yarlinton Neighbourhood Plan.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed unanimously as the landowner that the Allotments were worthy of Green Space Designation.

**20/83. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Covid 19 Guidance for the Safe Use of Multi-Purpose Community Facilities**

Council to consider SSDC/NALC/SALC'S advice and recommendation that councils continue to meet remotely.

**RESOLVED:** Due to the change in recent Government guidelines, the Chairman withdrew his request to discuss the possibility of holding future PC meetings in person.

**Items for Report and Future Business**

- a. Co-option to fill council vacancy.
- b. Parish Woodlands.

**Next meeting:** to be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, 7.00pm via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Dated .....

## Attachment 1

# **North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council**

## **Highways Report September 2020**

### **Speed restriction on Woolston Road**

A recent accident along the Woolston Road at the beginning of the month prompted a long letter from Karen Harris highlighting the dangers of excessive speed along parts of this road, particularly the narrow pinch points where there are several blind accesses. This has been a subject of concern for the residents of Woolston for some time now and it is time some action is taken to warn drivers of the dangers.

The current situation with Covid19 has exacerbated the problem as more walkers, cyclists and horse - riders are using this stretch of road and if we are not careful an accident is going to result in injury.

I am not convinced that a blanket speed limit is the answer because those responsible are unlikely to adhere to it.

There are a series of SLOW signs painted on the road together with yellow warning strips but unfortunately these have been worn away and need reinstating and I would suggest that some specific signs warning of the narrowness of the road would be appropriate.

I have, therefore, written to Gary Warren asking him to review the whole situation but, to date, I have had no response. I spoke with John Nicholson this week and he tells me that there are new rules concerning speed warnings painted on the road surface and has promised to get Gary Warren to come back to me quickly with suggestions of the way forward.

### **Drainage Problems**

Recent heavy downfalls of rain have caused flooding problems in some areas, particularly at the junction of Woolston Road and the Corkscrew. We now have at least three areas where the drainage/culvert needs jetting and this includes the long outstanding one on Parish Hill and outside of North Cadbury school at the junction of the lane leading into Rowlands.

I have discussed these with John Nicholson and he is to chase these immediately but tells me that some of these are included in an annual programme of clearance which is now well behind schedule due to the lockdown but will catch up in the near future.

### **Potholes**

We are now six weeks since the of lockdown and the indication that work on a series of potholes was scheduled to be done - in fact several of these have obviously been surveyed and marked with luminous paint - but the work is still outstanding.

Talked this through with John Nicholson and it was apparent that those that have been marked should have been completed by now and he is to follow this up.

### **Hedges**

I have received several complaints about two areas :-

- 1) The lefthand hedge approaching the bridge at the bottom of Parish Hill NC where the thickness of the hedge is preventing motorists seeing traffic coming in the opposite direction on the bend. I visited the owners of Chapel Cross House who were very apologetic and agreed to trim the offending hedge and I see that this has now been done.
- 2) The lefthand hedge on the bend in Cary Road NC just past the school. This is on the boundary of Rowlands so I visited and spoke with the owner Mike Dugdale. He told me that it was his understanding that the first metre from the edge of the road was the councils responsibility. Whilst in conversation with John Nicholson I queried the situation with him and he explained that the councils responsibility is limited to grass cutting of a metre width from the road and that any overhanging hedging was the direct responsibility of the landowner and although he could arrange for the hedge to be trimmed it would be billed to the landowner. Apparently he knows Mike Dugdale and has agreed to telephone him to resolve the situation.

As a general comment we appear to be still in the throes of the pandemic restrictions and it will take time for remedial work to get back on track. All we can do is to keep up the pressure particularly where road safety is an issue.

John Rundle

## Attachment 2

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

#### **Works completed**

- WN 19/43 Stile repaired
- WN 19/91 Unofficial signs asking walkers not to use footpath have been removed.

#### **Outstanding Issues**

- WN 31/7 Tree down and foliage blocking path.
- WN 19/105 Split ownership between Julius and Paul Longman. Julius Longman has agreed to cut back hedges on his side. Site meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August at request of Richard Rundle. Julius Longman, Eve Wynn, Richard Rundle and Katherine Vaughan attended. EW agreed to put in a report regarding the safety of the bridleway. KV and PPLO invited Paul Longman to a re-scheduled meeting - PL declined. Metal signs prohibiting entry of mechanically propelled vehicles to be erected. Signs will enable police to prosecute offenders. Issue of the bollards still unresolved.
- WN 19/95 Bridge to be re-built.
- WN 19/78 Julius Longman has agreed to fully reinstate this path in its northern sector and to cut down vegetation. Route of path will deviate slightly, emerging onto concrete track slightly further south. Gate and signage will be moved to this point. Path will be cut out in southern sector. Electric fence to be fitted with hand grips. Agreed to complete work by end of September.
- WN 19/1 (Smallway Lane east) access overgrown, broken stile, no finger post and southern end at junction with Frog Lane no access, overgrown, no stile or way marking. Path has been in this state for at least 7 months. Uncertain who owns the land – possibly Mount Pleasant Farm Holdings. Letter from clerk may be appropriate.
- WN 19/27 at junction with 19/97 Dangerous stile.
- WN 19/101 Gate at eastern end is dangerous. It drops on its hinges and latching post is beginning to collapse. Clerk wrote to land owners but no response. PPLO will visit.
- WN 19/80 Hand grips required on 1 electric fence in northern sector.
- WN 19/27 Eastern section impassable because of maize planting.
- WN 22/16 Impassable due to maize planting.
- Manor Farm No indication of route through farmyard at the end of Sleight Lane Track. Confusing for walkers. Landowner notified. PPLO and KV have offered to place waymarkers.

#### **Circular walks project**

Emily Estate has donated £600 towards notice boards for the circular walks project. Application in process to Community Grants Fund for £600 to complete this project. Application to Somerset Fund still live. PPLOs circular walks are being 'tested'.

Many thanks to our PPLO and to all those landowners and farmers who have worked hard to maintain RoW this past year. Your efforts are much appreciated by the Parish Council and those who love walking in our beautiful countryside.