

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Yarlington Annual Parish Meeting
Held as a consultative virtual meeting via Zoom software on
Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

To be followed by the Annual Parish Council and ordinary Parish Council Meetings

Councillors Present (remotely):

Malcolm Hunt (Chairman)

Sue Gilbert

Andy Keys-Toyer

Archie Montgomery

John Rundle

Alan Bartlett (Vice Chairman)

Karen Harris

Bryan Mead

Alan Rickers

Katherine Vaughan

In Attendance (remotely): D.Cllr Hobhouse, the Clerk and five members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: were received from D.Cllr Messenger and Cllr Roger House.
2. Minutes of the Yarlington Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2019 were received, agreed as a true record and would be duly signed.
3. There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.
4. Parish Accounts for the year ending 31.03.20 (audited) and 31.03.21 (unaudited). Copies of the Draft Receipts and Payments Accounts were previously distributed for information with comment by the Clerk.
5. Reports from District and County Councillors:
 - a. C.Cllr Lewis previously circulated Somerset County Council’s (SCC) Briefing for Annual Parish and Town Council meetings (Attachment 1).
 - b. D.Cllr Hobhouse reported that South Somerset District Council (SSDC) had been extremely busy during the Coronavirus pandemic, co-ordinating and processing the business grants while managing all other aspects related to the virus itself. SSDC staff had been manning the vaccination centres since they opened in December 2020, however, staff were now getting back to operating out of the District Council offices. Cllr Hobhouse was disappointed that councils could not meet remotely with effect from 7th May 2021. It is his belief that councillors do not need to travel all over the district to attend meetings when this could be achieved without using petrol and diesel. SSDC were working hard in an attempt to get the Government to change its mind to allow people to continue to meet remotely, however the Government claims that they don’t have the parliamentary time to do so. Cllr Hobhouse reported that there would be an on line poll for residents to vote on which of the two Unitary Authority (UA) proposals they would like for the future of Somerset; SCC’s ‘One Somerset’, a single UA or the District Council’s ‘Stronger Somerset’, a two UA. He hoped that the results of the poll would help guide the Secretary of State’s final decision which was due to be announced on 28th June 2021.

c. D.Cllr Messenger. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of D.Cllr Messenger. "SSDC gave away 775 trees in the 'Great Parish Tree Give-Away'. Community tree groups planted a further 2,235 trees and the Urban Tree Challenge planted 900 trees. Waste collection from the 28th June will be every three weeks depending where you live, in addition there will be blue bags given for more recycling. SSDC's Chief Executive, Alex Parmley, is to step down from his role after almost five years for a new life in New Zealand; we wish him well. On the 6th April 2021 Cllr Messenger met with Helen Smith and John Nicolson to discuss the Fulford Cross flooding at the bottom of South Cary Lane; he was assured that it would be dealt with before next winter. Due to the scale of the covid-19 vaccination project and to provide more vaccination appointment availability for patients, the clinic has moved from the vaccination hub at Wincanton Community Hospital to Haynes International Motor Museum from 1st May 2021. D.Cllr Messenger praised the excellent efforts of the staff from SSDC, Millbrook Surgery, Castle Cary, local hospitals and volunteers, who have worked hard every day since the start of vaccination roll out program. At Full Council meetings at Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and SSDC, 84% of councillors voted to support the proposal 'Stronger Somerset' for a twin unitary authority. Residents will have the opportunity to have their say through a postal vote. Phosphate remains a huge problem for many planning applications; Cllr Messenger advised that residents should lobby their local MPs."

6. Parish Reports.

a. Cllr B Mead read out Yarlington's Annual Report (Attachment 2).

7. Matters Raised by Members of the Public.

a. A resident asked if anyone was aware of the intentions of Emily Estate as to their 'End Aim' as they continued to purchase many pockets of land/properties in different areas. Following a brief discussion in which residents and councillors expressed their general concerns on 'Newt activities', it was considered that it was important to try to maintain good levels of communication with Sue Seager, Estate Manager and invite her to produce a periodical report. Cllr Hobhouse advised that he had already asked Paul Rawson, General Manager to contact the Clerk so that he could regularly attend PC meetings.

Action: The PC agreed to set up a communication link with The Newt to take this matter forward.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

SIGNED..... DATED.....