

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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Minutes of Parish Council (PC) Meeting
held on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7.00pm
In Galhampton Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Malcolm Hunt (Chairman)

Alan Bartlett (Vice Chairman)

Susan Gilbert

Karen Harris

Andy Keys-Toyer

Alan Rickers

Diane Rickers

John Rundle

Maria Viney

In Attendance: C.Cllr Lewis, D.Cllr Hobhouse, D.Cllr Messenger, the Clerk and eight members of the public.

Public Session

Residents were present to express their concern on Emily Estate's proposed bridge from Manor Farm, Castle Cary across the A359 to Avalon Farm, Galhampton Hill, which had previously been described by a representative of Emily Estate as 'non-essential but would like to have'. Residents also commented on the revised application for the erection of the new food production and food storage/delivery building, erection of food production/office building and associated access and landscape works previously approved under 20/01357/FUL, which would be considered at the onsite planning meeting scheduled for 8th February 2022.

There was growing resentment within the parish and residents had serious concerns over the ongoing 'creep' of Avalon Farm and its effect on the residents of Galhampton, such as the detrimental effect on visual amenity, light and noise pollution. Avalon Farm was now considered to be an 'industrial blot' on the landscape, being developed with a lack of consideration to Galhampton.

Mr Paul Rawson, Estate Manager was present and stated that 'there would be no further creep towards Galhampton'. Following a full and frank discussion, it was agreed that a Galhampton Residents Group would be set up, similar to the one in Yarlington, to work with Mr Rawson and meet to discuss matters that affected the village. It was also suggested that representatives of Emily Estate could attend the Galhampton Coffee mornings. The Chairman reiterated his request to Mr Rawson to arrange a meeting with Mr Bekker and members of the PC.

Report from The Newt and Emily Estate

In addition to the discussion in Public Session, Mr Rawson reported that an application would be submitted for a fishing pond, for use by Estate guests and wetland area to the north of Crockers Hill, Yarlington.

Reports from County and District Councillors.

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

C.Cllr Lewis reported that the Structural Change Order to facilitate the transition from existing Councils to the new Somerset authority had been put before Parliament. They were awaiting a date to be considered for approval, which was most likely to be in February/March 2022.

There would be a 2.99% increase in the council tax element for Somerset County Council (SCC) and an additional increase for adult and social care.

Gary Warren had recently been appointed as Service Manager for the Traffic Engineering team at Highways and SCC were in the process of advertising the role with a view to appointing a replacement hopefully by the mid-February 2022.

D.Cllr Hobhouse reported that there were two thermal imaging cameras available on loan to parish and town councils from South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to carry out thermal imaging heat loss self-surveys, which could help provide the answers as to why a property might be cold, where it is costing money, as well as wasting energy; many houses lose heat from the front door.

Cllr Hobhouse reported on the recent article in 'The Leveller' regarding Clare Pestell who was Director of Commercial Services and Income Generation. It was reported that Ms Pestell was using SSDC resources for her own benefit at her Dorset Vineyard. The investigation is ongoing, however, Ms Pestell, who vehemently denied the allegations, was summarily dismissed in October after the Appointments Committee of the council met to discuss the findings of independent external investigator Richard Penn. Ms Pestell, who had already resigned and was serving out her notice, appealed the decision but the decision was upheld by the council's appeals committee. She left SSDC in October. The police were carrying out an investigation.

22/10. 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 were received and accepted from Cllr Bryan Mead.

22/11. 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 declared.

22/12. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 8th December 2021.

Cllr Harris proposed an amendment to the minutes under 'Public Session', second paragraph, line 2, after the sentence 'There followed an in depth and lengthy question and answer session' to insert 'There was considerable dissatisfaction from parishioners present at the meeting'. Her proposal was seconded but was not passed by a majority vote. There followed a second proposal to approve the minutes with no amendments, which was seconded and approved by a majority vote.

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

22/13. Vacancy on the Parish Council

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

The casual vacancy on the PC following Cllr Vaughan's resignation was advertised. No applications had been received to date.

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to continue to advertise the vacancy.

22/14. Planning.

a. South Somerset District Council (SSDC Decisions.

The following applications have been determined:

- i. **PA 21/03073/FUL** - Extension of existing Estate storage building (including roof mounted PV panels) and existing horticultural growing building, with extensions located

upon existing hard surfaced yard areas at Avalon Farm, Galhampton Hill, Galhampton - **APPROVED**.

ii. **PA 21/02893/S73A** - Demolition and rebuild of two single storey barns to provide living accommodation for Emily Estate staff, associated works to the landscape and relocated vehicle access to the A359. A Section 73 application for the variation of condition 1 (approved drawings) of planning permission 18/02776/FUL to change the vehicle access point and parking provision, together with minor associated adjustments to landscaping; variation of condition 2 to reflect approval granted, and variation of condition 7 to reflect revised access; removal of conditions 4 and 5 at Avalon Farm, Galhampton Hill, Galhampton – **APPROVED**.

iii. **PA 21/01416/HOU** - Erection of a 2.5m garden wall to replace existing hedge at Myrtle Cottage, Middle Street, Galhampton – **APPROVED**.

22/15. North Cadbury and Yarlington Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG).

Cllr Keys-Toyer gave his progress report on behalf of the WG. The Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan was approved by majority at the extraordinary PC meeting on 8th December 2021. Following this it was submitted to SSDC Planning Authority for their consideration as Regulation. 16. This consultation runs from 20th January 2022 until midnight on 4th March 2022.

Copies of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, supporting documentation and response forms are available on SSDCs website: <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/> under the North Cadbury and Yarlington drop down area. Hard copies are also available for inspection at North Cadbury Village Stores and Galhampton Country Store.

22/16. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report.

a. RoW. Cllr Gilbert confirmed that she would officially take over as the RoW representative on the PC and would attend a handover meeting shortly with Cllr Vaughan.

Cllr Harris reported that several RoW had been blocked with electric fencing, mainly to fence in sheep. This was an issue for dog walkers who could not lift the dogs over the wire or the dogs were given an electric shock if insufficient room had been left to walk around, even those dogs kept on leads. Issues with RoW should be reported to the landowner, asking if they could ensure appropriate access, such as installing an electric fence gate handle. Any problem with a RoW should be reported on the SCC website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way/>

b. Highways. Cllr Rundle presented his report, which can be found at Attachment 1.

22/17. 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:

Galhampton Playing Field Grounds Maintenance Grant	£1,176.97
Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Invoices 0714 & 0725 (NP)	£1,599.12
The Camelot Parishes – Printing for circular walks	£151.84
Parish Online subscription Dec 21 to Dec 22 (NP)	£81.00
North Cadbury Village Hall Hire Nov & Dec 21	£34.25

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

c. **To consider Budget & Precept figures for 2022/2023.**

To agree on a figure for the Precept.

Proposal to increase the precept from £15,500 to £16,300, equivalent to an increase of approx. £1.43 per household per annum (4.43%).

The Clerk previously distributed the draft precept for 2022/2023 with supporting notes (Attachments 3 and 4). There followed a brief discussion and an explanation of the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services agreed pay scales for clerks and other employees employed under the terms of the model contract. Due to the introduction of the national living wage, the NJC agreement included the introduction of a new pay spine on 1 April 2019, which meant that, subject to satisfactory performance, the Clerk would progress automatically through the salary scale by annual increments until the maximum of the scale was reached.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed unanimously to increase the precept from £15,500 to £16,000.

d. To consider grounds maintenance quotes for North Cadbury Playing Field January 2022-December 2023, as circulated by Mr Bentley, Treasurer, NC Village Hall (VH).

RESOLVED: The PC **APPROVED** the VH preferred contractor, K M Dike Nurseries Ltd (Halcyon) and would notify the VH Treasurer accordingly.

22/18. Items for Report and Future Business

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (QPJ). Cllr D Rickers reported that she was struggling to garner interest in the QPJ. There would be a meeting with South Cadbury Village Hall on 15th February 2022 as it may be beneficial to join up with the adjoining parish. South Cadbury PC would organise the lighting of a beacon on Cadbury Castle. Cllr A Rickers would also liaise as the Chairman of Galhampton Village Hall.

Next meeting: to be held on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 at 7.00pm in North Cadbury Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed

Dated

Chairman