

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 26th October in Galhampton Village Hall
commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors Present:

Diane Rickers (Chairman)

John Counsell

Nerissa Northover

John Rundle

Andy Keys-Toyer (Vice-Chairman)

Malcolm Hunt

Alan Rickers

Maria Viney

In Attendance: C.Cllr Mike Lewis, D.Cllr Kevin Messenger, the Clerk and six members of the public.

Public Session

No comments.

Report from The Newt and Emily Estate

No representative present, however, Cllr Rickers reported that planning application **21/02400/FUL**, for the construction of a bridge across the A359 and associated estate track and landscape works on land Os 3600 at Manor Farm and Avalon Farm, Galhampton Hill, Galhampton had been granted **APPROVAL**.

Reports from County and District Councillors.

C.Cllr Lewis reported on the following matters:

Local Community Networks (LCNs) The results of the public consultation on the development of LCNs would hopefully be published soon. Residents and councils were asked for their comments on a range of aspects, from LCN roles and responsibilities and boundary options to choosing a suitable name.

Innovation Zone. The 616 acre Gravity site, north of Bridgewater, could be part of one of the first of the Government's new Investment Zones and would deliver up to 7,500 skilled jobs in Somerset. Any community benefit, such as grants, would cover the whole of Somerset, not just Sedgemoor and West Somerset.

Dillington House. As tenants, Somerset County Council (SCC) would end its activities at Dillington House, Ilminster on 30th September 2023, which is owned by the Cameron family. Residents are encouraged to visit the house and gardens in spring/summer 2023.

Public Health Nursing Team. The Team has been rated 'Good' across all sections in a recent review of the service by the Care Quality Commission.

Flu Jabs and Covid Boosters. Those eligible are encouraged to book an appointment via the links below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

Stopober is back for its 11th year calling on smokers to kick the habit. Stopober offers a range of free quitting tools via the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking>

22/140. 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: Cllrs Gilbert and Mead gave their apologies which were received.

22/141. 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) adopted 11th May 2022.

(NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

RESOLVED: None declared.

22/142. Minutes.

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28th September 2022.

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

22/143. Planning.

a. South Somerset District Council (SSDC Decisions.

- i. **PA 22/02235/HOU.** Construction of a car port at The Cottage, Brookhampton Farm, Sandbrook Lane, North Cadbury – **APPROVED.**

22/144. Churchyard Maintenance Grants.

To review the provision of churchyard maintenance grants in accordance with updated advice/guidance, following internal auditor's observations.

The Clerk previously circulated advice from Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC), the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and various documents of research provided by members of the community. The Local Government Act 1894 expressly prohibits councils from spending any money on maintaining or improving church property. In practice this includes the church building itself, the churchyard and the church hall. The situation is complicated by the fact that subsequent legislation appears to contradict the earlier 1894 Act. For example, s.214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a PC to contribute towards the expenses incurred by any person in providing or maintaining a cemetery and s.215 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a PC to maintain a closed churchyard.

Whilst it is widely accepted now that a PC can legally maintain a closed churchyard there remains a difference of opinion amongst some legal professionals over whether a PC is permitted to maintain or contribute to the maintenance of an open churchyard. The debate being does s.214(6) of the Local Government Act 1972 override the provisions of the 1894 Act? Current guidance from the NALC accepts that in the absence of case law and specific clarification from government there is no definitive answer to the question as to whether a council can legitimately maintain or contribute to the maintenance of an open churchyard. This may only be resolved if there is a judicial review on the point, a view also shared by SALC.

It was considered that as St Michaels', North Cadbury churchyard and St Marys, Yarlinton churchyard are designated Local Green Spaces within the 'made' North Cadbury and Yarlinton Neighbourhood Plan (Policies 16 – NC7 and 26 – Y4 respectively), the PC should help protect and support these areas.

RESOLVED: Following a robust discussion, the PC agreed by a majority vote to continue to provide financial support towards the maintenance of North Cadbury and Yarlinton's churchyards. Should Central Government issue further advice / guidance on the matter then this would be considered by the PC and a further resolution made accordingly.

St Michael's Church Clock was donated by public subscription in 1887 for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and is, therefore, the property of the Church. However, it was agreed in November 2006, at item 10, that the PC has a civic responsibility to maintain the clock for the benefit of the Parish. The PC agreed in January 2007, item 10.1., to continue to meet the annual

maintenance cost and repair costs would be shared between the PCC and the PC on a 2:1 basis.

RESOLVED: The PC agreed by a majority vote to continue to meet the annual maintenance cost and shared repair costs on a 2:1 basis. The Clerk agreed to produce a policy document to the effect of the above resolutions for approval at the next meeting.

22/145. 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:

Service of St Michael's Church Clock	£243.60
Signs Made Here Ltd – Circular Walks Project	£153.80
WesternWeb Ltd Inv 23420 – domain renewals	£90.00
Galhampton Village Hall Grant CPAD Maintenance	£50.00
SALC Invoice 1700 – Cllr Essentials Training Oct 22	£25.00

RESOLVED: Items of expenditure approved unanimously.

22/146. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report.

PC Representatives to provide progress reports.

RESOLVED: Cllr Rundle presented the Highways report, which can be found at Attachment 1 and the Clerk presented the RoW Report on behalf of Mrs Susan Fone, Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO), which can be found at attachment 2.

In addition to the reports provided, a resident present raised the issue of electric fencing across the section of the Macmillan Way, alongside North Cadbury Stores and the rear of Cutty Lane, which does not allow a safe crossing and is a real hazard for those with pacemakers. Where an electrified fence crosses the RoW it must be insulated with tubing to a width of no less than one metre and/or provide a safe option such as an expandable type barrier gate with insulated handle that can easily and safely be released by all users.

RESOLVED: Cllr Rundle to raise this issue with the landowner.

22/147. North Cadbury and Yarlinton Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

The PC discussed the need to monitor and maintain the thirty policy statements within the NP, which would be a significant commitment by the PC. The PC would set up a monitoring group (MG), including both councillors and residents, who would need to understand the document and be aware of any influences that will come along over the duration of the plan (until 2033). The plan should dovetail into the new Somerset Council's Development Plan(s) and any changes that come through the National Planning Policy framework should be monitored.

RESOLVED: Councillors are encouraged to attend training provided by SALC on 'How to Respond to Planning Applications'. It was agreed to hold £1,000 in the NP reserve as professional advice may be needed at various stages in the future. The Clerk agreed to contact Clerks to other parish councils in Somerset who also had 'made' NPs to ask how their plans are monitored. The setting up of the MG would be on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting.

Cllr Hunt reminded councillors that the PC would now receive 25% of Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL) on new development in our parishes of ten dwellings or more. This could be included as a project for the MG.

22/148. Area East Thermal Imaging Camera Trial Project.

To discuss the loan of the camera, which will be available shortly.

RESOLVED: The Clerk agreed to advertise the project so that parishioners can register their interest.

22/149. Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) Warm Somerset Spaces Fund.

Applications to be received by 31 Oct 22 [*extended to 11 Nov 22*] from those who work or volunteer for a group that run a venue like a village hall, community centre, or religious building to cover extra energy costs, some staff time or volunteer expenses and tea and biscuits.

RESOLVED: Cllr Rickers reported that Galhampton Village Hall were in the process of setting up a 'warm space' in the Hall throughout the winter. The aim is to have the Hall open from first thing in a morning until after dark; days of the week to be agreed. Organisations have been approached for grants, however, the National Lottery, as the main investor of the Hall, insist that there are three years running costs, which makes the Hall ineligible for the SCF grant.

Morrison's, Wincanton have agreed to provide consumables to support the venture. The Hall Committee has put out an appeal to the village to provide board games etc. The Orchard has agreed in principle to provide a weekly hot meal. As this is a massive undertaking for The Orchard, the Committee is discussing the proposal with the Newt to see if they'll match it and, therefore, reduce The Orchard's commitment.

Cllr Rundle reported that North Cadbury Village Hall Committee would discuss the provision of a 'warm space' at its next meeting on 11th November.

Cllr Viney reported that Yarlinton Village Hall could not be a 'warm space' this winter as work was due to commence to demolish the existing toilet and kitchen extension and construct the new access, disabled toilet and kitchen and an oak framed patio shelter.

22/150. Winter Service – Snow ploughing (South Somerset area) - local support/resilience

To discuss Somerset County Council's request for support from local farmers to assist in the event of prolonged snow events by ploughing of agreed sections of the public highway, when the need arises. If you can help please contact somerset.winter@milestoneinfra.co.uk

RESOLVED: Cllrs Rundle and Viney agreed to contact farmers/landowners within the community.

22/151. Items for Report and Future Business.

a. Chairman Report. –The LCN meeting held on the 20th October primarily discussed ways in which to support the community during the current cost of living crisis. The offering of warm spaces was suggested as an option, along with these the ability to signpost those that make use of the facility to other organisations for support. These are groups such as CAB.

Food banks are becoming short in supply of food due to supermarkets predicating sales in a much more organised way. This has led to smaller donations of food across the area.

There is work to be done with foodbanks as the food distributed is not always suitable for the demographic it is being distributed to. There is a need to support the demographic with cooking classes as it has been reported that some were unaware that dried pasta required cooking.

Action: Formation of LCNs to be included as a standard agenda item.

b. Mobile Post Office (PO) Van. The PC was notified that the outreach PO service was temporarily closed on 11th October. The PO were working to restore the services at Glenville Road, Yeovil and other temporary branch/rural locations served by the outreach service, hopefully around 3rd November.

Action: The Clerk agreed to write to the PO for an update.

c. NPMG. Formation of the NPMG agenda item for next meeting.

d. Churchyard Maintenance Policy. Draft policy for approval as an agenda item for next meeting.

Next meetings: Ordinary PC meeting to be held on 23rd November 2022 in The Reading Room, North Cadbury and onsite planning meetings to be held on Wednesday 9th November commencing at 2pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed

Dated

Chairman

DRAFT