

North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting

A meeting of the Parishioners

“Draft” Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

On Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 7pm at

North Cadbury Village Hall, Cutty Lane, North Cadbury

There were twenty seven members of the public present, Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse, members of the Parish Council (PC) and the Clerk.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from parish councillor Nick Garrett, Headteacher Liz Thompson and Chair of Governors Janet Montgomery.
2. **The Minutes of North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2022** were received, approved as a true record and signed by parish councillor Diane Rickers as Chairman of the meeting.
3. **Reports from the Parish Council**
 - a. Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman presented her report (attachment 1).
 - b. Parish Accounts for the year 31st March 2023 (unaudited). Copies of the draft Receipts and Payments Account were previously distributed for information and presented by the Clerk.
4. **Reports from Somerset Council.**
 - a. Councillor Mike Lewis. The Chairman called for a minute’s silence for County Councillor Mike Lewis who sadly passed away on 2nd May 2023. Following the moment of silence, the Chairman invited Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse and retired Chairman of the Parish Council, Malcom Hunt, to pay their respects. Malcolm Hunt recalled that “Mike Lewis, who had died very suddenly on the evening before his departure with Pauline on holiday, had been in continuous public service since 2002, either on the District or the County Council. In addition he had been an officer on the Conservative Association for the Somerton and Frome Parliamentary Constituency for some years. Although he now lived in Queen Camel, he had also lived in Sparkford for some years, Pauline and he being involved very much in North Cadbury life. Their two sons were both married in North Cadbury Church and Pauline had been active with the North Cadbury School. As a Councillor, he was always seeking to make a difference for his constituents. He was widely respected, not just by his constituents who repeatedly voted him into office but also by the members of the Parish Council, whose meetings he attended regularly when other duties allowed and to whom he was always happy to offer advice and help. He will be sorely missed throughout the Parish and will leave his successor very big boots to fill.” Cllr Hobhouse also spoke highly and fondly of Mike Lewis and his great sense of humour.

b. Councillor Henry Hobhouse reported that it would cost the new Somerset Council £5m in redundancy payments for senior officers. The New Council had a new planning regime. There was no longer an area planning committee for South Somerset, the planning committee would cover the whole of South Somerset from Chard to Wincanton. The PCs response to planning applications would now be more important than before; the Local ward member would have less power than the PC.

Henry commented on the recent flood event on 9th May 2023 in which in excess of fifty properties in the parishes of North Cadbury and Yarlington were affected. He stated that North Cadbury should be extremely proud of itself. The Village Hall was open at 6pm and by 7pm a Bronze Commander from the Fire and Rescue Service was on site coordinating boats to rescue people from Brookhampton. [Earlier residents helped transport children from school in tractors and boats]. The Catash Inn prepared all its beds in case they were needed. There had been up to 4 inches of rain in North Cadbury; Hadspen had 7 inches. Officers from Somerset Council had carried out a good job of clearing up and taking any damaged goods/rubbish to Dimmer Recycling at no expense to residents. Repairs to the road surface had been carried out in most areas except Yarlington.

The new Somerset Council would need to carry out some major reorganising as the Council's emergency contact information and process on the night was totally inadequate and councillors not trained in such procedures. The Council were considering reinstating a Duty Manager with an emergency phone no.

Residents then spoke at length of their experiences during the flood and the need to ensure the prevention of future events. All agreed that it was the responsibility of landowners and riparian owners to ensure the ditches and streams are kept clear. Residents were advised that the PC would be considering the possibility of implementing an early warning system between parishes along the river Cam as an agenda item at the following Ordinary PC meeting at which residents would have further opportunity to speak.

5. **Reports from Local Groups and Organisations**

a. North Cadbury Village Hall. Ann Cook presented the report on behalf of James Watts, Chairman. "The 14 trustees of North Cadbury Village Hall voluntarily give their time to maintain the Hall and playing field, which provides a place for local organisations to meet, for social activities, sport and play.

We would like to firstly thank the parish council for their support and funding over the last year, which has helped with the ever-increasing costs.

Over the last year we have had some great events as well as our regular group bookings.

In June we celebrated the Queens Jubilee with a Big picnic lunch for the whole community which was a great success and very well attended. At the event we opened the Jubilee Copse in the playing field which is now flourishing.

We have had various take art acts from singers, bands and comedians over the year and subsequently we have booked Rocking the Joint again in November.

The annual harvest lunch, organised with St Michael's Church, was a great hit again which everyone looks forward to.

Sadly there was no pantomime in December but Camelot players are hopeful of one this year with auditions starting next month.

We started 2023 in fine form with ever increasing numbers at the 200 club coffee morning (last Sat of the month), additional people at the film nights and with some form of entertainment going on each month included the much loved Race night in partnership with the Rotary club.

The hall is continuing to be used as a polling station, a meeting room and a great venue for birthday parties and functions.

The Hall trustees are responsible for the playing field, the equipment provided and the trees on site. North Cadbury Primary school are using the area for exercise/play/emergency point during their building work.

We opened the hall as a base camp for the rescue services when the floods hit. We made available refreshments, tea coffee, sandwiches or even just to charge your phone or seek some support. I can't thank enough the people in the community who came together to help find housing and just to support those that needed it. NCVH will continue to support the people affected as they need it.

A thankyou to the previous Village Hall chairman [Robin Russell] for his efforts over the years and our appreciation for him staying on the committee having stepped down as chairman."

b. The Church of St Michael the Archangel, North Cadbury and Galhampton Chapel.

Caroline Joneleit-Hope presented her report as Churchwarden. "2022 saw our church services and activities return to normal following the Covid restrictions of the previous two years. We continue to provide at least one service within the Parish every Sunday and one mid-week service, offering a variety of service styles and times to accommodate as many of our parishioners as is practically possible. In addition to our normal pattern of seasonal services, in June we hosted a special celebration service for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, sadly this was followed by a special service of commemoration in September.

Our social activities, such as coffee mornings, pre-school group, and Lego club have also resumed providing social connections to a wider section of the community.

The Kate Aide talk in the autumn was a great success and well attended. Then in April of this year we had a very interesting talk on the Cockleshell Heroes. Another concert by the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir is planned for later this year.

Cutting Edge Camelot a weekly email providing a reflection on a passage of scripture (penned by Tristram or Ron), prayer suggestions and news continues to run and is open to anyone to receive.

Our Rector has notified us of his intention to retire, but the date for this is still to be confirmed.

And, as I'm sure you are aware the Bruton and Cary Deanery has been tasked with losing 1 ½ clergy posts. This is still at consultation stage but it seems likely that the Camelot Benefice will look somewhat different in the future.

The fabric of the church is in good order, but as with all buildings of its age it needs constant and ongoing care, repairs and maintenance. We're still working our way through the architects list of work. Having taken care of the roof, heating systems and electrics, we're now turning our attention to the masonry."

c. River Cam Water Sampling/Monitoring Group. Maraika Beyer reported that were awaiting the full report, however, the river Cam was relatively healthy, periodically heavier with phosphates and there were still occurrences of sewage dumps.

d. North Cadbury C of E Primary School. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Mrs Lisa Thompson, Head Teacher, Mrs Amy Truett, Acting Head and Mrs Janet Montgomery, Chair of Governors: "The school continues to thrive and our Year 2 and Year 6 children have recently completed their statutory testing, known as SATS. Despite the increased media interest and reporting this year, the children at NC took the tests in their stride and we are very proud of them and their academic achievement. However, for us, school is about so much more than just academic learning, we believe that it is equally important to instil in our children a love of life which includes giving them the opportunity to experience a wide range of extra curriculum activities. This has been consistently continued this year by Mrs Truett and the NC team, and the children have enjoyed learning/enhancing many new skills such as cricket, musical instruments, sewing and Hygge, to name just a few!

Our replacement classrooms are coming on at a good rate and we expect to move into them over the summer holidays, enabling our children to have a settled start in September in their purpose built new classrooms. This is enormously exciting for us and the village as it shows our commitment to retaining our lovely school right at the heart of this beautiful village. We do however need to raise funds to support this project, so please do look out for, and support us in our many fundraising ventures that will be ongoing through this coming year. We would also love to hear from you if you have any expertise or experience in this area as we are happy to admit it is a daunting prospect for us and very much outside of our comfort zone.

We continue to be proud of our church status, and our school logo "To be the best we can be" is supported by our chosen bible verse,

Colossians 3:17 English Standard Version (ESV) 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

e. North Cadbury Tennis Club. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Janet Montgomery, Secretary. "Last year we repainted the courts and undertook quite a bit of maintenance. Unfortunately the courts have been persistently broken into with the netting cut and the door lock broken into the club house. This has all been fixed and keys issued to club members. A key is also kept at the village shop for pay and play purposes. Dialogue with some of the young people "taking shelter" in the club house found that all they wanted was somewhere in the playing field to take shelter and we are in communication with the village hall committee about this. Club night is on a Monday and is being well attended. A beginning of season tournament with lunch was also well attended with new members being welcomed. There is a men's team entered into the Yeovil and District league."

f. North Cadbury and District Gardening Club. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Sarah Newsom, Chairman. "2022 saw the Gardening Club very much "back to normal". Monthly meetings were held in the Village Hall in February, March and April and during the summer of 2022 the Club held a social evening, organised a visit to Iford Manor and had an afternoon tea in August. In the autumn, monthly meetings continued for September, October and November.

Volunteers continued to maintain the wildflower patch and the rose garden at the Village Hall. A member of the Club planted up the stone trough in the autumn of 2022. To date this year, the Club has been able to hold the monthly meetings in the Village Hall starting in January 2023 when the AGM was held at which Mrs Sarah Newsom was re-elected Chairman and Mr Brian Morris was elected Treasurer. Mr & Mrs Graham Jennings resigned as Secretary to the Club and currently this post is vacant. The Club does face a rather uncertain future with no Secretary and the resignation of the Chairman from January 2024.

We are very grateful to the North Cadbury Village Hall for the use of this great facility and look forward to doing so in the coming months."

g. North Cadbury Allotment Association. Cllr Keys-Toyer read out the report on behalf of Lorraine Malton, Chairman. "Report of the AGM Annual Meeting of NCAA on Thursday 13th April 2023. I met with Andy Keys-Toyer for the annual inspection on the 10th of April 2023. Discussed were the fences, waiting list of currently seven people, cultivation and progress in produce and the none use of plot/plots/ The grass maintenance, possibility of more land, and Health and Safety. Overall the inspection went very well which was very welcomed.

All three officer were present at the AGM Present, Lorraine Malton (Chair), Siobhan Nation (Treasurer), Helen Knight (Secretary). In attendance were Andy Keys-Toyer (Parish Councillor), Theresa Hallet and Peter Elliot plot holders .

Put forward was a £1.00 increase for all plots. Full Plot including Insurance £30.00, Half Plot including Insurance £22.00, starting from the 13th April 2023 was agreed at the meeting.

The proposal for more land due to the high demand for allotments was also discussed. The none use of plot / plots going forward are in hand and will be given to people on the waiting list in list order after the correct procedure has been followed.

The Allotment mower is housed at Helen knights for use by all plot holders , and grass cutting is the responsibility of each plot holder, however if help is required please contact myself or any of the officers so we can arrange help for you .

Fences alike need to be maintained and kept in order of health and safety regulations.

The inner fences adjoining neighbouring plots need to be kept clear of blackthorns and weeds that clearly becomes a cultivation problem to neighbouring plot holders .

Thank you to All Officers for the past year we all stood down at the meeting as protocol and were re-elected by the three people present.

The NCAA Officers will remain the same for the year ahead.

I would like to thank the following people for their help and support over the last year: Becky Carter- Parish Clerk, Andy Keyes-Toyers-Councillor, Siobhan Nation-Treasure, Helen Knight -Secretary, Haydon Woods -Accountant, Rory Montgomery -Manure, Richard Hawkins-Making of the Dog Signs and all that helped areas of grass cutting through the year.”

h. Galhampton Village Hall. Alan Rickers, Chairman presented his report. “This is my third report as Chairman of Galhampton Village Hall. During my tenure I have seen the Hall come out of a Pandemic, the great storm of 2022 where the village lost power for several days and the recent biblical floods of 2023. During all these events the Village Hall has remained central to village life.

The Pandemic allowed us the opportunity to revisit our Terms and Conditions and this in turn gave us the time to implement some restructuring. As a result, Galhampton Village Hall finds itself in a healthy financial position with monies set aside for the future upkeep along with a minimum of three years running costs held in reserve.

Our most significant change has been the decision to move from a Charitable trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO. As a trust we were not legally permitted to hold legal title to land, so a recognised workaround was for four trustees of the committee to have the deeds in their names with an appointed custodian. In our case that custodian was of course the Parish Council. As a CIO we will be recognised as an incorporated body under law.

This will allow us to:

Directly hold the titles of the Hall and playing field without the need to use the PC as a custodian.

To enter into contracts in our own right.

Reduce the personal liabilities of the trustees.

Having completed the installation of new playing field equipment late in 2022 the Hall moved its focus to storage and our own self-sufficiency. We purchased a container which could be stored on site and this installation was completed with much planning advice and support from councillor Mike Lewis. Sadly, he is no longer with us, but I would like to record our gratitude extended to him. We have also purchased several new items such as Generators, Gazebos, Lighting etc, all of which will allow us to hold many outdoor events without the need to beg, borrow or hire. It is, however, our intention to allow other Halls in the area the opportunity to hire these at greatly reduced costs compared to local hire companies.

Since the pandemic we have seen a resurgence in Hall hirings, not only for village events but also a number of private hirings for parties, weddings and several corporate events. These bookings along with our strong financial position have allowed us to freeze some planned price increases for the foreseeable future.

The committee have tried several new event ideas. The introduction of the Gentleman’s Breakfast Club has been well received, we will be holding a music festival on the playing field in July and in September the inaugural Great Galhampton Beer Festival will be taking place. We are also in negotiations with a mobile catering company to come to the village a couple of evenings a month to sell takeaway style food such as pizza or fish and chips.

The committee have not just been focussed on the Hall. We have been working closely with Highways and Crestmoor to Install Village Road signs, they are also planning to clean and where appropriate replace the speed signs and the marking of the bus stop. All this is in a hope of trying to improve awareness to traffic along the A359 as it passes the village.

The storms of 2022 and 2023 have made us consider the requirement for a “Disaster relief plan”. A low-key document which will have best practice ideas to ensure we not only protect the Hall but support any residents affected. As part of this plan, we have also recently invested in a flood defensive package.

Galhampton holds a single defibrillator which is located at the church. Unfortunately, due to the linear nature of the village that item could take several minutes to collect. Therefore, the committee will be funding the purchase of a second defibrillator which will be held at the Hall.

I would like to finish by thanking the committee members who give their time freely and the residents of Galhampton for their continued support.”

6. Open Public Parish Forum

Residents were invited to discuss any matter affecting the Parish. There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting closed at 8.10pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council and Ordinary Parish Council meetings.

Signed

Dated

Chairman