

# North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of Parish Council (PC) Meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023  
in The Reading Room, North Cadbury, commencing at 7.00pm.

## **Councillors Present:**

Diane Rickers (Chairman)  
Mareike Beyer  
Nick Garrett  
Andy Keys-Toyer  
Alan Rickers

John Rundle (Vice-Chairman)  
John Counsell  
Chris Jose  
Nerissa Northover  
Maria Viney

**In Attendance:** Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse, the Clerk and fourteen members of the public.

## **Public Session**

Following a question from the public, Cllr Hobhouse agreed to email David Kenyon, Somerset Council (SC) Planning Officer, requesting that he refers to the North Cadbury and Yarlington Parish Plan when considering PA 21/01455/OUT, outline application for up to 81 dwellings on land at Ridgeway Lane, North Cadbury, BA22 7DF.

A resident asked if the parish was aware of any funding for those severely affected by the recent flood events. Cllr Hobhouse advised that anyone who had to move out of their homes due to flood damage were eligible for council tax refunds. The PC also advised that the Somerset Freemasons had provided a grant of £2,000 to be administered by the parochial church council with assistance from the PC and who had recently written to those affected in the parishes to ascertain who would like to accept a share of the grant.

## **Report from The Newt and Emily Estate**

Mr P Rawson reported as follows:

- Wheelwrights Studio in Yarlington will be retained as a small studio/workshop. We hope to find a local business to use the space once renovated.
- Longbourn, Frog Lane: we have now commenced work with our renovation of this house which will take until spring 2025.
- Work on the new trout pond in Yarlington has ceased for the time being because of foul weather. We hope to restart when ground conditions improve next year.
- We are presently recruiting a dedicated community liaison officer to work proactively with local stakeholders of all types including schools, businesses, residents, charities and councils. This move has itself been borne out of positive dialogue with local residents and we recognise the opportunities that this new role will bring.
- Alongside this we are also recruiting a Village Steward to help with the upkeep of Estate owned assets in our wider locale including footpaths, ponds, verges and drains etc: A practical person to keep things looking and working well.
- We are working constructively alongside residents and government agencies to help with the wider community effort to address flooding concerns.

### **Reports from Somerset Council**

Cllr Hobhouse reported that he had received agreement from all parishes to form a River Cam Flood Working Group (WG). £20m was available for flood defences; the Clerk confirmed that the PC had submitted its Expression of Interest for the EA/DEFRA funding for Natural Flood Management (NFM). Cllr Hobhouse commented on the flooding at the beginning of November, which affected Marston Magna, Podimore, Ilchester etc. No houses were flooded, however, this reinforced the need to put flood defences in place and he would arrange the first meeting of the River Cam Flood WG in January 2024. Cllr Hobhouse was promised the Section 19 flood report within two months; Cllr Beyer had been informed that they hoped to have the draft by the anniversary of the floods in May 2024.

### **23/167. 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:** Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger tendered his apologies.

### **23/168. 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 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

**RESOLVED:** None declared.

### **23/169. Minutes.**

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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

### **23/170. Parish Council Vacancy.**

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

**RESOLVED:** No applications received. The Clerk would continue to advertise the Yarlinton vacancy.

### **23/171. Planning.**

#### **a. Somerset Council Decisions.**

i. **PA 22/03398/REM.** Reserved Matters application for approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline approval 19/02235/OUT for erection of 5 dwellings with associated landscaping and parking at North Town Farm, Higher North Town Lane, North Cadbury, BA22 7BX – **APPROVED.**

ii. **PA 23/02559/LBC.** Installation of a new bathroom at first floor level at 10 High Street, North Cadbury, BA22 7DP – **APPROVED.**

### **23/172. Somerset Council Devolution of Assets & Services and Precept 2024/25**

To consider letter received from Somerset Council (SC) sent to all city, town and parish councils requesting that they consider which assets and services they might be willing to have devolved to them in the real possibility that the unitary council could no longer support them.

Councillors to also consider items for expenditure and future projects to be included in the precept, which will be on the agenda for approval in January 2024.

**RESOLVED:** Following a lengthy discussion and advice from Cllr Hobhouse, councillors were resigned to the fact that the precept may need to be increased by as much as 20% to 25%, or by as much as would be tolerable by the community, in order to maintain services should SC be served a Section 114 notice. This would be discussed in more detail prior to setting the precept and once more information from SC has been provided.

### **23/173. Finance.**

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

To report on Council's Bank Account.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk previously circulated the PC's Accounts, which were agreed and bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 of £17,390.25 reconciled, approved and signed.

#### **b. National Association of Local Councils (NALC) E01-23 | 2023-24 Local Government Services Pay Agreement.**

To approve Clerk's salary in accordance with The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services new pay scales for 2023-24 to be implemented from 1 Apr 2023 and backdated.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk's new pay scale agreed at SCP 27 and backdated.

#### **c. Brushcutter/Trimmers Refresher Training and Assessment Course.**

To approve Cllr Counsell to attend the next course on 16 Feb 2024 at a cost of £165 to become a Somerset Council Volunteer and assist Tim Gilbert, Parish Strimmer to maintain the parishes Rights of Way.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors approved unanimously.

#### **d. Accounts for payment:**

To review and approve a schedule of items of expenditure:

i. Grant CATbus Ring and Ride	£200.00
ii. D Whitehead – Notice board repairs	£200.00
iii. Clerk's back pay 1 Apr to 31 Oct 23	£196.00
iv. Clerk's allowances & expenses	£38.90
v. CPRE membership renewal	£36.00
vi. Galhampton Village Hall hire Oct 23	£24.00
vii. NC Reading Room hire Nov 23	£19.00

**RESOLVED:** Items of expenditure approved unanimously

### **23/174. Flash Flooding Events 9 May 2023**

Update and reports.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Beyer presented her report, which can be found at attachment 1.

*(Cllr Beyer left the meeting at 8.20pm)*

### **23/175. Highways and Rights of Way (RoW) Report.**

PC Representatives to provide progress reports.

a. RoW Report. Cllr Garrett reported that with the current rain the footpaths have been very waterlogged this last month. He had been made aware of two broken signposts situated opposite the back gate to the school in North Cadbury. These are being reported via the interactive website.

Cllr Keys-Toyer attended the first meeting of the Footpath WG on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November led by Terena Isaacs, SC Community Support Assistant. He reported that SC would like parish and town councils to take on more work, such as the Strimmer Scheme and have asked to be kept informed as to what is being done. Exmoor are piloting a Lengthsman scheme, however, there were no plans for the scheme being extended to our area. There was brief mention of the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme (PP3), whereby some reimbursement may be available for some voluntary work undertaken.

b. Highways Report. Cllr Rundle presented his report, which can be found at Attachment 2.

### **23/176. North Cadbury and Yarlington Neighbourhood Plan.**

Update from the NP Monitoring Group.

a. PA 21/01455/OUT - Outline application for up to 81 dwellings on land at Ridgeway Lane, North Cadbury, BA22 7DF. Cllr A Rickers reported that they were still awaiting the outcome of the outline application and as discussed in public session.

b. PA 22/02994/S73 - S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission 18/03693/FUL for the erection of 8 detached dwellings at the former Harvester Works, Galhampton. Cllr Rickers reported that the boundary wall between Mayfield Close and the development site had been built out of block and render rather than using brick or stone as requested by the PC and as a condition of the PC's approval, which has raised a number of concerns by residents and would be investigated.

**23/177. Police & Crime Commissioner's Councillor Forum.**

The Chairman and Cllr A Rickers to report on the event held on 7 Nov 2023 in Castle Cary and to discuss reports of anti-social behaviour in the parish.

**RESOLVED:** The Chairman and Cllr A Rickers presented their report, which can be found at attachment 3.

**23/178. Local Community Networks LCNs)**

To confirm attendee at the next LCN meetings on 6 Dec 2023 and 22 Feb 2024.

**RESOLVED:** The Chairman and Cllr Keys-Toyer hoped to attend on 6 Dec 23.

**23/179. Dates of PC Meetings for 2024**

a. To agree the following dates for PC meetings to be held in 2024 on the fourth Wednesday of the month, commencing at 7.00pm: 24<sup>th</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 24<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November. Venues as circulated.

**RESOLVED:** Dates agreed. Extraordinary meetings would be held if necessary to consider urgent business in August and December.

b. To confirm dates and timing of onsite planning meetings as the second Monday of the month, commencing at 2.00pm.

**RESOLVED:** Agreed.

**23/180. Items for Report and Future Business.**

a. Wessex Water. Cllr Keys-Toyer previously circulated his notes on an in depth seminar presented by Wessex Water in which they presented their proposed business plan, discussed flooding and how to deal with sewerage overflows and what they hoped to achieve.

b. Stags Head Inn, Yarlinton. Cllr Viney reported that the Inn had closed and was due to be advertised for sale. She presented the Clerk with a Nomination Form signed by over fifty residents wishing to nominate the Stags Head Inn as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The Clerk agreed to include the request on the agenda for approval at the on site planning meetings scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**Next meeting:** to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Galhampton Village Hall.

There being nothing further to report the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....Chairman