

# Minutes of North Cadbury Annual Parish Assembly

## *A meeting of the Parishioners*

Held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm at

North Cadbury Village Hall, High Street, North Cadbury BA22 7DP

There were twenty one 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 Councillors Nick Garrett, Chris Jose, John Rundle and Richard Rundle. Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger also tendered his apologies.
2. **The Minutes of North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024** were received, approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Andy Keys-Toyer as Chairman of the meeting.
3. **The Chairman of the Parish Council** presented his report, which can be found at Attachment 1.
4. **Reports from Local Groups and Organisations**
  - a. **Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO)**. Susan Fone reported as follows:

With reference to some of the issues raised in the last PPLO report, May 2024, explanation of what powers the PC has to have works done is laid out in the Guidance for Parish Councils for Rights of way maintenance. Following the publication of this document, a letter was sent to Parish Councils asking what help and support they could give to the limited resources of the Rights of way team.

The bridges WN19/95 WN19/72 WN19/32 WN27/8 have still not been repaired, but the landowner (Perry's Recycling) has agreed access and Mervyn the contractor has submitted quotes, which have been accepted by SC and landowners, but still no date when he will do the work. No further progress on the ground.

WN19/105 (Ridgeway Lane) is still in a very bad state requiring substantial surface and drainage works. The major impediment is the colony of badgers in the banks along each side. Eve Wynne is contacting the Ecology department to assess whether and when works can proceed. There is urgency required as weather is causing the surface to further deteriorate. Complaints have been received for several years about the lack of cutting out of paths through crops at North Town, North Cadbury. The land is owned by The Newt. Despite assurances from Zoe Young, their Community Liaison Officer, that the issues would be resolved, it is still on going. The tenant farmer is under a lot of pressure and needs help from the Newt to do this work. It is the landowner who is responsible, NOT the tenant.

As a result of the financial status of Somerset Council, the Rights of Way department has suffered substantial cuts. There are now only six full time Area wardens and Rob Coate, who headed up the department with great skill and sensitivity, has chosen to leave. Rachel Pierce

(previously in charge of bridges) has taken his place. The Parish Council will now have to find volunteers to fill the gaps which these cuts leave.

Since the eight circular routes for walkers have been in place and clearly signed with fluorescent yellow signs, the numbers of regular walkers have greatly increased. It is good that so many are now able to benefit from these ancient Rights of Way and connect with history and nature. On behalf of users of these paths, our thanks to the Parish Council for their active support for the continuity of these Rights of Way on their original routes and also for assisting with funding their existence for the future.

b. North Cadbury Village Hall. Ann Cook presented the report on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees:

The Trustees are all volunteers who give their time to maintain the Hall and playing field to provides a place for local organisations to meet, for social activities, sport and play. They have regular monthly meetings and comply with Charity Commission requirements.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining the Hall Cottage, which is grade 2 star listed so presents challenges when considering the required work and maintaining the thatched roof. Over the year secondary double glazing has been fitted and repairs done.

We had replacement work done on the hall roof after thieves stole some lead, work on the reading room door including fixing the door lock and repainting. We also had the lower wall of the cottage and the hall on the Woolston Rd repaired with Lime Mortar work

Over the last year there have been regular bookings by The Parish Council, Table Tennis Club, Gardening Club, Folk Night, Women's Group, Art Club. Band Practise and Little City.

The hall is used as a polling station for local and national election, for family occasions and other local events.

The year to 31st March 2025 was a busy year for committee and other community volunteers who assist with events.

Our monthly 200 club coffee morning provide an opportunity to chat with friends and neighbours. 200 Club members support hall fundraising through their lottery number.

We held a Race Night, a Rock and Roll night, showed selected Euro's matches and had a Bar Night whilst The Catash was closed. The 2024 summer fundraiser was a very wet event but enjoyed by all ages across the community. It kick-started the formation of 'The BA22's', our own community band.

During the autumn and winter, monthly film nights took place. The annual Harvest Lunch, organised with St Michael's Church, was a great success again and we thank everyone who donated cottage pies and puddings for all to enjoy without charge.

The bi-annual quiz nights to keep 'the little grey cells' working are always well attended, extremely competitive and great fun. We are most grateful to Ron Wood for being our excellent quiz master. An extremely successful jumble sale, a Barn Dance and the Pancake Evening were all good fundraisers. Our community events are always enjoyed by attendees.

Camelot players used the stage to put on successful performances of 'Shipwrecked' in May and their pantomime version of Dick Whittington in December. As usual, they provided wonderful entertainment for the community and their efforts raised money for hall funds.

The Hall Trustees are responsible for providing and maintaining the playing field, the play equipment and the trees on site. Checks are made on the trees by tree surgeons and the grass cut regularly. We sadly said goodbye to the Camel Rocker, who had provided sterling service for many years and welcomed 'Dino the Dinosaur' for use by younger members of the community. We thank the Parish council for their support and funding towards playground maintenance and to Brian Morris and his team of volunteers for their work to maintain the play equipment, thus ensuring that the younger members of our community can enjoy playing and having fun outdoors.

In this financial year, Trustees will continue to do work to maintain and improve Hall facilities. Fundraising is underway so that new sound equipment and a projector can be purchased. The BA22's kicked off the fundraising efforts by playing to a packed hall and more events will

follow so keep your eye on the noticeboards, our website and social media to keep up with what is going on in North Cadbury Village Hall.

c. The Church of St Michael the Archangel, North Cadbury and Galhampton Chapel. Caroline Joneleit-Hope read out the report on behalf of the North Cadbury Churchwardens:

We are in a time of transition, and a lot of plans and decisions are still up in the air but the current state of play is as follows:

Following Tristram's retirement last August we entered an interregnum (or time of vacancy), however, this was short lived because with effect from 1st January this year we came under the umbrella of Rev'd Caroline Walker who had been appointed as Interim Minister for the Cam Vale group of churches in 2024. She has moved into the Rectory in North Cadbury and can often be spotted around the village and at village events.

The Camelot Benefice was officially disbanded in February 2025 and, in accordance with the Diocesan restructure, we are to form a new Benefice called the Vale of Camelot Group of Churches. This comprises North Cadbury, South Cadbury, Galhampton and Yarlinton (from the old Camelot group), together with Queen Camel, West Camel, Sparkford, Weston Bamfylde, Corton Denham and Sutton Montis (the former Cam Vale group).

We are still at the very early stages of our new working arrangements and getting to know each other, but the pattern of services in North Cadbury and Galhampton has until now remained unchanged with at least one service every Sunday offering a variety of times and styles of worship over the course of a month. These may need to change in the future to create a better balance across the new group but I don't have any details about this yet. As well as our regular services we continue to hold special services for festivals such as Christmas and Easter. So, little has changed at ground level, but there may be changes to come.

We continue to run a weekly pre-school group, Legofest in the school holidays, community coffee mornings, lent lunches and other ad hoc activities.

The fabric of the building remains in reasonable condition. In the last year we have carried out work on the lead roof, replastered the lower wall behind the altar, and carried out preparation work on the lower sections of external masonry in readiness for repointing. The Victorian tiles in the Chancel have been repaired, and we're liaising with the insurance company and a local contractor to replace the stolen sections of lead downpipes.

The five yearly condition survey should be produced this year which will identify further areas of work requiring attention.

Andrew and Ian do a grand job maintaining the church yard which is quite large for a village of this size, with numerous hedges, trees and shrubs, as well as the grassed areas. We are very grateful to them and to the Parish Council for their financial contribution making this possible.

d. North Cadbury Women's Group. Susie Morris presented the report on behalf of the Group: We have had another good year with member numbers rising steadily. we now have 26 members with some 'country members' who come to meetings as and when they are able. sadly though, we lost a much loved and long-standing member when Janet Penson died earlier this year.

The subjects of talks have varied from a musical quiz with Adelaid Brown, a second talk on the fascinating lives of bees, a trip to Pitcombe: Falconry, and a visit from Bob the Baker who brought trays of cake samples, so he may be invited again. Following on with more food, our in-house expert, Shan Bartlett gave us a demonstration of Christmas Delights and indeed they were delightful and tasty. Shan is in danger of being asked to repeat this highlight too.

This summer, we look forward to a talk by Richard Kay from Lawrences of Crewkerne. His subject is, 'Animals in British Art' and this meeting will be on May 28th in the Reading Room and is open to friends and partners. In June, we shall visit a Lavender Farm and later there

will be two talks, both of which will be open to those interested, on Trussel Trust Food Bank and Somerset Community Foundation.

Our monthly lunches are very popular with 10-17 members meeting up at local venues and later in May a group of us is going to Westlands Theatre to see the musical 'Cats'. Watch out for our posters which will tell you what we are up to.

The group is in good heart, and we have an energetic committee led by its thoughtful and resourceful chairman, Angela Hunt.

e. North Cadbury and District Garden Club. Ron Wood, Chairman read out the report on behalf of the Club:

The Club has a fairly stable membership of between forty and fifty and we meet once a month for talks and lectures, of subjects as varied as plant hunting in Peru and facts about bees.

We also enjoy garden visits; this month to Westbrook House garden on Wednesday 21st and we have a tie-in with Castle Gardens at Sherborne, which gives members useful discounts, including an annual visit where 25% off everything is offered. The next one is on June 4th at 6.00pm.

On Saturday we have our plant and cake sale in North Cadbury Village Hall and we hope to see as many people as possible picking up bargains.

We are always welcoming visitors to our meetings and we hope that visitors will enjoy our meetings and become members.

f. North Cadbury Allotment Association. Cllr Keys-Toyer gave his report as PC representative for the NCAA:

I attended the annual allotment inspection on 28<sup>th</sup> April and was shown round by Peter Elliot the joint Chairman. They continue to have items stolen and inform the police when this happens but no action is ever taken. There was the usual mix of some plots being very tidy and some less so. All plots are taken and there is one person on the waiting list. I mentioned the importance of keeping fencing in good order with no stray wires that could cause injury. The NCAA are still waiting to receive the accounts for 2023/24 back from their accountant.

## 5. **Open Public Parish Forum**

a. Brookhampton Development. A member of the public (MOP) was present to read out a statement on behalf of her neighbour objecting to the proposed development for thirty six houses on land north of Brookhampton; the main objections relating to flood risk. She stated that until up-to-date flood risk modelling is carried out, robust mitigation is put in place and longstanding drainage and river management problems are fully addressed, she did not believe that the PC can or should support this proposal."

A MOP asked if there were any details yet of workshops/meetings for the development; when and who would be in attendance.

In response Cllr J Whitehead gave an update on behalf of the WG set up to liaise with both residents and Ibex Land and its agents, initially focusing specifically on drainage and flooding issues. The WG comprises of Cllrs John Rundle, Richard Rundle, and John Whitehead.

Four Brookhampton residents directly affected by flooding were invited to join discussion and the first joint meeting took place on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025. He was awaiting the notes from the meeting from colleagues and Origin 3 but gave a brief resume. The full notes from the WG on the meeting can be found at Attachment 2.

A MOP also wished to express her concern over the detrimental affect the development would have on the highways and speed through the whole village up to Three Ashes. Traffic movement during construction would also need to be addressed.

b. Wessex Water (WW). A resident asked if the PC had received a response from WW regarding the longstanding issue of sewage overflow on Mitchells Row, Brookhampton. The Clerk confirmed that she had written to WW who replied that the PC would have a response

by 9<sup>th</sup> May; to date, despite hastening, no response had been received and she would continue to follow this up.

**(Henry Hobhouse arrived at 7.55pm)**

c. Obstruction caused by Overhanging Vegetation, Cary Road. MOP commented on the highway issues created by overhanging vegetation that was causing traffic to pull out into the middle of the road. There was also a longstanding issue of vegetation inhibiting the footpath along Cary Road, preventing wheelchair users, prams etc. using the path. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported and enforcement action should be taken shortly as confirmed by Somerset Council (SC). Cllr Hobhouse agreed to follow this up with Tracy Harris, SC Assistant Highways Manager.

**6. Report from Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse:**

a. Flood Warning App. The new PegelAlarm App is available for all residents in Somerset. The App will show current water levels, forecasts and warn you reliably about emergencies as soon as a water level reaches a critical state. Residents can set the height on the App of the river level at which they would receive an audible warning. The App is free to download from <https://www.floodalert.com/> with an annual fee if you connect to more than one warning device.

b. Flooding. Somerset Council (SC) are running a trial scheme in Podimore until January 2026 that would enable the parish to control its own road closure signage during flood events, without having to contact the police, under an experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). If successful, flood wardens/parishes could apply to SC to be included on the TRO and purchase their own road closure signage.

c. Budget. SC had set a legal budget. The Section 151 Officer, who has since left, carried out an excellent job and SC was £20m under budget. However, due to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) budget, forty four county councils were in financial difficulties with approx. £100m accumulated debt, which is due to be repaid in April 2026. If the Government does not write off this debt, these councils could effectively be in receivership and have to submit a Section 114 notice next year.

d. Potholes. Funds are now more readily available to fill potholes in the County. The more residents who report a pothole online the quicker it will be filled. Report potholes online at: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

e. [Castle Cary (Dimmer) Recycling Centre. Great news that SC are no longer looking at closing the centre as part of a bid to cut costs.]

f. Highways. There is a large sink hole in Station Road, Castle Cary, with a mains gas pipe hanging unsupported; SC has no 'emergency road procedure'. It will also cost £1.2m to repair the A371 following the recent landslide due to bank erosion. The road was likely to be closed for up to six months later in the year while the council repairs 120m of the road and build a 4.2m high retaining wall.

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Signed .....

Dated .....

Chairman