

## North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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“Draft” Minutes of the North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in The Reading Room, North Cadbury, following the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which commenced at 7.00pm

**Councillors Present:** Cllr M Hunt (Chairman), Cllr A Bartlett (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Brain, Cllr D Brown, Cllr R House, Cllr A Keys-Toyer, Cllr A Montgomery, Cllr A Rickers, Cllr J Rundle and Cllr K Vaughan.

**In Attendance:** C.Cllr M Lewis, the Clerk and thirteen members of the public.

01. **Minutes of the North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 were received, agreed and signed as a true record.**
02. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None.
03. **Parish Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019:** The Clerk circulated copies of the PC Receipts and Payments Account 2018-19 (unaudited) which would be formally adopted at the PC meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.
04. **Report from County and District Councillors:**
  - a. C.Cllr Lewis reported that Somerset County Council (SCC) recently agreed to put in place a regime to supply Parish and Town Councils with de-icing material in FY 2019-20. They also agreed to re-introduce the Health and Wellbeing Scheme from September 2019 for C.Cllrs to fund projects that improved the health and wellbeing of the communities served by each C.Cllr. Small Highway Improvement Schemes (SIS) would continue to be available, should Parish and Town Councils wish to submit a scheme for consideration for highway improvements.  
C.Cllr Lewis reported that SCC ended the FY with a small surplus of £1.4 million, which was negligible when compared with the Council's total budget of £800 million for the provision of its services.
05. **Parish Reports:**
  - a. Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman read out the Parish Council Review of the Year 2018-2019 (see attachment 1). Cllr Brown commented that communication between the PC and parishioners could be improved by using social media. **It was agreed to discuss this issue in more detail at a future meeting.** There then followed a brief discussion on the planning process and enforcement. Cllr Lewis advised that parishioners could always ask their District Councillors for advice on planning matters and South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Area East Committee met on the second Wednesday of the month in the Council Offices, Churchfield, Wincanton at which the public could ask any questions during the Public Question Time.
  - b. North Cadbury Village Hall (NCVH). Mr R Russell, Chairman of NCVH gave his report. 'North Cadbury Village Hall continues to be very busy. Weekly bookings include the Art Classes; Camelot Short Mat Bowls Club; Bridge Club; Toddler Group; Table Tennis; Pilates and also the Doctor's Tuesday surgery. Our in house play group Camelot Players also flourish with another pantomime production and we continue to hold film shows.  
Monthly groups include Gardening Society, Women's Group and the Archaeology Society. We hold a Village Coffee morning and 200 Club prize draw on the last Saturday of every month. We host numerous private functions, in particular birthday parties, wedding receptions and wakes. Public events sponsored by the Hall are Pancake Evening, twice yearly Quiz and Take Art productions. In May 2018 we had the hall completely repainted externally plus additional repairs to

boundary walls, the Reading Room emergency exit door and a major clean-up of the outside vegetation. We also launched our dedicated Village Hall website.

The playing field is very well utilized but our play equipment is aging and required continual maintenance. Most of the work is carried out by committee members. We were fortunate to receive a donation of two new toddler swings to replace the old and worn ones.

During the summer of 2018 we upgraded our vacant cottage with a new bathroom, hot water system and heating. The new tenants moved in at the end of August 2018 and have settled in well.

We have a full and very energetic Committee and I would like to thank them for all their help and support over the year.'

c. Galhampton Village Hall (GVH). Cllr A Rickers reported on behalf of GVH. The new Village Hall was opened by Michael Eavis. The GVH Committee was well embedded and actively running the new hall and its evolving facilities. The Hall was open for various events, clubs and activities, including the Art Group, Table Tennis Club, Choir and Bridge Club. They were also looking into the possibility of using the hall for indoor bowls. Activities included the lunch club, held on the second Thursday of the month, the village gathering and coffee morning held on the first Saturday of the month and other events such as film nights, choir evenings, bonfire night, Burns Night Supper, Open Gardens and the Scarecrow Festival. The Committee continued to raise funds through the 200 Club monthly draw and Christmas raffle. Regular bookings include Pilates, Yoga, Mums-To-Be, Doctor's surgery, Rainbows, Mini Music Makers and private parties.

Cllr Rickers reported that Galhampton Church was used for many functions while the new hall was being built, therefore, the Committee would be assisting with renovating the internal aspects of the Church. The Playing Field was well used and the Committee were looking at replacing and upgrading some of the play equipment.

d. North Cadbury Allotment Association. No report received. Cllr Keys-Toyer advised that Theresa Hallett recently retired as Chairman and would forward the contact details to the Clerk for the new Chairman and Secretary.

e. North Cadbury and District Gardening Club. The Clerk read out a report on behalf of Mrs H Keys-Toyer, Chairman: 'The Gardening Club has had another busy year. We have a total of 61 members including 3 new members and our meetings are well attended. We have a coach outing each June and this year we are going to Longstock Water Gardens. We are also doing smaller scale garden visits in the local area. Our next one is to Iford Manor near Bradford on Avon.

A few members have helped to create a flower garden at the rear of the Village Hall which is establishing well. We are also making a wildflower garden on the Woolston Road side of the hall and the playgroup will help us to sow the seeds, kindly donated by Kew Gardens, on the morning of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. All are welcome to attend.

The plant and cake sale this year raised £600 net. We shall be staging the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Show in August and we would like to encourage more of the local community to enter. Finally, grateful thanks to Brian Morris for agreeing to be our representative on the Village Hall Committee.'

f. St Michael's Church, North Cadbury. Mrs C Joneleit-Hope, Church Warden gave a report on behalf of the Church: 'We have services in North Cadbury weeks 1 to 4, and in Galhampton weeks 2 to 5, so there is at least one service within the Parish every Sunday, offering a variety of services at a variety of times. In addition there is a service in Galhampton every Tuesday evening. The intention being to be accessible to all members of the Parish and to serve all tastes and preferences over the course of a month.

As well as regular services the churches host a monthly community coffee morning in North Cadbury and Tea afternoon in Galhampton. Last summer North Cadbury started *mainly music*, a group for pre-school children and their parents/carers, which meets weekly during the school term.

g. We also organise two concerts each year. This year the Yeovilton Military Wives are singing for us on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, (proceeds to The Friends of St Michaels), and The Three Brothers Organ Concert on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September (proceeds to the general running of the Church).

Every five years we are required to arrange a Quinquennial Review of the fabric of the church, undertaken by a specialist approved architect. The architect will inspect every area of the church, church tower and churchyard from top to bottom, and report back with a list of works in order of priority. Our next inspection is due this year. Apart from a leaky section of roof in the South Aisle, we believe the church to be in relatively good order, but wait to see what the review reveals. St Michaels is a Grade 1 Listed Building.

In answer to the question raised by the Chairman, the annual budget for St Michael's is approx. £50,000. £23,000 is our Parish Share and the remaining £27,000 is for general running costs (heating, lighting, insurance, maintenance, churchyard expenses etc.).'

h. North Cadbury Women's Group. Ms P Moylan took over as Chairman in January 2019 and reported that the Women's Group met on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Reading Room, North Cadbury, excluding December and an outing to Fossil Fine Foods planned for June. The Group held a healthy balance in its account, which paid for Reading Room hire and speakers. Some speakers waived their fee for it to be given to the charity of their choice instead. Surplus funds from membership fees, raffles and the Annual Fair were donated to the Group's chosen charity of the year. The Christmas Fair had been brought forward to autumn. The Group currently had 25 members and was open to attendees for a small fee on the day. More members and attendees were welcome.

i. Cary and Camelot Table Tennis Club. The Clerk read out Mr A Bentley's report: 'The club continues to thrive. Our Tuesday evening sessions are well attended and enjoyed by those who play. Due to the numbers attending we play mainly doubles but there are occasional opportunities for singles as well. The Tuesday sessions are 'pay-and-play' for just £2, from 18:30 until 20:30. We welcome all abilities and ages. Our current regulars range in age from 20 to 88. We also have one team in the lowest division of the Yeovil & District League.'

j. North Cadbury Tennis Club. Mrs J Montgomery, Secretary reported that the Club met on a Monday night starting at 6pm and, with a rota now in place, was well attended. They held a start of season tournament on bank holiday Monday with a barbeque afterwards and entered a mixed team, a ladies team and a gentlemen's team into the Yeovil and District League. Visitors are always welcome and who to contact was clearly shown on the notice board.

k. North Cadbury Primary School. Mrs J Montgomery, Chair of Governors gave her report: 'I am very pleased to confirm that on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 North Cadbury Primary School converted to Academy Status and has been incorporated within the Preston Primary Academy Trust (PPAT). It had always been the School's intention to join a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and the School was delighted to be offered the chance to join Preston. PPAT is a local MAT based in Yeovil and was founded from Preston Church of England Primary School in 2013.

With this Church foundation (where 25% of the Trust of the MAT is representative of the Diocese) there will continue to be a strong Christian ethos within the School. With Preston Primary School itself being one of the highest performing schools in Somerset and for many years being in the top 250 schools for academic performance in the United Kingdom, we are confident that this new partnership will be excellent for all of the children who attend the School which is already driving up the quality of provision of education of our children.

North Cadbury School will continue to be run and managed locally and also continue to have its own Local Governing Body. Rather than being overseen by the Local Authority, North Cadbury will now be led by the Chief Executive Officer of the PPAT (Mrs Bernie Green) who has extensive Head Teacher experience and who has already a sound understanding of the unique character and ethos of North Cadbury School. We believe that the pupils at North Cadbury School can only benefit from the enormous professional input and direction that the PPAT will bring.

Our School name remains the same as will our recently updated set of values and principles. PPAT acknowledge the distinctiveness of our village primary school and the need for it to remain as individual as possible within this new chapter of its life.

As many of you will know former Head Teacher of this School, Mrs Sandra Kiddle, retired at Easter and we now have two interim Heads, Mr Jeremy St John (Deputy Head at Preston) and Mrs Lucy Crow (Head Teacher of Kingfisher School). Preston and Kingfisher are two of the five schools within PPAT. These interim Heads are in place pending the appointment of a Head Teacher for North Cadbury for the Autumn Term.

A lot of refurbishment took place within the School over the Easter holidays including redecoration of the main hall and other buildings, installation of a new phone system, resurfacing of the playground and generally the opening up of the School site (removal of old sheds etc.). With the re-jigging of the premises we are looking to provide three staff car parking spaces at the back of the School and within the fenced area.

We are going to have a village Open Afternoon to show some of the School's work and improvements after half term.' In answer to the Chairman's question, Mrs Montgomery advised that

the number of children attending the school had dropped from 120 to 80, however, by improving the education, the number will increase and make the school more sustainable in the longer term.

**06. Matters Raised by Members of the Public, to include the proposal by Galhampton Residents to amend the name of the Parish/Council to include 'Galhampton':**

The Chairman reported that the request arose from a resident/s at a Galhampton Coffee morning. He explained that North Cadbury and Yarlinton Parish Council is a 'Grouped' council and any name change could only be applied to the parish of North Cadbury, Yarlinton legally being a parish in its own right. To date no comments in favour or against had been received. Following a brief discussion it was considered that it may be a personal feeling of a few, as the majority spoken to were ambivalent once it was explained that Galhampton is part of the Parish of North Cadbury, as is Woolston, North Town and Brookhampton. It was agreed unanimously, that until a formal proposal with strong support was made through the Galhampton Cllrs, no further action would be taken.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.

SIGNED..... DATED.....

DRAFT

## **PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW 2018-2019**

This past year has, once again, been a busy one for the Parish Council. Perhaps not surprisingly, it has been dominated by various aspects of the Planning process. As the year draws to an end, we now know that, for differing reasons, 4 of our number are standing down, including Pam Wood has been on the PC for about 23 years. During this time she has been active in various issues affecting the Parish and has always had the views and concerns of our villagers as her prime concern. She will be missed from our deliberations and we wish her all the very best for whatever the future brings. Also leaving is David Handley, who has been a Cllr and Vice-Chairman for the past 8 years. His knowledge and expertise in Police and law issues has been invaluable and, as Vice-Chairman he has played a vital role in such issues as Standing Orders, the precept and many other important and unglamorous issues. We will miss him and wish him, too, all the best and more time for his golf and other interests. The other two, Mike Martin and Barrie Board, who have been Councillors for 3 and 2 years respectively, have in their short time with us made a significant mark on our deliberations. They were both on, and played a leading role in, the Sub Group which put together the PC's submission to the Hearing for the Sandbrook Lane Appeal and Cllr Martin, particularly, played the leading role in the formulation of the Community Plan, which came to fruition during the year. I thank them for their considerable efforts on behalf of our Community.

### **PLANNING**

2. During the year we have considered 23 Planning Applications (PA), 2 of them in Yarlington. This is somewhat below the level we have come to expect at a number in the high 20s.
3. **The Community Plan.** After much hard and detailed work by Cllr Martin and his small team, the Community Plan was completed during the early part of the year. It contains much in the way of statistical information about our communities, some of which has been noted by District Cllrs who have used information to inform their deliberations with regard to North Cadbury and Yarlington. Due to the way in which the demographics in our villages appear to be slowly changing, with more younger people, some of whom work from home, coming in, it is probable that within 5 years or so our document will require updating, if it is to retain its value.
4. **Sandbrook Lane.** The retrospective PA at the site in Sandbrook Lane was first considered by the PC in June 2016. Having been refused by SSDC and an Enforcement Notice served, an Appeal was lodged by the Applicant at the end of the year. The Appeal was heard on 6 December 2018 and the Inspector quickly came to a judgement the Appeal should be allowed. All in all this was a most unsatisfying process, from our point of view. The PC was ill served by the Planning Authority from the outset. We have complained to them on this score and the process has yet to be concluded but, at the end of the day, nothing will change. The best that can be said is that lessons have been learned!! We were, throughout the process, well supported by the local community, 20 of whom attended the Appeal Hearing and made their views known.
5. **The Harvesters Site, Galhampton.** This brownfield site has been the subject of 3 PAs by the owners, Tinknells, in recent years. These all failed on the basis that they were trying to cram too much into a small site with other attendant problems. This latest application is for 8 dwellings. Having been approved, with conditions, by the PC, it has become stuck somewhere within the Planning Authority. We are pursuing the matter. The site is an eyesore, and has been so for far too long. The local population and the PC wish to see the site beneficially used but not at any cost. The story continues!!
6. **Teal Orchard Farm Shop at Chapel Cross.** A PA has been submitted to and been approved with conditions by South Cadbury PC. As an interested party, we have refused to approve until certain guarantees are given that Highways England will improve the vehicular access and egress at a location on the A303 which is already dangerous. Another concern is that the future of the Village Shop could be threatened. This will depend on the developer and the Tenant of the Shop reaching an agreement which will satisfy both parties. This is being mediated by the lessor in both cases, A and E Montgomery. We appreciate that this has excited much local concern and we shall work hard to satisfy all needs.

## OTHER MATTERS

7. **Highways/Footpaths.** Over the past 2 years, Cllr Brain who has taken on the role of overseeing Highways issues in the Parish and has now, with his regular survey of our roads/lanes, brought improvements to considerable local benefit. He has, bravely, now agreed to take on the same role for our footpaths management, working alongside Mrs Susan Fone, the Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO). We have more footpaths in our Parish than most, so it is, against the background of diminishing funds and support from the Council, that he is having to work. What is, I suggest, certain that we shall have a better handle on our Footpaths than has been the case in the past.

8. **Finger Post Refurbishment.** Arising from the reduction in funds from SCC, a small team of volunteers, put together by Cllr Keys-Toyer, has taken on the task of refurbishing the finger-posts in our area. It will take time and requires good weather but where work has been completed, the improvements are very apparent.

9. **Community Speedwatch.** The regular speeding on the A359 at Galhampton is well known. The Speed Indicator Devices which were placed on the road twice a year have also been a victim of cuts. To purchase some is too expensive. However, we are putting together a team of local volunteers who, after training, will provide a Community Speedwatch in the Parish. I think it is fair to say that, as Government funding to local Councils reduces, we shall see an increase in self-help ventures.

10. **Castle Cary Library.** Another aspect of this is the Castle Cary Library which has very recently opened, run by local people on a voluntary basis. The PC has been approached to provide a small sum of money to help to fund this venture and we have agreed to do so.

11. **SSDC Transformation.** Over the past 18 months or so, SSDC has been undergoing massive changes, brought about by, once more, the cuts in Government funding. It has radically changed the ways in which it works, staffs have been cut by about 50% (causing the departure of many good people) and, to date, there appears to have been a reduction in the standards of service provided. It is certainly more difficult to speak on the phone to human beings and we are all encouraged to do more business with them online. However, we must allow time for new arrangements and systems to bed in!!

## SUMMARY

12. It has been a busy year. All of us on the PC have been determined to do our best by our parishioners and we hope that we have got more right than wrong. We are conscious that communication with the Parish could be better and we shall shortly be looking at redesigning our website. However, there is a view that for those who are interested and wish to be involved, the information is available. Please make a start by attending our meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month, except August and December. Where you have views, an opportunity to express them is provided.

MPJ Hunt  
Chairman

30 April 2019