

## North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Carter, Portman House, North Barrow, Yeovil, Somerset  
Tel: 01963 240226 E-mail: [parishclerk@northcadbury.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@northcadbury.org.uk)

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### "Draft" Minutes of the North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 in The Reading Room, North Cadbury commencing at 7.00pm

**Councillors Present:** Cllr M Hunt (Chairman), Cllr D Handley (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Bartlett, Cllr A Brain, Cllr B Board, Cllr L Cheesman, Cllr S Cox, Cllr D Handley, Cllr R House, Cllr M Martin and Cllr P Wood.

**In Attendance:** C.Cllr M Lewis, D.Cllr N Weeks, Beat Manager PC S Stephenson, Mr A Turvill (Chartered Surveyor), the Clerk and eight members of the public.

**18/94. Apologies for absence:** None.

**18/95. Minutes of the North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 were received, agreed and signed as a true record.**

**18/96. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None.

**18/97. Parish Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018:** The Clerk circulated copies of the PC Accounts (unaudited) which would be formally adopted at the following ordinary PC meeting.

**18/98. Report from County and District Councillors:**

a. C.Cllr Lewis reported on the increasing cost of adult social care and children services, which account for 72% of Somerset County Council's (SCC) total budget. The Leader of South Somerset District Council (SSDC), Mr R Pallister, was about to enter into discussions with the other five councils to explore the possibility of creating a unitary authority to replace the six existing councils in Somerset, as there would be no more funds from Central Government for these services. The main priority would be to ensure that high quality, cost effective, essential services were still delivered at their current level. Cllr Lewis also reported on Connecting Devon and Somerset; both counties were deeply unhappy with the non-performance of BT and especially wished to know when improvements would be made to broadband in rural areas.

b. D.Cllr Weeks reported on SSDC's 'Transformation' process through which jobs were being cut. He was concerned that the council would lose its area working and focus through the cuts. He had already lost three members of staff at Area East and was worried that Area East would lose its distinctiveness for which it was renowned. The Transformation process would be complete in January 2019; he hoped it would serve us well. D.Cllr Weeks thanked the PC and Clerk for their hard work and support. He also wished to thank the Parish and Town Councils whose support for the Community Accessible Transport Bus had secured the scheme for the next three financial years, which took residents from isolated rural areas shopping or to hospital appointments, etc.

**18/99. Parish Reports:**

a. Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman read out the Parish Council Review of the Year 2017-2018 (see attachment 1).

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 Camelot Short Mat Bowls Club; Bridge Club; Toddler Group; Table Tennis and also the Doctor's Tuesday surgery. The original Somerset Skills and Learning classes are now held on a private basis during term time for the Art Class and Qi Gong for Health. Our in house play group Camelot Players also flourish with our regular pantomime production and recently with a Victorian Melodrama evening. 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 January we resumed our film nights using our recently acquired full size roll down screen. The playing field is very popular but requires constant attention and repairs. Some of our play equipment is aging. Most of the work is carried out by committee members. We have now paid off the full thatching loan and would like to turn our attention to upgrading the interior. Our long term tenant will be leaving next month and we are already fielding enquiries for prospective new tenants. We have a full and very energetic Committee and I would like to thank them for all their help and support over the year.' Mr Russell received a vote of thanks from the PC and residents.

c. Galhampton Village Hall (GVH). Cllr L Cheesman reported that the new hall could be completed by the end of July 2018. The Committee planned to hold open days/sessions for all to see the new hall and re-establish functions/bookings. In the meantime Galhampton Church would continue to be used whenever possible for the regular village events including 200 Club, Garden Day etc.

d. North Cadbury Allotment Association. The Chairman read out the report on behalf of Mrs T Hallett, Chairman: 'We've had another successful year with all plots being taken. Heidi decided to surrender her plot and this has now been offered to someone on the waiting list; there are still two people on the list. Following a successful bid to SSDC last year, we have now purchased a petrol mower and more fruit trees, which have been planted along the front boundary. We are hoping to put forward another bid this year for hard standing for manure piles and also water storage. Pam Wood, our representative from the PC and I carried out the annual plot inspection and were very pleased with how things looked. I think we're all hoping that the weather will improve soon and that we can get on with digging and planting. It feels as if it's been a very long, cold and wet winter. I would like to thank Archie for keeping us topped up with manure and Pam Wood for her continuing support. Thanks also to Nick Watson, Peter Elliott and Simon Hawksley for grass cutting and looking after the pump.'

e. North Cadbury and District Gardening Club. Mrs H Keys-Toyer, Chairman, read out her report: 'Although last year has seen some changes to the committee, we are continuing to deliver a varied programme of talks and garden visits this year. The 2017 Annual Show was a great success in spite of a poor growing season. Our plant and cake sale this month was a financial success and much enjoyed by members of the public who attended. We currently have a membership of sixty two. This spring a small group of members have volunteered to renovate a piece of garden at the rear of the village hall, which hopefully will be enjoyed by the hall users. We will be planting it up on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6.30pm and all are welcome to attend....please bring a trowel! We hope to recruit some new committee members to replace those standing down next year and encourage new members to join our busy gardening club.'

f. St Michael's Church, North Cadbury. Cllr M Martin, Churchwarden' gave his report: 'This year has been one of consolidation, continuing to build on the initiatives and contacts made in the previous year. All of which would not have been possible without the wonderful army of volunteers who do so much to ensure the smooth running of the church. It is open and accessible to everyone 365 days a year, is clean & tidy, and regularly decorated with beautiful flowers. The churchyard is well maintained, a place of peace and reflection, and appreciated by those who visit it. There are the teams of people who welcome and prepare the church for regular services, weddings and funerals, the bell ringers, those who keep an eye on supplies, linen and maintenance, and not forgetting those who serve the refreshments. Everyone who attends the church is amazed at our beautiful church in a spectacular situation, but more importantly by the welcome they receive. Thank you to everyone for All that you do.

**Services:** The pattern of services has remained the same as last year with a service every week (apart from week 5); three services at 11.am, and one service at 8.am; providing for both Prayer book and Common Worship. As well as the usual pattern of service there generally tends to be something additional or seasonal most months. Once again, we had special services to celebrated Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter, Harvest, All souls, Remembrance and a pet service. These services were well supported and appear to be gathering momentum. The additional highlight to the year was the '600 Year Celebration' held in September. This was a great success on a number of levels, raising the profile of the church within the village,

building new relationships, and provided something for all ages and interests. Planning started back in the February and was a lot of work, so a Big Thank You to all those involved.

**Attendance:**

Average attendance at group services on week 1: **41**

Average attendance at services across weeks 2, 3 & 4: **16**

Average attendance at special services: **72.**

Weddings: **18**

Baptisms: **8**

Funerals: **8**

**Outreach:** As well as the special services mentioned above we had a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent Lunch in the Church following the Palm Sunday service, and had 3 further cafes. We have started a monthly coffee morning and later this month we will have our first games afternoon. All events and special services were publicised in cards & flyers, delivered to all properties in the Parish (3 villages). Thanks to all who helped deliver these and to those who provided the delicious food for the various events. The Church and Clergy team continue to work with the school: assemblies, DJ Club, reading time, gifts of Christian literature at Christmas & Easter, and seasonal services in the church. Our thanks to them for this work, and for their service to the church and community throughout the year.

**Fabric:** The body of the Church remains in good order. Our last Quinquennial Review took place in 2014, so is due again soon. We are not aware of any major issues but with such an old building we cannot be too complacent.

The Churchyard hedge has been cut back to a manageable height, making the grounds a lot lighter. Our thanks goes to the Friends for meeting the costs of the work on the church path and the bells and for the beautiful new pew cushions. All of which is much appreciated, and enhances the church and grounds. Planned work for this year is the restoration of the church clock.'

g. North Cadbury Women's Group. Mrs M Whitmore read out her report: 'We are very pleased to say that 2017/18 has continued to see us thriving. We have had a number of new members, which has made up for the sad loss of one or two of our founder members. We have enjoyed varied speakers, on topics from 'The Royal Kingdom of Bhutan' to 'Rapeseed and its products!' The members have enjoyed several outings and monthly lunches at various pubs in the area.'

h. North Cadbury Tennis Club. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Mrs J Montgomery, Secretary: '2017 was a good year seeing membership remaining at 81 players. Club night has moved to a Monday night starting at 6pm and, with a rota now in place, they have been well attended. We held a start of season tournament on bank holiday Monday with a barbeque afterwards and have entered a mixed team, a ladies team and a gentlemen's team this year into the Yeovil and District League. Visitors are always welcome and who to contact clearly shown on the notice board.'

i. Cary and Camelot Table Tennis Club. The Clerk read out Mr A Bentley's report: 'The club is doing well with a regular Tuesday evening keeping the 3 tables in constant use. It as a 'pay-and-play' session for all abilities, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Our team in the Yeovil & District League improved on our league position this season – we were not last!'

j. North Cadbury Primary School. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Mrs J Montgomery, Chair of Governors: 'As some of you may be aware January brought with it an Ofsted inspection. Whilst the subsequent report highlighted some great positives, for example that, at the end of year 2 standards in reading, writing and mathematics are above the national average and that pupils are polite, well-mannered and courteous, the overall findings were disappointing, in parallel with many other schools in the county. The school is determined, however, to tackle this head on and turn the school around as quickly as possible. We have already recruited two new teaching staff and two new governors all with a wealth of experience in education. As a whole school, therefore, we are now moving forward proactively and positively.'

k. Camelot Bowls Club. Mrs M Whitmore read out her report: 'After a very difficult year financially, I'm happy to say that we are now running on an even keel! We have gained a few new members and have continued to put a team in the Blackmore League. Last year we won Division 4 and moved up to Division 3, where we have remained this year!'

**18/100. Matters Raised by Members of the Public:**

a. A resident wished to thank the PC and Clerk for their hard work, which was appreciated. He hoped the PC could ensure many others received PC information.

b. A resident asked if the PC would consider installing a dog waste bin on Corkscrew Lane. The PC explained that there were limited resources at SSDC available to have an additional bin emptied, even if the PC purchased the bin. It had taken considerable time, patience and evidence for the new bin to be installed on Brookhampton Lane. However, if a need was proven, the PC could approach SSDC if there was not already a bin in the area.

c. Hill Ash Farm, Woolston. Mr A Turvill was present to represent a private client who is considering redeveloping the modern farm buildings at Hill Ash Farm, Woolston. He advised that the Government is seeking to enhance rural communities and in recent years has introduced Permitted Development rights to allow the conversion of agricultural and warehousing buildings to residential use. Whilst there is clearly the potential to convert the buildings and to provide some contemporary dwellings that would provide reference to their former use, it is questionable as to whether this is the most appropriate form of development for the site, particularly given the proximity of the listed Farmhouse. They believe that the site would be better if it were redeveloped to harmonise with the village and enhance the immediate setting. Therefore, they would like to explore and understand the type of development that Parishioners might support. Whilst there are no prepared plans at this stage, they think that it ought to be possible to accommodate three reasonably sized family homes that would be traditional and vernacular in their design and detailing. As this is a small site of less than ten dwellings, it would fall below the Government's threshold for the provision of affordable housing. However, depending on the detailed design and layout, it might also be possible to accommodate a pair of smaller semi detached cottages that would be suitable for young couples or retirees that may be looking to downsize, but still remain in the village. The PC thanked Mr Turvill for engaging in pre-consultation and would ensure residents are kept informed on any proposals for the site. **The Clerk agreed to forward a copy of The Community Plan to Mr Turvill.**

d. Village Summer Fete. Mr A Montgomery was present to seek the opinions and support of those present to hold a Summer Fete, which the village hadn't held for a considerable time. Cadbury Court had a cancellation on 11<sup>th</sup> August, which still had a band booked and could, therefore, be used as a joint venue with the villages as a 'Family Fun Day' that could be incorporated into a Village Fete. He was looking for volunteers to help organise the day, which could compliment the North Cadbury Annual Flower Show, also held on the same day. Monies raised would go towards St Margaret's Hospice and North Cadbury Primary School. Mr Montgomery would send out flyers to gauge parishioners' reactions. **Cllr L Cheesman agreed to raise this with the Galhampton Village Hall Committee who were not as busy as normal due to the re-build of the Hall.**

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

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

**PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW 2017-2018**

The past 12 months have seemed to be as busy, or moreso, as any in my 9 years as a Parish Councillor. Some of this has been self imposed as we have set out on the course towards, perhaps, producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Whether or not we shall do so is a matter we still have to decide upon. It is an expensive and complex exercise which will involve much hard work, particularly for those who comprise the sub committee to do the work. There have been many other matters which have occupied our minds and we have done our best to satisfy their various needs.

Since this occasion last year, the Parish Council (PC) has lost one member and Cllr Roger House from Yarlington has been co-opted to fill the vacancy. He has considerable experience of our Parish, having lived here for the greater part of his life.

**Planning.** As is always the case, planning issues have been a major focus of our work, but particularly so in this past year. There have been 23 Planning Applications which we have as usual considered in all cases on site - they are considered on the afternoon of the second Tuesday of each month. We have not always been happy with the relationship between ourselves and the District Council on Planning issues. As soon as the SSDC has completed its transition, following the organisational and other staff changes which have been necessary following substantial Government cuts, we shall be meeting with Council Officers to improve the situation. Perhaps I should briefly explain that Government funding for SSDC this year has reduced by £10 million. The Council is in the process of completely overhauling the way that it works and this will take this year to complete. The new regime goes live in Jan 2019. The numbers working for the Council are being reduced by a third and so there are many nervous people who are having to reapply for their jobs. So worrying and difficult times for all concerned and we need to understand that. The situation with the ongoing **Planning Application in Sandbrook Lane**, which has been in progress since June 2016, shows little sign of early resolution. The Application has been refused by SSDC, with enforcement due by Sep 2018. However, an Appeal has been lodged against both the Refusal and the Enforcement. This is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate who have yet to nominate an Inspector. We understand that there is a national logjam with the Appeal process and no one is able to provide an estimate of when the case will be heard. We can only hope that we shall have some indication by early summer.

**The Community Plan.** At the beginning of this past Council year, a sub group, comprising Cllrs Mike Martin, Sue Cox and Pam Wood, embarked on the considerable task of creating a Community Plan. This started with putting together a Questionnaire on a whole raft of aspects covering life in our communities. 468 questionnaires were distributed to every household in our Parish and 49% were duly completed and returned. We are told that this is a very good response rate. The information gathered has already been very helpful in providing us with a sense of people's feelings on a range of issues. The results have been circulated to SSDC Councillors and Officers and we know that the information has already been used by members of the Area East Committee to inform their decision making. As I have suggested, we now have to decide on if and how we take this work further. However, we are only where we are due to the enormous amount of hard work put in by Mike, Sue and Pam. They deserve our thanks. For those who are interested, the Community Plan is available on the Village Website.

**The Precept.** Over the last 6 years we have not raised the precept but this year we have needed to raise it by £500 from £11000 with the likelihood that we shall need to take similar action next year. As your District Councillors will report and as I have indicated, the District and County Councils have had their funding slashed by Government. This has meant that Parish Councils are being asked to take on more tasks and to fund them locally. Two examples are the maintenance of finger posts and the use of Speed Indicator Devices. Each case is and will be judged on its merit but we are all clear that we should only fund items from which our communities will benefit. In fact, we have a long list of trusty and community minded volunteers to undergo the necessary health and safety training to do the finger posts. Thank you to them. Additionally, we have purchased an additional dog bin, which we judged was required in Sandbrook Lane. We should be clear that there will need to be more self help in the future.

**Boundary Commission.** Some will be aware that there was a recommendation during the year to the Boundary Commission that there should be a reshuffle of Council boundaries to equalise representation. We learned that there was a plan to separate Yarlinton from North Cadbury. This proposal was clearly submitted due to ignorance or error. However, by prompt action by the Parish Clerk, some Councillors and parishioners we were able to head off this mad proposal which we believe is now abandoned.

**Highways.** Many will be aware that the PC's Highways Tsar is Cllr Alan Brain. Over the past year he has developed an excellent working relationship with the County Council Highways Dept. He and John Nicholson meet monthly and Alan himself walks the ground regularly to establish the situation for himself. Of course, the diminution of funds has hit Highways budgets and particularly potholes. This is evinced by the state of our roads and lanes which are worse than for sometime. However, we are on the case and whatever is possible within the limited available funds will be pleaded for. There is, of course, the possibility to report potholes yourself on the telephone or online. In fact the private reporting of individual potholes is the best route.

**Communications.** Arising from the Community Plan, we have come to realise that we need to be more effective in the way that we communicate with our parishioners. We shall be giving this matter serious consideration shortly. We have already decided that we shall re-introduce a Summary of the Parish Council Minutes as an enclosure with the Excalibur Parish Magazine. For those who are interested in our routine business, all our Minutes, including those of Planning Meetings, are posted on the PC Website. For those who might have ideas as to how information flow might be improved please inform the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors.

**Parish Council Meetings.** Currently, we hold a PC Meeting approximately every 6 weeks, although no meeting is held in August or December. We have found that too often our County and District Councillors are unable to attend due to their own full Council Meetings or other reasons. We value highly the presence at our meetings of our elected County and District Councillors. Thus, we have decided to change our meeting dates to the 4th Wednesday of each month, except August and December. We hope that this will prove effective and will also enable more members of the community to come and support our work.

Malcolm Hunt,

Chairman

22 May 2018