

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Rebecca Carter, Portman House, North Barrow, Yeovil, Somerset
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"Draft" Minutes of the Yarlington Annual Parish Meeting held in Yarlington Village Hall on Wednesday 24th April 2019 commencing at 7.00pm

ACTION

Councillors Present: Cllr M Hunt (Chairman), Cllr D Handley (Vice-Chairman), Cllr A Bartlett, Cllr B Board, Cllr A Brain, Cllr R House, Cllr A Keys-Toyer, Cllr M Martin, Cllr A Montgomery, Cllr A Rickers and Cllr P Wood

In Attendance: C.Cllr M Lewis, the Clerk and twenty three members of the public.

19/69. Apologies for absence: D.Cllr Weeks.

19/70. Minutes of the Yarlington Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th April 2018 were received, agreed and signed as a true record.

19/71. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting: None.

19/72. Parish Council Accounts (Unaudited) for Year Ending 31st March 2019: Draft accounts were distributed for information with comment by the Clerk; these would be formally adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting to be held on 15th May 2019.

19/73. Reports from County and District Councillors:

a. C.Cllr M Lewis reported that Somerset County Council (SCC) started the financial year (FY) with a £1 million underspend, however SCC had effectively created a £19 million increase over the FY with total expenditure of £800 million, largely due to additional funding provided by central government. The predicted overspend by the end of the FY was originally approximately £18 million, however, procedures would be put into place to ensure there would be no repeat of such a deficit. SCC would look into the provision of Highways services and address the availability of de-icing materials to Town and Parish Councils over the summer period. Residents commented on the number of pot holes on roads within the parish and the time it was taking to fill them. Cllr Lewis acknowledged that pot holes will occur due to size of agricultural machinery required in such a rural area, which will have an impact. He advised that all pot holes should be reported on the SCC website.

19/74. Parish Reports:

a. The Vice-Chairman's Annual Parish Report was circulated for information with comment by the Vice-Chairman. (See Attachment 1.) The Chairman thanked Vice-Chairman Handley for his eight years of service with the PC and as Vice-Chairman. He had provided invaluable contributions and advice on legal and police matters and also oversaw such unfashionable matters as the Precept and Standing Orders.

19/75. Matters Raised by Members of the Public: Residents were present to discuss the rumours regarding the recent purchase of Yarlington Lodge by Mr Bekker and the impact the Emily Estate was having on the village. Residents had held a meeting the previous evening, Tuesday 23rd April, at which they resolved to ask the PC to invite Mr Bekker to attend a meeting in Yarlington so that residents could welcome and engage with him to discuss the various quirks of Yarlington and for him to learn more about the village before any further plans were drawn up. In return they would appreciate it if Mr Bekker could explain his plans for Yarlington Lodge as rumours were abound that the second most significant house in Yarlington was to be turned into a five star hotel. The general consensus of residents and the PC was that it would be beneficial, for both the Estate and

residents, if communication could be improved, whether through the PC or by other means. **The Clerk agreed to write to Emily Estate to ask them to forward the invite to Mr Bekker. The Clerk also agreed to ask that any plans be discussed with residents, via the Parish Council, prior to any decisions being made and to ask if communications could be improved to help pre-empt and prevent any further rumours and concerns.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

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

DRAFT

YARLINGTON PARISH REPORT 2018/19

“Perhaps I should start by saying that this is my swan song so far as the Parish Council is concerned and therefore my last in preparing a report for the Parish Meeting. May I say that I have enjoyed my involvement and have tried to make sure that I represent the views of our community. Anyway all is not lost and I hope that Roger House and Brian Mead will continue the task and hopefully any change will be only minimal and for the better.

The year under review – let me start with planning matters, the only completed application was at the Orchards, which resulted in a new sunroom/conservatory. There were some minor adjustments at Fisherman’s Hut and works reaching conclusion on the building next to the Stags. The only other matter was an approach concerning a barn and yard at Higher Farm on the Woolston Road the other side of Dondinal House, investigating the possibility of three new dwellings.

The potholes and other Highways problems continues to be affected by a lack of funds but the approach has been drastically changed by a member of the Parish Council who has taken on this task in a structured way, forming a good relationship with Highways and producing some good results. The same is equally true of the situation surrounding footpaths, where again a more structured approach has been beneficial.

It must be mentions that Charles de Salis has once again done his bit for the village. His lecture this year, split between the Church and the Village Hall, raised nearly £2,200.

One thing that has been the subject of much favourable comment in Yarlington has been the refurbishment of the finger post in the centre of the village which was organised by the Parish Council and undertaken by volunteers. This project is ongoing and the efforts of the team can be seen elsewhere in the villages. I might add that this problem arose because the County Council abandoned any future maintenance of these fingerposts.

By far the biggest underlying problem is the extent to which the activities of the Emily Estate will affect the life and future of the Village, as it expands its footprint, particularly after the purchase by them of the land and property recently vacated by the Pugh’s. This problem is exacerbated by a lack of information from the estate which results in much speculation, gossip and rumour. In this connection there is the suggestion that Yarlington Lodge and the buildings that surround it will be converted into another hotel, virtually in the centre of the village, with all the potentially anti-social problems which could arise.

This was to be the end of my report but in the last week or so a parishioner who lives in close proximity to Yarlington Lodge and who stands to be considerably affected by a major change in use, had some discussion with others in the village, which resulted in her calling a meeting which was in fact held here yesterday evening attended by 32 residents. There was a lively discussion, nearly everyone present expressing frustration at the lack of information about exactly was planned by the estate to take place. Many people spoke of an intention to raise objections against plans but of course until such planning applications are made this is impossible. However, there was a consensus that the Parish Council should be asked to write to the estate in an effort to get information, to make sure this was disseminated and to ask the District Council to similarly act. It was though that these problems were probably known at the estate but thought doubtful that they were passed on to the actual owner who had seemed to want to carry local opinion with him in his enterprise.

The meeting lasted for more than an hour and I am not going to attempt to report fully what was said. However I did suggest that those that wished could attend this Parish Meeting and express their views.”

David Handley
Vice-Chairman