

North Cadbury & Yarlington Parish Council

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

“Draft” Minutes of the North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd May 2017
in The Reading Room, North Cadbury commencing at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Cllr M Hunt (Chairman), Cllr A Bartlett, Cllr A Brain, Cllr B Board, Cllr L Cheesman, Cllr M Martin and Cllr P Wood.

In Attendance: C.Cllr M Lewis, D.Cllr H Hobhouse, the Clerk and six members of the public.

- 17/85. Apologies for absence:** Cllr R Adams, Cllr S Cox and Cllr D Handley.
- 17/86. Minutes of the North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2016 were received, agreed and signed as a true record.**
- 17/87. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None.
- 17/88. Parish Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2017:** The Clerk circulated copies of the PC Accounts (unaudited) which would be formally adopted at the following ordinary PC meeting.
- 17/89. Report from County and District Councillors:**
- a. C.Cllr Lewis reported that additional signage was now in place at Lower Woolston Road, which had been provided and installed through the Small Highway Improvement Scheme (SIS). He hoped that this would finally resolve the issue of large vehicles using the lane and becoming stuck. The first full meeting of the newly elected Somerset County Council (SCC) would be held on 24th May at which he hoped funding would be available to continue providing SIS and support for flood alleviation; he also hoped the budget would not be as restrained as the last few years. He confirmed that funds would still be available to repair pot holes, which could be reported either online via the SCC website or the Pot Hole Emergency contact number 0300 123 2224.
 - b. D.Cllr Hobhouse reported that South Somerset District Council (SSDC) was still going through a major ‘Reorganisation, Transformation and Income Generation’ process. By 2020 the Council’s budget would have been cut by £4million. The Transformation process would involve households being able to access and amend their own personal information online via a ‘Golden Tablet’. SSDC would generate income by starting to build houses again, working with solar power and the use of ‘big rechargeable batteries’ of 1.2 megawatts. He confirmed there would be approximately seven hundred houses built in Castle Cary.
- 17/90. Parish Reports:**
- a. Chairman of the Parish Council. The Chairman read out the Parish Council Review of the Year 2016-2017 (see attachment 1).
 - b. North Cadbury Village Hall (NCVH). Mr R Russell, Chairman of NCVH gave his report. ‘North Cadbury Village Hall continues to flourish with regular weekly bookings for clubs and classes plus regular monthly bookings for other groups. We have an increasing number of private functions. Our in house drama group The Camelot Players are thriving and contribute a large portion of hall income. Having completed the upgrades to the kitchens and toilets we have started refreshing the inside and outside fabric, mostly with voluntary help from members of the committee. We are currently inviting quotes for a full size roll down cinema screen in the hope that we may be able to resume our evening film shows. Our very popular playing field will need some attention in particular to the vegetation that is growing from adjoining cottages and through our chain link fence. We expect to do this on a self help basis. In March of this year and at the request of our insurers we had a rebuilding valuation carried out on both the hall and cottage plus reinstatement costs of

various items in the playing field. This resulted in a large increase in insurance premium. We are now reviewing our costs and charges. The cottage was repainted externally last year and the penultimate thatching loan repayment has just been made. We are considering our options with this property as 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 L Cheesman the report on behalf of Mr S Hope, Chairman of GVH 'I commend the Management Committee on another successful year, successful in realising its purpose and in doing so, further strengthening our community. Their giving of time and energy has enabled us to work together to help sustain our community facilities. Thanks to John Sealey who maintains the Village Hall garden and to Mike Albrich's team that cuts the banks and hedges. Mike Walters had done a splendid job in maintaining the playing field; his retirement meant that we had to invoke a formal process to appoint a new contractor which took longer than we had anticipated which resulted in the first cut being late and this in turn prevented proper use of the playing field and generated a number of complaints. Thanks to Mary and Brian for keeping a watchful eye. Thanks also to Peter Sweetlove and Paul Carter who monitor the safety aspects of the play equipment.

This time last year we were awaiting the decision from the Big Lottery regarding the final stage of our application for funding towards our new Village Hall. We had previously received a grant of £35k to help us develop the concept design for the final stage three application. The Big Lottery was to make its final decision in July 2016 but this was delayed until December 2016 when we were delighted to announce the award of the full grant. Since then, we have been progressing toward the next stage of the project; the current position is that the tender process is underway and we expect to appoint the Main Agent within the next month. This remarkable achievement would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of so many villagers and their friends and families in supporting our fund-raising campaign over the last 11/12 years. Worthy of special mention is the Party in the Park sub-committee which, during this period, has raised in excess of 90k towards the cost of our new Hall. A big thank you goes to everyone who has contributed to all the fund-raising events, including Keith Northover who came out of out of retirement yet again to host another car wash. We are also grateful to the Galhampton Church and The Orchard Inn; both have offered to accommodate village events while our new Hall is being built.

The Party in the Park sub-committee met during the year to discuss the feasibility of running an event to mark completion of the new Hall; it has since been agreed not to hold an event this year due to all the time and effort involved in building the new hall.

We enjoyed the usual mix of events throughout the year, plus a Royal Tea Party in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday. Regular use of the Hall included Ping-pong, Model Railway Club, Yoga, Art Club and the Doctor's Surgery. The popularity of our well established events continues to increase such as bonfire and fireworks in November and carols around the yew tree in December and our annual choir concert. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to such a successful and varied programme. Specific thanks to Nerissa and her catering team for bonfire night and for providing the home-made hot punch at carols around the yew tree and to Fiona for her support at carols and her remarkable capacity to cater for a two course meal for 100 at the choir concert. Also again this year, to Ruth Carter and her team for the incredibly successful Christmas raffle.

In addition the Hall has played host to a diverse mix of private bookings including film nights, family parties, business conferences and Parish Council meetings. Our monthly Coffee Mornings have continued to gain popularity; books, plants, home grown produce and cards have been available. Thanks to Meg Blight for managing the 200 Club and to Pat Glass for organising the drinks and cake rota. Many thanks to everyone who has provided cakes and biscuits throughout the year. All of these events have been supported by committee members and others in booking, setting up, administration, catering, banking and everything else necessary.

Looking ahead, the immediate considerations for the incoming Management Committee will be the appointment of the Main Contractor to build our new Hall, approval of the building project programme, alternative arrangements during the building programme and planning for the new Hall.

The end the year financially secure and I am grateful for the consistent and collective support that has enabled this year to be such a success. Particular thanks go to Fiona Hooper as booking

secretary, Barry Blight (Treasurer) and Judy (invoicing). Our thanks also go to Tim Holt (Honorary Auditor) who has diligently audited the accounts. It's with sadness that we say farewell to Tim and Vivian Holt who have lived in Galhampton for 37 years. Both have served time supporting the village but they feel it's time to move on - we wish you well and hope you will keep in touch.

d. North Cadbury and District Gardening Club. Mrs A Hunt gave the report on behalf of the Chairman, Mrs J Roseveare. 'The past year has been a fairly good one for the club with a varied mix of talks including 'Growing Vegetables my Way', given in a lovely Devon burr, 'Abbotsbury Gardens', 'The Plant Hunter' and a second talk by Val Bourne on 'Snowdrops'. This autumn we look forward to another visit from Chris Sperring who will follow his 'Owl' talk with one on 'Birds of Prey'. He has appeared on television and returns by request; the meeting will probably be an open one so non-members will be welcome to come in October.

Our membership has fallen slightly from 63 last year to 59, and contributions for our fund-raising Plant Sale in April were fewer than before, though we made only £10 less than last year, because we put some of our prices up, with a net profit of £327.

Our annual trip, this year to Rosemoor in Devon, has had to be cancelled owing to only 13 people signing up to go; we decided that at £465 the cost of the coach was unjustified for so few, even if we subsidised the trip. At present we hope to have a lamb roast instead, provided by Andrew Barclay, but this is still in the planning stage. Our Christmas meal, this year, will be held in the Village Hall using the new kitchen, after a year's break for the committee with dinner at The Orchard Inn last December.

At our AGM in January our Chairman announced that she would be standing down, but was giving the club a year's notice for volunteers to, hopefully, come forward to take over. This has not happened, with no response at all, which is worrying since other members of the committee are also considering retiring. The committee at present is doing an excellent job, but many of them will have done 10 years by next January, and the club needs fresh blood. There is good attendance at our social occasions with a lovely atmosphere.

e. North Cadbury Allotment Association. Cllr P Wood gave the report on behalf of the Chairman, Mrs T Hallett. 'We have had another very successful year. There have been some changes in respect of plot occupancy; some members have left, new members have joined us and some members have changes plots! We will be issuing a new Allotment Plan giving details of who is renting each plot.

Pam Wood, our representative from the Parish Council and I carried out the annual inspection. We were pleased with the overall appearance of the plots and appreciated that some areas are still a 'work in progress'. It was noted that a boundary fence was not in line with other plots but I understand that this is being rectified. Every plot is now taken and we have a waiting list.

We continue to have chickens and bees on some plots; its lovely to see such a wide range of fruit and vegetables being grown and also to see the plots attracting wildlife. A family of swallows made a nest in one of the sheds last year and this year there is a family of robins in the same shed. We also have visits from deer from time to time, lovely to look at but a bit less welcome when they strip the bark off the fruit trees! Can I remind everyone to be careful in their choice of weed killers and to bear in mind their impact on the natural environment and also on their neighbours' plots.

We are grateful to Archie Montgomery for supplying us with manure last year and hope that there will be a further supply this year. I would also like to thank Pam Wood for her on-going support and providing a link with the Parish Council. Thanks too must go to Nick Watson, Peter Elliott and Simon Hawksley for additional grass cutting and pump maintenance.'

f. St Michael's Church, North Cadbury. Cllr M Martin gave his report, 'North Cadbury Church continues to have a weekly Sunday services, three at 11am and one at 8am providing for those with preference for the Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship. Services were held at Harvest, All Souls, Remembrance, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter. There were special services for the Queen's 90th birthday in June, a pet service, New Year's day, Candlemas in February and an Easter Dawn Service. Generally these were well supported and proved attractive to some outside our usual congregation.

Weddings continue to play an important part in the life of the church both financially and spiritually. Last year there were 20 marriages in North Cadbury Church a mixture of local and Court connections. This year there is a slight increase to 23 weddings.

The finances of the church are tight. It now costs about £48,000 a year to keep North Cadbury church open. Our Parish Share (our contribution to the cost of the rector and the Church of England) has risen to £25,000. For this reason the church will continue to hold special fundraising events. The support of the Parish Council in the maintenance of the graveyard and the clock is gratefully acknowledged.

The church has been active in Outreach. A Lent luncheon was held in the church and an Easter Café. Two services per week are held in the school and our DJ club (DJ=discovering Jesus) continues to thrive. All the children in the school had gifts of Christian literature at Easter, Christmas and the Queen's birthday. There was also an Alpha course attended by four parishioners.

The fabric of the church is in good order and there is no items outstanding work still to be done from the quinquennial review. With any old and listed building there is always maintenance work to be done. The garden shed was in urgent need of repair and thanks to a gift from the Friends of St Michael it has been rebuilt. The bells have recently been serviced and refurbished. The Friends of St Michael continue to give unstinting support to the fabric of the church. Plans for this year include the refurbishment of the flagstone path around the church, redecoration of parts of interior and events to celebrate the Church's 600th anniversary.'

g. Galhampton Church. Mrs N Northover reported that Galhampton continued to maintain support of the church. The Church would host events and surgeries on behalf of the Village Hall while it was being re-built and would continue to maintain the congregations. Mrs Northover wished to thank Mr J Sealey for cutting the grass and was pleased that the church continued to thrive.

h. North Cadbury Primary School. Mrs J Montgomery reported on behalf of Mrs S Kiddle, Head Teacher. 'Throughout year pupil numbers had fluctuated between 90 and 100. The Pre-school had successfully integrated with main school, both of which maintained enthusiastic and committed staff, parents, children and governors. Funds had been raised to create a new library in the old building, which will be formally opened and a great asset for learning as well as quiet reading. An Eco toilet will be located on the top field, which will be a great benefit to be able to provide a toilet there rather than have to keep chaperoning children to and from the main school. There had been a large number of trips to broaden children's education, including a few days in London, Forest School and sporting, cultural and music events, whilst still retaining focus on the key task of maintaining a good standard of education for the children. The school was reinforcing work with a relatively new curriculum while improving standards. The school website had been updated and gave dates for all future events such as the school fayre on 14th July 2017.'

i. North Cadbury Tennis Club. Mrs Montgomery reported that the Club currently had seventy four members, many from outside the parish. The Club is fairly unique, having two courts in a friendly village environment; there are no clubs in Bruton or Castle Cary. The Club had kept membership fees down to make tennis affordable plus provided family membership to encourage young players. The new club house was now in place and finally had an electric point inside, which was used mainly for making a cup of tea or charging mobile phones! Club nights were held on Tuesdays and had three teams in the Yeovil and District league; a men's, ladies and a mixed team. The Club welcomed new members and guests.

j. Cary and Camelot Table Tennis Club. The Clerk read out Mr A Bentley's report. 'The club continues to thrive with a regular Tuesday evening attendance keeping the three tables in constant use. This season the more competitive members of the club formed a team that played in the local Yeovil & District League. We lost every match! On Club Nights we mainly play doubles, but singles games are available when numbers permit. We have members of varying abilities and all ages. We welcome anyone who wants to come and play. There is no membership fee, simply turn up, pay, and play. The first session is free! Bats and balls are provided, but please wear indoor trainers.'

k. North Cadbury Women's Group. The Clerk read out Mrs M Whitmore's report. 'The Group is thriving and now has approximately thirty ladies as members. It is nice to see new ladies to the village joining us! We continue to hold our monthly meetings in the Reading room on the last Wednesday in the month, with many interesting speakers, outings and monthly lunches at local pubs.

17/91. Matters Raised by Members of the Public:

- a. A resident stated that he continued to really enjoy life in the parish and was aware and appreciative of the conscientious and hard work that the County, District and Parish Councillors carried out on everyone's behalf.
- b. A resident wished to thank Mr R Russell, Chairman of NCVH on behalf of all the clubs for all his hard work and who they always found to be very obliging.
- c. A resident asked for an update on re-painting the white lines at the entrance to Chapel Lane, North Cadbury. Cllr A Brain advised that he had raised this matter with Highways in March, which was being progressed. He anticipated that the white lines would also be extended along the entrance of Sandbrook Lane.
- d. A resident asked for an update on the reduction of the speed limit at Three Ashes junction. Cllr A Brain advised that a Road Traffic Order had been raised to reduce the speed limit, which was also currently being progressed.
- e. A resident commented on advertising events opposite the junction at Three Ashes, which may be a distraction to road users and create a hazard. The Chairman advised that this had recently been raised and there were certain rules regarding temporary events that had to be adhered to or the boards would be removed.
- f. A resident noted that the PC had earmarked funds at the end of the last Financial Year towards Youth Matters. The Chairman advised that this matter was permanently under review and the future of PC funding Youth Matters would be on the agenda for discussion and decision at the next meeting in June 2017.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

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

DRAFT

PARISH COUNCIL REVIEW 2016-2017

1. In my experience, the past 12 months have been as busy and full as any in recent years. The more important issues are summarised in this report.
2. The members of the Parish Council have undergone some change. Roy Lawrenson, Kevin Newport and Terry Webb have all resigned. It is only right that they should be recognised for the time, effort and interest they devoted to the affairs of the Parish. They have been replaced by Rose Adams, Barrie Board and Alan Brain who bring a wealth of talents and expertise to our deliberations. They deserve our thanks for putting their names forward. We were all saddened on Good Friday by the sad news that our colleague, Jane Masters, had lost her long and painful battle with cancer at the young age of 57. She had fought her illness with courage and stoicism. She was a stalwart friend and a valued and hard working member of this PC and of the Yarlington community. We extend our sympathy to her husband Steve and her son Mathew - she will be sorely missed.
3. A wide range of issues have found their way onto our agendas. There is no need to do other than to mention some - dog litter and how best to deal with it, heritage sign posts and the provision of superfast broadband. These are all ongoing. More substantive issues are dealt with below.

PLANNING MATTERS

4. During the course of the year, the PC has considered 21 Planning Applications, of which just 3 were in Yarlington. This is fewer than has been the norm (25-30) in recent years. The PC has been very disappointed by the tendency, as we see it, of the District Council Planners to seemingly ignore our recommendations. While we wholly recognise that this is their right, it often seems to run counter to any evidence. We have invited the Head of the Planning Department to our meetings on 2 occasions with a view to us better understanding each other. We are also concerned by the number of retrospective applications. While it is perfectly legal to make such applications, it does seem to be playing the system, particularly in contentious areas.
5. Sandbrook Lane. Following local information in the spring of 2016, it came to our notice that hard standing, a high wooden fence and other work were underway in a field in Sandbrook Lane which had recently been sold. After consultation with SSDC, an application was received and we held a retrospective planning meeting on site to consider the Application, to place living accommodation and other paraphernalia on the site. We recommended refusal of the Application which has been under consideration by the Council Planners ever since. The Applicant is claiming gypsy status, which then changes all the normal planning criteria. The PC has contributed a strong 4 page letter to the Planning Authority (LPA), outlining our reasons why this application should be refused. A year on the Planners are still considering this case. We expect a decision in the near future but it is probable that we shall not have a final resolution for some time. This is not a desirable state of affairs but is, I regret, unavoidable.
6. Harvester Works, Galhampton. The unsightly space alongside the Pub on the A359 in Galhampton has been the subject of plans to develop the site for some years. We have held 2 planning meetings onsite in the course of the year. The community and the PC very much wish to see this site developed. Plans have been considered over time to build 10 houses (approved but not taken up), 14 houses (approved but not proceeded with) and then 17 houses. Over the course of 2 meetings, the plans to build 17 houses in this space was considered too many for such a limited space and refused. No alternatives have been brought forward and the site remains an eyesore. We shall need to await new proposals from a developer.

HIGHWAYS

7. Three Ashes Junction. This junction has always been a dangerous source of concern. Matters came to a head during the latter part of 2016 when there was a nasty accident, thankfully not involving members of the public but causing damage to walls and gardens. We have worked closely with the Highways Department at SCC to improve the situation. Resurfacing of the carriageway has been done, and speed restrictions will be introduced which it is hoped will lessen the likelihood of accidents and enhance the safety of a difficult junction.

8. Lower Woolston Road. The blocking of this road by articulated and other HGVs with the associated collateral damage to banks, hedges and the road surface has been a running sore for some 3 years. A plan has been proposed by SCC which will endeavour to manage better HGV vehicles coming off the A303 and proceeding north through Woolston. This is to be achieved by improved signage and road markings. It remains to be seen whether this will prove effective.

GALHAMPTON

9. Flooding. There has been occasional flooding in March Lane, Galhampton for some years. In the past year this has worsened considerably. Working very effectively with the Highways department and other authorities, the local community has come together impressively to do all that they can to solve the problem, which is ongoing. The problem is technically challenging but progress is being made on a possible solution. You can be assured that the community, supported by the PC, will persist until the matter is resolved.

10. Village Hall. Some will know that the Galhampton Village Hall has been unfit for purpose, and unsafe, for some time. Following hard work by the Village Hall Committee, it was learned that they had been successful in their bid to the Big Lottery Fund for a grant. They have received the magnificent sum of £743,000. Work is now beginning to build the new Hall which, it is hoped, will be ready for occupation by the spring 2018.

PARISH PLAN

11. The PC has resolved to formulate a revision of the last Parish Plan issued in 2006. The plan will be a statement of how the Parish sees itself developing over the coming years. It is a big task and involves much detailed work. A Working Group has been formed to undertake this important work. At the time of writing, questionnaires have been delivered to every house, for completion by each person of 16 years or over in that house. These have now been returned and their contents are being considered. This will be followed by public meetings in each our 3 villages. It is intended that the final report will be published later this year.

Malcolm Hunt

Chairman

23 May 17