

## 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 Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 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 L Cheesman, Cllr S Cox, Cllr R House, Cllr A Keys-Toyer, Cllr M Martin and Cllr P Wood

**In Attendance:** C.Cllr M Lewis, D.Cllr H Hobhouse, D.Cllr N Weeks, the Clerk and eleven members of the public.

**18/61. Apologies for absence:** None.

**18/62. Minutes of the Yarlington Annual Parish Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were received, agreed and signed as a true record.**

**18/63. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting:** None.

**18/64. Parish Council Accounts (Unaudited) for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018:** 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 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.

**18/65. Reports from County and District Councillors:**

a. C.Cllr M Lewis reported that the Somerset County Council (SCC) Registration Service had registered 8,000 births and 8,000 deaths, 5,000 marriages and conducted 3,000 ceremonies. Social Care was provided for 6,500 adults with funds raised through Council Tax. Following an Ofsted inspection, Children's Social Care required improvement to be rated 'good'. Adoption Services were rated 'good' with 500 children being looked after in any one day in Somerset, through adoption and fostering; information on how to adopt or foster could be found on the SCC website. In 2017/18 18,315 potholes were filled in; potholes can be reported via the SCC website or by phoning 0300 123 2224. The Royal Bath and West Society has an Enterprise Centre, which also acts as an 'incubator' for rural businesses. SCC Library consultation period has been extended until 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 and Cllr Lewis encouraged councillors and residents to respond to the consultation on its website, as Castle Cary library was vulnerable; any volunteers would be most welcome to ensure the library remains in Castle Cary centre.

b. D.Cllr Weeks commented on the pressure put on Town and Parish Councils, which continued to push up precepts. Cllr Weeks reported on the local bus service and councils had been asked to contribute towards the SSCAT Bus (South Somerset Community Accessible Transport), which is available to everybody in the community, whether for shopping or hospital appointments etc. Area Committee and Town and Parish Councils worked hard to ensure the bus was funded for another year. 'Transformation' at South Somerset District Council (SSDC) continues apace, with a large turnover of staff, most of whom had to re-apply for their jobs, which tested staff morale. Cllr Weeks considered that they were lucky with the staff they have, however, queries would most likely not be dealt with as quickly as before over the next six months and, if necessary, he asked to be contacted directly with any issues. SSDC had lost the equivalent of one and a half members of staff at the Wincanton office, however, they were coping at the moment and the office would be boosted once the Transformation process was complete. Cllr Weeks thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for their help over the last year, which was reciprocated by the Chairman.

c. D.Cllr Hobhouse reported in addition to Cllr Weeks that SSDC had the 5<sup>th</sup> largest cut to its budget in the county at £4.3m and would need to pay back £300,000 a year over three years. SCC had

closed all homeless shelters, however, SSDC were keen to keep the Yeovil shelter open and was working hard on such issues. Once the Transformation process was complete, all residents would have access to their 'Golden Record' on line, which would hold all details of planning, charges etc. and would be available to look at directly and amend. Residents who were not computer literate would have access to computer terminals in the Market House, Castle Cary and the Market Hall, Wincanton, which would have fully trained operators to assist. Advisors on the phone would be more highly trained and be able to answer immediately. Transformation should be finished in January 2019.

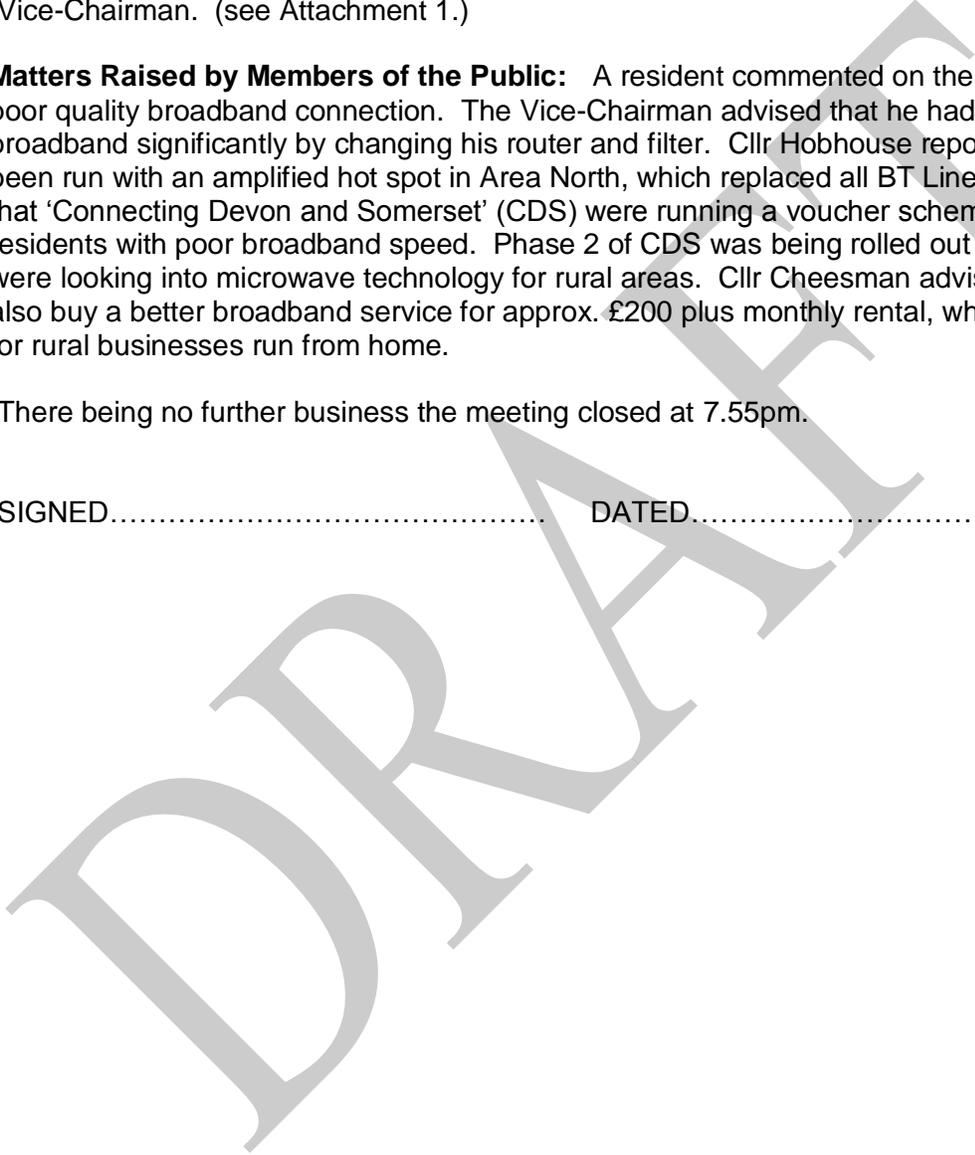
**18/66. Parish Reports:**

a. The Vice-Chairman's Annual Parish Report was circulated for information with comment by the Vice-Chairman. (see Attachment 1.)

**18/67. Matters Raised by Members of the Public:** A resident commented on the ongoing issue of the poor quality broadband connection. The Vice-Chairman advised that he had improved his broadband significantly by changing his router and filter. Cllr Hobhouse reported that tests had been run with an amplified hot spot in Area North, which replaced all BT Lines. Cllr Lewis advised that 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' (CDS) were running a voucher scheme on its website for residents with poor broadband speed. Phase 2 of CDS was being rolled out with 'Gigaclear' who were looking into microwave technology for rural areas. Cllr Cheesman advised that residents could also buy a better broadband service for approx. £200 plus monthly rental, which may be beneficial for rural businesses run from home.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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



**YARLINGTON PARISH REPORT 2017/18**

From a planning perspective it has been a quiet year so far as Yarlington is concerned. Two approved applications, for Fisherman's Hut and the plot next to the Stags Head have yet to commence. The former as you will know, is part of the development of the Emily Estate, where considerable work has continued, both on the original Hadspen Estate and where it has been enlarged, particularly at Shatwell. Although as things stand this Estate is not actually within the Parish, its proximity and its ultimate effect upon Yarlington remains a concern and will be closely monitored. In addition there was an application for an agricultural workers, wooden temporary, dwelling at Woolston Manor Farm which was approved by the District Council and there is also a current application for a garden room extension at The Orchards.

Lack of funding arising from cut backs in budgets has had a detrimental effect upon road maintenance, not assisted by the recent extreme weather. Our smaller roads are in a poor condition, although to be fair attempts have been made to keep on top of the pothole problem.

As an indication of how tight budgets are the County Council have ceased to involve themselves in the care and maintenance of finger posts and the cost and responsibility now falls upon the Parish Council. In this connection a number of volunteers have come forward and will be trained to undertake work in an effort to keep the posts from falling further into disrepair. Funding for Libraries and Community Projects has also been cut back and will inevitably have an effect.

It is against this background of increasing costs and reduced budgets that the Parish Council have felt obliged to increase the precept to cover costs. The increase is the first for many years and has been kept to 5%, but you can be assured that we will continue to strive to give you value for money.

During the year, as you will be aware, a Community Survey was undertaken, working towards the production and acceptance of a Community Development Plan. We are very grateful to all those who took the trouble to participate and to make this exercise a success. It is hoped that this plan will give us a greater say in the way our community develops, particularly from a planning perspective.

The recommendation to the Boundary Commission that in a reshuffle to equalise representation Yarlington should be split from North Cadbury caused considerable concern. Since if the two parishes were in different wards it would cause difficulties in maintaining our current joint operation and at worst could have led to Yarlington, with such a small population, being left without a Parish Council. You were made aware of the situation and many residents took the trouble to strongly object to the proposal, which we believe is now abandoned. In particular, Hamish Russell did considerable research in formulating a response and we thank him for his work.

Finally, it was the case that last years meeting was overshadowed by the sad passing of Councillor Jane Masters. I am pleased to report that Roger House was co-opted to fill the vacancy and is bringing to bear his considerable knowledge of Yarlington and his sage judgement on our deliberations.

David Handley  
Vice-Chairman