

# “Draft” Minutes of North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting

## *A meeting of the Parishioners*

Held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 7pm in

North Cadbury Village Hall, Cutty Lane, North Cadbury BA22 7DG

There were twenty four members of the public present, Somerset Councillor Henry Hobhouse, members of the Parish Council (PC) and the Clerk.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Parish Councillor Chris Jose. Somerset Councillor Kevin Messenger also tendered his apologies.
2. **The Minutes of North Cadbury Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023** were received, approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Diane Rickers as Chairman of the meeting.
3. **The Chairman of the Parish Council** presented her report (attachment 1).
4. **Reports from Local Groups and Organisations**
  - a. North Cadbury C of E Primary School. Mrs Lisa Thompson, Head Teacher presented her report as a PowerPoint presentation.
  - b. North Cadbury Village Hall. James Watts, Chairman, presented his report:

“The 13 trustees of North Cadbury Village Hall voluntarily give their time to maintain the Hall and playing field, which provides a place for local organisations to meet, for social activities, sport and play. The trustees are also responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the grade 2\* listed cottage which this year has had new secondary glazing installed.

We would like to firstly thank the parish council for their support and funding over the last year, which has helped with the ever-increasing costs.

Over the last year we have had some great events as well as our regular group bookings. Our monthly 200 club coffee morning is going from strength to strength with raised numbers last year, its been a great place to meet new community members.

We have a very successful film night ongoing from May last year on the last Friday of each month, this now takes a summer break but will be back at the end of the summer.

In June we had the North Cadbury School hold their primary sports day as well as their summer fair in late July, it was very well attended and it introduces the younger folks to the Village Hall set up and helps with bookings.

In August we had local elections and are very proud of being chosen again to be a polling station for the community.

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The NCVH Quiz in October was again a great success, due to it being sold out on a regular basis now we try to get teams to book early to avoid disappointment.

Again, we have had various art acts over the year from Murder Mysteries, to band, musicians and plays and subsequently we have booked Rocking the Joint again in September as this band is very well liked across the community.

The annual harvest lunch, organised with St Michael's Church, was a great hit again which everyone looks forward to.

Camelot players were back with a Christmas play ( A Christmas carol) spanning 3 nights, they have also just completed another successful 2 night play with sea shanties and we are very much looking forward to a pantomime taking place in December this year.

At the start of 2024 we have had a large volume of events, parties, a race night, many private booking and this has put us in good stead to cover the running costs of the hall.

The Hall trustees are responsible for the playing field, the equipment provided and the trees on site. New equipment is being installed soon to replace the camel, but funding for new equipment is becoming very difficult so we do ask that people respect the rules at all times. It's a great place for the community to meet up and its being used a lot. Please keep all dogs out of the field as we are having to clean up after some of them and its not fair on the committee of volunteers to be doing this.

We are in the process of adding WIFI to the village hall over the next few months as well as a sustainability and energy efficiency surveys to see what we can do to reduce our carbon footprint and save money

A thankyou to all the committee for your hard work efforts over the year, its been very busy but also very rewarding."

c. Galhampton Village Hall. Alan Rickers, Chairman presented his report:

"Galhampton village hall remains at the centre of the community and continues to build on its reputation. Since my last report the aim of the committee has been for the annual running costs to be covered by the hirings, I am pleased to report that as of April 2024 we have achieved this goal. This means that now the hall is self-funding and therefore we can keep the costings low whilst reducing our fund-raising activities.

The Hall is in an extremely healthy financial position, and we have been able to set aside 3 years running cost rather than the recommended 6 months, along with money to cover short, medium- and long-term projects, this means that we can be proactive and have already started to plan the redecoration of the hall along with replacing its wooden floor. As Madam Chair alluded to in her report we are completing the final stages of the transfer to a CIO, this project would have been completed earlier but for our choice of solicitors who have taken considerably longer than promised. Galhampton was one of the first village halls in the area to move towards a CIO and as a result we have worked with several other hall committees in assisting them with their decision to follow suit.

Whilst our relationship with the National Lottery is now officially over, we maintain a close relationship with them and have even done presentations to other halls seeking Big Lottery assistance.

Our main achievement for the year must be the decision to introduce a hire facility. Over the years our village hall like many others has purchased items to be used at events and as a result the majority of these items would only be used once or twice in a year. We therefore made the decision to set up the Hire Shack. This allows for villagers within the local area and other halls to hire items at a vastly reduced cost. There is everything from Tables and chairs through to marquees and generators available to hire and since going live at the start of April, have secured several bookings. More information can be found at our website.

Since my tenure as chair, the village has experienced Covid, loss of power due to storms and of course the great flood. These events made us realise that whilst the hall was

pivotal to the community the committee were often reactive. This led the committee to making the decision to formulate an emergency plan. A low-key document which assists in ensuring the hall can best provide to the Parish. This plan will hopefully be further expanded to a Parish Plan.

The Hall is committed to improving the safety of our residents along the A359 and having had agreement from the PC along with fund raising and support from local businesses are pleased to report that the planned road signs for the outskirts of the village have been agreed. These are currently under manufacture, and we will hopefully see them installed soon.

Due to the linear nature of Galhampton it was decided to procure a second defibrillator to be installed at the Hall. This project is now complete and both devices are registered with the emergency services.

Finally looking forward. The committee have started a phased refurbishment of the garden, starting with an extension of the patio along with some new furniture. We are also currently installing stockproof fencing along our boundary, designed to keep unwelcome animals out of the garden whilst allowing our younger users to make the most of our summer sun and stay safe whilst playing outside.”

d. The Church of St Michael the Archangel, North Cadbury and Galhampton Chapel.

The Clerk read out the report on behalf of the North Cadbury Churchwardens:

“2023 was a busy and exciting year. We continued to offer a variety of services in both churches over the course of a month, on Sunday and mid-week, providing one or more services each week within the Parish. In addition to these regular services, we also had a number of special/festival services throughout the year. One such special service in 2023 was in May to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

The monthly coffee mornings, men’s breakfast, pre-school group and Lego club continued to gather momentum, offering social connections to a wide section of the community.

The Friends arranged two events in 2023; a talk on the Cockleshell Heros and a concert by the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir. Both were well supported.

The five yearly electrical survey of St Michael’s, and the resultant work, was completed in 2023 and we continued to address the repairs to the fabric of the building identified in the last Quinquennial Report.

Looking ahead, ‘Rev. Tristram Rae Smith is retiring in the summer. His last service in the Camelot Benefice will be in St Michael’s on Sunday 4th August. He will not be replaced immediately. However, in the interim, Rob Sage will continue in his role of Parish Administrator (co-ordinating the running of the Parishes, allocation of Clergy for the services, the Excalibur Magazine etc.) and Ron Wood, Alison Paris and a team of retired clergy will cover the remainder of Tristram’s post.

Plans are afoot to restructure the Deanery. It is highly likely that the Camelot Benefice will be broken up and our ten churches will join with various neighbouring Benefices. The current proposal is that our churches in North Cadbury and Galhampton (together with South Cadbury and Yarlinton) will merge with the Cam Vale Benefice to create a single new Benefice. This new Benefice will cover our four villages plus: Sparkford, Sutton Montis, Weston Bamfield, Corton Denham, Queen Camel and West Camel.

More information will become available over the coming months as this moves through the various stages of approval by the Bishop, the Diocese and the Church Commissioners.”

e. North Cadbury Women’s Group. Susie Morris presented the report on behalf of the Group:

“This year the Women’s Group has seen an increase in members.” numbers which is encouraging after the Covid years. Our Chairman, Pauline Moylan, who saw us through

this difficult time, decided, with a possible house move in the near future, to step down. She handed over a group in good heart to Angela Hunt and a strong committee, with several ideas for a future programme and interests. This year's diary includes a Tai Chie lesson, an outing to the Black Shed garden in Sherborne, a visit to Pitcombe Falconry and a further talk on Bees. We also have a monthly pub lunch, usually at The Catash, which is very well attended and has become a really good support group for anyone needing help at any time. New members are very welcome, any may indeed come to any of our meetings or lunches first to see what we get up to! On 8th June we're having a Ploughman's Lunch together with a Table Top Sale in the Village Hall with a cash bar, to which everyone is welcome. Tickets will be on sale in the Village Shop from this coming Saturday, or from committee members."

f. North Cadbury Tennis Club. The Chairman read out the report on behalf of Janet Montgomery, Secretary:

"The Tennis Club has got 54 paid up members and it is possible for non – members to use the courts on a pay and play basis by picking up a key from the village shop. Club nights are on a Monday evening at 6pm and any new members are welcome. We have two men's teams in the Yeovil and district league and one mixed team in the knock out tournament. There was a hugely successful start of season tournament with bar b que when court maintenance took place.

It is regrettable that there has been some damage over the winter months to the Club House and external netting through break - ins. The PCSO attended the courts and advises us to report this to them on each event. If criminal damage is actually taking place one should phone 999. This has now all been repaired and locks fitted. The club would ask any members of the public who see any abnormal activity to also report this to the police."

g. North Cadbury and District Gardening Club. Ron Wood, Chairman read out the report on behalf of the Club:

"Last year's report had a pessimistic air, as the club had no secretary, and the chairman had stepped down. Now, after our AGM, with a new chairman and an enthusiastic new secretary, Mrs Nikki Ojambo, the Club is much more stable and looking forward to the future. Membership is in the forties, and growing. Monthly meetings with entertaining illustrated talks, social evenings, and a very successful plant and cake sale last Saturday are all signs of a healthy Club. The Club enjoys a relationship with Castle Gardens in Sherborne, who offer members generous discounts. We look forward in August to a tour and wine tasting at the Wraxhall Vineyard- places are still available if non members would like to join us.

The garden here at the Village Hall is maintained by Mrs Avril Looseley and other members of the Club- a sign of our gratitude for the use of this hall.

Of course, we welcome new members, and visitors can attend the monthly talks for a small sum, to see if this is a Club they would like to be part of."

h. North Cadbury Allotment Association. Cllr Keys-Toyer read out the report on behalf of Lorraine Malton, Chairman:

"The past year has been very trying with the weather, however, we are hoping for a better year ahead.

We have had two break ins on two separate plots in January and March in which there was a rotavator and a Belfast sink stolen. I did report the first incident to the police however none response. The plot holder was asked if this would be requested to report also to the police but none response.

I also informed Andy of this upon our Annual Inspection, which was held on the 5th of April 2024 with myself and Andy present at 9am. Upon inspection we discussed

numerous issues needing to be addressed and resolved. Therefore, with the backing of Andy and on behalf of the council, I set deadlines for 31st May on the following:  
Fences that are poor condition need to be repaired or replaced by the end of this year's season.

None cultivated plots.

None attendance to plots .

Plot Holders due to none attendance that have left their land to become a nuisance to neighbouring, plots with weeds encroaching through .

All Fees - New fees have now risen by £3.00 per plot. Including Insurance. Half plot is £25.00. Full plot £33.00. Full and a Half plot is £50.00.

GRASS. This was reiterated that it is the plot holder's responsibility to self-maintain in and around their plot the same as self-management on their plot. If for any reason you are struggling, please ask myself or Siobhan for help as we can put help in place .

All of the above notice procedures will be put in place if not acted on by the deadlines set.

Procedures of the NCAA will be met and followed through in the official way when we have a secretary.

MANURE - The decision to maintain in the present location where it is central to all plot holders stands.

It was decided the way forward with plot holders who are willing to give part of their plot up, due to not being able to manage the size of their plot or did not want such large plots, would be split into two halves and this will free up land for the ever increasing waiting list which currently stands at 9. This will then enable cultivation on the land, for the purpose given, each plot holder will have separate contracts which have been updated this April 2024.

The NCAA mower has now gone passed repair and will be taken to the tip in due course. Thank you to: Andy-keys -toyer: local councillor, Becky Carter: Parish Clerk, Siobhan Nation: Treasurer, Helen Knight: Now past Secretary, Haydon woods: Accountant , Jamie & Rory Montgomery: For the supply of manure and Hedge cutting, Peter Elliot: Grass Cut and all for attending the AGM.”

i. Parish Paths Liaison Officer. The Clerk read out the report on behalf of Susan Fone, PPLO:

“On 24th April 2024, I met with Eve.

We discussed these topics amongst others! Above all, the frustration is that these long-identified works have not been dealt with.

1. WN19/106 Fallen ash tree removed by farmer.
2. WN19/95 WN19/72 WN19/32 WN27/8 bridges Mervyn the contractor has submitted quotes which have been accepted by SC and landowners but still no date when he will do the work.
3. WN19/105 Andrew Hopkins (now an accredited SC contractor) will put in a quote (when?)
4. WN19/1 Land belongs to Andrew Hopkins and he is happy to do this work (when?)
5. Finger posts George has been given this work, but he has given no date to do the work. (when?)
6. The PC has powers to have works done (If so, who pays?)(How do we know who owns the land?)
7. WN31/7 This to be referred to Peter Hobley as this RofW has been obstructed for many years.
8. WN19/93 Landowner needs to be contacted. Again, this has been deliberately blocked at both ends (complaints received)

I received from Peter Hobley, the form copied below, requesting responses. I find this request difficult to understand. Question 6 is about discussing works with landowners. I have been told consistently that as PPLO I should not contact landowners as that is for Eve Wynn, Ranger, as an official of the Council to do.

I have emailed Peter Hobley asking the purpose of this form. I have had no response. I joined a Zoom meeting with Peter Hobley and Eve. I raised many frustrations. I do not know the outcome of this meeting is. Ceri Rapsey sent an attachment and I told her I could not read it but...no response!

Apparently, work has been allocated and contractors have submitted quotes, but no work has been done. Faults are left without action. On the ground faults and defects and obstructions remain. There are now more contractors registered with the Council. Works have been delegated to them, but nothing happens. This has gone on for years with certain bridges, bridleways and paths. The weather is given as a reason for no progress but even when conditions permit, nothing is done. As can be seen from the list of faults above, the overriding question is WHEN?

I seriously question what an active and enthusiastic PPLO is for!!!!

I suggest that The Parish Council write to Peter Hobley and the Chair of Somerset Council requesting urgent action.

On a positive note, it is heartening to see that numbers of walkers continue to increase, helping to keep paths open with their footfall. I encourage as many as possible to take secateurs and keep upgrowth around stiles etc. clear. More people are using the interactive map to find Rights of Way and report faults:

<https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map>

The excellent signage put in place by Sue and Tim Gilbert and Tim's hard work strimming and surveying have been a gift to the community. The community is also very grateful to Katherine Vaughan and Sue Gilbert for their creation of circular walks and their maintenance."

**5. Open Public Parish Forum.**

a. Due to a forthcoming planning application, members of the public asked questions on the PC's Code of Conduct and how this may affect how councillors vote.

The Clerk advised that the PC's Code of Conduct and Councillor's Registers of Interests were published on the Parish Website. Councillors are personally responsible for deciding whether or not they should disclose an interest in a meeting, however, if there was a potential conflict which they were unsure of they could ask the Clerk or the SC Monitoring Officer. It was always advisable that "if there was any doubt to step out."

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting closed at 8.00pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Signed .....

Dated .....

Chairman