

# Draft Minutes

of a meeting of the

## Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee

held on

**13 October 2020.**

Remotely via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/589050719>

Meeting commenced: 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ended: 11.47 a.m.

**Present:** Yatton Parish Councillors Jonathan Edwards and Graham Humphreys, Congresbury Parish Councillors Laurence Freeman, Michael Greaves and Arthur Hacking.

**In attendance:** Yatton Parish Clerk Aleana Baird, Cadbury Hill Estate Manager John Harris and Martyn Hale.

The Committee Chairman Jonathan Edwards welcomed the new members of the Committee Laurence Freeman and Graham Humphreys. He also spoke with sadness about the death of former District/Yatton Parish Councillor and Committee member Jill Iles.

### MATTERS FOR DECISION

#### **CAD25/20: Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Councillor David Crossman (Yatton PC) and Janet Dickson.

#### **CAD26/20: Declarations of Interest**

NONE.

### MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### **CAD27/20: Public participation**

Martyn Hale had taken part in a Botanical Survey of the hill within a group of seven people including two expert botanists. This had been done in July 2019 and he explained the framework of the survey and how the species found were categorised. It was currently the seventh year of the ten year Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Agreement with Natural England and he highlighted the value of completing another survey in three years' time which would serve as excellent performance indicators ahead of the end of that HLS agreement.

The two suggestions that resulted for the survey were:

- That spraying on the hill had impacted on some desirable species of plants and that it should be carefully monitored.
- The increase of grazing would help to reduce the requirements to control scrub regrowth

It was appreciated that there was always a balance to be found between preserving the area and public access.

Estate Manager John Harris agreed that the increase in grazing was most desirable but there had been historically difficulty in finding the best type of cattle in numbers that would allow grazing to increase. However, the current grazier was planning to breed more cattle so this may be possible in due course. He highlighted that a small number of people (2) complain about the cattle but this was far outweighed by the number of people (above 50) who have expressed how much they like to see them on Facebook.

\*\*\* Cllr Michael Greaves entered the meeting and apologised for his late arrival.

The Committee thanked Martyn Hale for all the work his group had done and invited them to carry out another survey and report back in July 2023.

\*\*\* Martyn Hale left the meeting.

### **CAD28/20 Estate Manager's Report.**

John Harris had circulated a report in August 2020 to brief the Committee on the hill since the last meeting in November 2019. He highlighted the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the high numbers of people using the hill since the lockdown in March. There had been new paths created by people and a number of art and theatre type of events had taken place.

He was to meet a tree surgeon and look at trees suffering from Ash Dieback on the hill to assess that none were in a dangerous state as part of the updated Risk Assessment to protect health and safety for users of the hill.

He had suggested as part of a North Somerset Council Public Rights of Way Improvement Consultation (Sept 2020 deadline to comment) several places for work to paths on the hill, in particular installing steps on the steepest section which was very slippery in wet conditions. There had not been any feedback from North Somerset Council about the survey to date, the Clerk was to ask for the outcomes.

He advised that looking to the future and the end of the HLS, more funding may be available from other sources including the Green Recovery Challenge. This was run by the Lottery Heritage Fund with £40 million to give in grants with one criterion asking for work in collaboration with a charity. No approaches had been made but YACWAG and Batlink maybe potential partners to work with on a funding case study.

## **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

### **CAD29/20: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CAD30/20: Exclusion of public.**

Not required.

### **CAD31/20 To receive a budget and bank statement.**

A financial statement had been circulated prior to the meeting. There was still an outstanding payment yet to be received for 2019-20 and no payments had been made for 2020-21. It was unclear when the next payment would be received and it was therefore prudent to instruct work on the basis that it may not be forthcoming within any necessary time frame.

### **CAD32/20 To consider quotes for the autumn/winter work on the hill.**

**RESOLVED:** to accept the following quotes from Greenmantle for this winter's work on the hill.

- Brushcutting Compartment E - £950 ex vat.
- Brushcutting Compartment E2 - £925.00 ex vat.
- Brushcutting bramble on the top of the hill fort - £625.00
- Felling & stump treating, Compartment E & using brash to block unofficial access point - £750.00 ex vat.
- Felling & stump treating Compartment F - £750.00.

### **CAD33/20 To discuss any other additional work required for the remaining financial year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 and to consider the budget for 2021-22.**

The Committee discussed the budget and raised concern about preparing for the future when the HLS ends. It was considered prudent to plan now to build a contingency for this and for any unpredictable work that may require immediate action.

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to each Parish Council that they should contribute £3,500 to the 2021-22 budget for the joint management of the hill. An Earmarked Reserve or Contingency Fund was to be set up for 2021-22 for the additional £500 each Council was contributing to be kept for the future security of preserving the hill in the absence of external funding being attainable. The Clerk would advise of the mechanism for this.

Other work on the hill may depend on the Ash Dieback and the work on the public rights of way on the hill.

### **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **CAD34/19: Clerk's Report.**

John Harris thanked the Clerk Aleana Baird for the support she gave him in his role.

The Clerk would send new Committee member Laurence Freeman Cadbury Hill information.

A tour of the hill by John Harris was to be arranged with Committee members.

#### **CAD35/19: Future agenda items**

Raising funds for the hill.

The Botanical Survey carried out in July 2023.

Ash Dieback Management.

The management of the North Somerset Council owned part of the hill.

Date of next meeting – May/June 2021.

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Chair

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