

Draft Minutes
of a meeting of the
Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils
Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee
held on
1 July 2021.

Held at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton, BS49 4HS

Meeting commenced: 11.00 a.m.

Meeting ended: 12.25 p.m.

Present: Yatton Parish Councillors Jonathan Edwards and Graham Humphreys, Congresbury Parish Councillors Laurence Freeman, Guy March and Arthur Hacking.

In attendance: Yatton Parish Clerk Aleana Baird, Cadbury Hill Estate Manager John Harris, Janet Dickson and 2 members of the public.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD1/21: To elect a Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

Councillor Arthur Hacking suggested that the Committee could consider alternating from year to year between a Congresbury & Yatton Chairman.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Jonathan Edwards was elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

CAD2/21: To co-opt key representatives of Cadbury Hill on to the Committee.

The representative may take part in all discussions but has no right to vote on Committee decisions.

RESOLVED: that Estate Manager John Harris was elected as a key representative on to the Committee as a non-voting member.

RESOLVED: that Janet Dickson was elected as a key representative on the Committee as a non-voting member.

CAD3/21: Apologies for Absence

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

CAD4/21: Declarations of Interest

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD5/21: Public participation

A member of the public spoke in support of agenda item 12 as the providers of the funding.

CAD6/21 Estate Manager's Report.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and John Harris briefly went through each aspect of it and asked for any questions. A query was made about whether the new HLS (Higher Level Stewardship Agreement) officer had been informed about the Botanical Survey that had been done. John Harris had not met her as she had not inspected the hill yet but would advise of this when he did. There was still a shortage of Dexter cattle to graze the hill but the herd was increasing and it was expected that they would be up to the right numbers by next year. The HLS had two years left till it ended but it maybe that it is continued for a time after this if no alternative scheme has been set up by then. A discussion took place about signage to promote the hill from the road. The Committee thanked John for all his work. The Committee would like to invite Vince Russet (former County Archaeologist) to the next site visit that is held.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD6/21: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAD7/21: Exclusion of public.

Not required.

CAD8/21: To receive a financial statement and discuss the work required for the year to March 31st 2022.

A financial statement and the audited balance sheet for 2020-21 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that no separate account for the Contingency had been opened due to banks not opening new accounts in the pandemic. She advised that it would be prudent to not include the HLS predicted income as available for expenditure at the present time as there was no indication of when it would be received. It was also advisable to retain a further £500 for any winter storm or emergency work that may be required and this would hopefully leave the Contingency untouched. Therefore there was £3,000 available currently for expenditure on the hill.

Members noted the statements.

CAD9/21: To discuss the Management Plan 2021-22.

The Management Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee discussed the plan and it was highlighted how the programme of selected thinning of trees had been successful in protecting the archaeology and encouraging the ground flora but had allowed some of the remaining trees to regenerate. The Committee wished to proceed with the plan as recommended by the Estate Manger and Janet Dickson.

CAD10/21 To consider the responsibilities as landowner for Ash Die back of trees on the hill.

The Estate Manger had circulated a report on Ash Die Back prior to the meeting including options for the approaches that could be taken in managing Ash Die Back on the hill. The Committee discussed the options. It maybe depending on the severity of the disease that other options may have to be discussed in time.

RESOLVED: to proceed with Option 2 which would monitor the trees and take mitigating action on any trees that posed a danger including felling as a whole or removing branches, warning signage on any dangerous trees and guidance on path use to avoid any potentially unstable trees.

It was highlighted that North Somerset Council and Cadbury House Hotel could be contacted to discuss the approach especially for any areas that adjoined the part the parish councils owned. The very top of the hill cannot be replanted with trees due to the archaeology. A joint approach by parish councils to the problem across the county could be explored.

CAD11/21: To consider an offer to fund another bench on Cadbury Hill in proximity to the existing one.

The position of the bench that had been suggested was not on the Parish Council's land but on North Somerset Council's part of the hill. The Clerk and Chairman would endeavour to find out how to gain permission from them to install a bench. The Committee thanked the residents for their kind offer to fund a seat on the hill and hoped that permission would be agreed.

CAD12/21: To consider the planting of memorial trees on Cadbury Hill to commemorate the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Committee discussed the trees and their size (2.5 metres) and the fencing that would be needed to protect them. It was suggested that the community may wish to donate to their purchase. The Clerk was to check if this was appropriate. The Committee decided to progress this in the autumn and to plant the Duke of Edinburgh's tree this year and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree the following year.

CAD13/21: To approve and sign cheque for an interim invoice for partially completed work on the hill by Greenmantle.

RESOLVED: to approve the interim payment to Greenmantle of £1,008.00

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD14/21: Clerk's Report.

i) An acknowledgement of the receipt of the 2021 claim form had been received from the Rural Payments Agency.

CAD15/21: Future agenda items

Raising funds for the hill.

The Botanical Survey to be carried out in July 2023.

Ash Dieback Management.

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

Review of signage to the hill.

Date of next meeting – Autumn 2021.

Chair

___/___/2021