

Draft Minutes
of a meeting of the
Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils
Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee
held on
26th July 2023.

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

Meeting commenced: 2.30 p.m.(late starting)

Meeting ended: 3.15 p.m.

Present: Yatton Parish Councillors Jonathan Edwards and Graham Humphreys, Congresbury Parish Councillor Wendy Holland.

In attendance: Yatton Parish Clerk Aleana Baird, Cadbury Hill Estate Manager John Harris and 1 member of the public.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD1/23: To elect a Committee Chairman.

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

CAD2/23: To appoint Committee non-voting members.

RESOLVED: to appoint Estate Manager John Harris and Janet Dickson (Congresbury resident) as non-voting members of the Committee.

CAD3/23: Apologies for Absence.
NONE.

CAD4/23: Declarations of Interest
NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD5/23: Public participation.
NONE.

CAD6/23: Estate Manager's Report.

A report was circulated to all attending the meeting and John Harris briefly went through each aspect of it.

- The Higher Level Stewardship Scheme ten year agreement that ends in November 2023 had been succeeded by a five year Environmental Stewardship Agreement which will be in place until 30th November 2028. It was under the same terms but with a slightly reduced financial benefit.
- There were further claims likely to come forward under the Sustainable Farming Initiative. However to date there had not been any which were applicable to Cadbury Hill mainly because the Parish Councils were

landowners but not farmers. The type of claim that would be suitable would be environmental based and there maybe benefits to joining with YACWAG when applying to make the environmental benefits more meaningful.

- The new grazier had used Hereford and Angus cattle on the hill in May/June and they would be returning in later in the summer. The full number of cattle required should be grazed this autumn.
- The 'Roboflail' had been used this year for bracken and scrub clearance on the ramparts and citadel and was being used on North Somerset Council's part of the hill too. The work was to be repeated in September and had been a very cost effective and safe way to carryout work that had previously been done by hand. It had reduced the use of weedkiller spot spraying.
- Ash Die Back was being monitored and control measures were continuing especially along the footpaths with some felling planned in due course.
- Repair of a vandalised interpretation board was underway. The two oaks that had been planted and registered with the Queen's Green Canopy to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee were doing very well. The commemorative plaques had been put up but to date the planting had not been formally recognised.
- The hill was being very well used with only a limited number of minor complaints received. There had been some significant vandalism of signage and of padlocks (glue being poured in them) but with only the occasional open fire or barbecue.
- The Blind Lane pedestrian access gate had been repaired by North Somerset Council.
- Estate Manager John Harris thanked the Clerk for all her help and the Committee thanked John for all his work.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD7/23: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2022.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAD8/23: Exclusion of public.

Not required.

CAD9/23: To receive a financial statement and discuss the budget requirements for 2023-24.

A financial statement had been circulated by the Yatton Parish Clerk prior to the meeting. The discussion of the 2024-25 budget was deferred until the next meeting in November. The current financial position was sound with a projected balance remaining after the instructed work, salary/travel and water of £2,438.34. The bat and bird boxes on the hill were in need of replacement in due course. The Financial Statement was noted and accepted by the Committee Councillors.

CAD10/23: To discuss the Cadbury Hill Action Plan and remaining work on Cadbury Hill 2023-24.

Estate Manager John Harris and Janet Dickson had walked the hill to check that the action plan was still up to date and included the items raised within the Estate Manager's Report. The replacement of the bird/bat boxes was to be added for the next meeting and some research done on costs and types with a view to renewing them over the next couple of financial years. There could be grants from bat and bird charities or possibly some environmental S106 funds which was to be researched.

CAD11/23: To consider progress with the Botanical Survey that was due to be carried out this summer.

The group who carried out the last botanical survey were unable to carry one out this year but are happy to do it next year. There had not been a closing report requested from the Higher Level Stewardship probably because it was extended but it was still important that a survey was done at the end of the 10 year agreement as evidence of the progress made on the hill.

The Committee discussed the photographic collection that a resident has collated since pre 2014 where he has taken pictures three or four times a year of the same locations on the hill as a record of the changes over time. Janet Dickson was to contact him and see if a copy could be made for the Committee to have and add to going forward.

It was mentioned that the Kingston Seymour History Society had visited the hill with the former county archaeologist Vince Russet and he been very complimentary about progress and condition of the hill.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD12/23: Clerk's Report.

The next meeting was to be held in November 2023 preferably on a Thursday.

CAD13/23 Future agenda items

Raising funds for the hill.

The Botanical Survey to be carried out in summer 2024.

Ash Dieback Management.

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

Bird & Bat Box replacement.

Chair

____/____/2023