

Draft Minutes
of a meeting of the
Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils
Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee
held on
10th July 2024.

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

Meeting commenced: 9.30 a.m.

Meeting ended: 10.25 a.m.

Present: Yatton Parish Councillors David Crossman and Jonathan Edwards,
Congresbury Parish Councillor Wendy Holland.

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

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD1/24: To elect a Committee Chairman.

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

CAD2/24: To appoint Committee non-voting members.

RESOLVED: to appoint Estate Manager John Harris.

Chairman Jonathan Edwards wished to highlight that Janet Dickson had stood
down from the Committee and he wished to thank her very much for all the work
she had done over the past ten years of service as a Congresbury Parish
Councillor serving on the Committee. She was instrumental in working with her
fellow Councillors, staff and external organisations in achieving the work within
action plans created as part of the ten year Higher Level Stewardship Agreement
that had brought the hill up to the standard it is today.

CAD3/24: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Yatton Parish Councillor Graham Humphreys.

CAD4/24: Declarations of Interest

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD5/24: Public participation.

NONE.

CAD6/24: Estate Manager's Report.

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

- The new five year Environmental Stewardship Agreement will be in place until 30th November 2028. In March this year DEFRA produced a policy paper on Environmental Land Management payments which included a heritage section covering 'actions to protect historic and archaeological features. The actions were similar to the scrub control and grass management that the Joint Committee were already practising so no action required. Further to the outcome of the General Election, the new Environment Secretary was Steve Reed. His pronouncements were not available yet.
- Funding Sources – The potential funding from the Wolfson Foundation was still under investigation but looking increasingly unlikely. John Harris continued to monitor the Rural Funding Digest.
- Grazing Cattle Problem – During the April grazing of the cattle on the hill there was a case of 'Redwater' disease. The cattle were removed from the hill immediately and the animal did survive the illness. However it is a very serious disease spread by ticks and passed on through their eggs with a life cycle of three years. It is likely to have been brought here on dogs that have picked up the ticks in another region where the disease is a problem i.e. Cornwall. It has not been a problem in North Somerset until now. Hopefully this is an isolated case. In light of this there will be no cattle grazing for the foreseeable future. The impact of this is two-fold. Firstly there will be a reduction in the grant because cattle are not being grazed and an increase in costs because scrub and grass control will be required using Roboflail. John Harris was still researching the disease and possible grazing of sheep as an alternative.
- There had been fencing repairs over last winter following some vandalism. There had also been an investigation into water leaks from the trough following an increased bill. There were no leaks but the possibility of someone using the supply was also being looked at by Bristol Water. It was thought unlikely but it was good to discount it.
- The memorial oaks were thriving. The Ash Dieback disease in trees was being monitored under due diligence processes of insurance and record keeping and proportionate action.
- John Harris was co-operating with North Somerset Council on the management of the newly opened field opposite the Cricket Club. The hill continued to be very well used.
- Estate Manager John Harris thanked the Clerk for all her help and the Committee thanked John for all his work.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD7/24: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAD8/24: Exclusion of public.

Not required.

CAD9/24: To receive a financial statement and discuss the budget requirements for 2025-26.

A financial statement had been circulated by the Yatton Parish Clerk prior to the meeting.

The Financial Statement was noted and accepted by the Committee Councillors.

The Committee discussed a potential increase in budget due to a number of factors including salary increase, insurance cover and potential increase in expenditure required due to lack of grazing. The Committee would hold its next meeting in October to discuss any increase ahead of the budget setting for 2025-26.

CAD10/24: To discuss the Cadbury Hill Action Plan and remaining work on Cadbury Hill 2024-25.

The winter work within the action plan was not organised yet but would consist of general maintenance tasks like scrub clearance and any required tree work. John Harris would progress the replacement bat/bird boxes in consultation with YACWAG.

CAD11/24: To consider progress with the Botanical Survey that was due to be carried out this summer.

The Botanical Survey was being carried around the end of July and would provide a very good summary of the last ten years under the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement and the improvements that have been made.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD12/24: Clerk's Report.

- i) The Clerk mentioned the current position regarding the position of how likely it was that the Committee would not be quorate. It relied entirely on Councillor Wendy Holland to be able to attend in order to have a meeting as she was the only Congresbury member. This was putting a lot of onus on her individually and the Clerk suggested that Congresbury Parish Council consider making the Chair and Vice Chair members to relieve this situation.
- ii) The next meeting was to be held in October 2024.

CAD13/24 Future agenda items

Raising funds for the hill.

The Botanical Survey to be carried out in summer 2024.

Ash Dieback Management.

Bird & Bat Box replacement.

Chair

____/____/2024