

Draft Minutes
of a meeting of the
Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils
Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee

held on

21st October 2024.

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

Meeting commenced: 12.15 p.m.

Meeting ended: 12.55 p.m.

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

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

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD14/24: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Congresbury Parish Councillors Guy March and Lizzie Burd.

CAD15/24: Declarations of Interest

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD16/24: Public participation.

NONE.

CAD17/24: Estate Manager's Report.

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

- **The Environmental Stewardship Agreement (ESS)** - There had been no Government announcement yet that would affect the management of the hill. There had been no notification of any anticipated change to the grant because of not grazing.
- **Grazing** -The lack of animals grazing on the hill because of the Redwater case had proved interesting in terms of the resultant growth on the hill. There had been a lot of improvement to the condition of the tracks for walkers in the wet conditions over the spring/summer months. There would have to be more reliance on the Roboflail scrub clearance work this autumn to reduce the bracken and grass and bramble overgrowth along the paths. John Harris did not want to graze sheep as an alternative to cattle because of the problem of dogs worrying them. John Harris was to liaise with David Crossman on a grazier for the hill if the previous person didn't want to use the hill again. It was possible that cattle could return to graze next spring. The bi-annual grazing of cattle was mentioned but not discussed in detail.

- **Maintenance** – There had been no work carried out since the last meeting but the Roboflail work was in hand ready for this autumn.
- **Trees** – The new oaks were now two years old and had thrived very well in the wet summer. The Ash Dieback disease in trees was being monitored under due diligence and the next inspection was in 2025.
- **Overview** – It had been a quiet summer with the hill being well used by the public but with no incidents e.g. no barbecues, litter etc or complaints.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD18/24: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAD19/24: Exclusion of public.

Not required.

CAD20/24: 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 and a reduction in ESS grant. In mitigation of this members discussed a rise in the budget for 2025-26.

RESOLVED: that both Parish Councils increase their budgets for 2025-26 by £250. Both Councils would submit this as part of their own budget setting processes for consideration by their respective Councils.

CAD21/24: To discuss the remaining work on Cadbury Hill 2024-25.

The autumn/winter work was currently being organised. There was no capital expenditure due. John Harris would progress the replacement bat/bird boxes in consultation with YACWAG.

CAD22/24: To consider progress with the Botanical Survey that was due to be carried out this summer.

The Botanical Survey was postponed this summer due to attendance problems of key people who would need to take part. It was to take place in summer 2025. It would provide an excellent way of measuring the progress being made to encourage plants and biodiversity on the hill.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD23/24: Clerk's Report.

- i) The most recent water bill was still showing a high reading, the Clerk was asked to follow this up with Water 2 Business as it was an estimated reading.
- ii) The signage to highlight the presence of Ragwort on the hill was raised. John Harris was to follow this up.
- iii) The next meeting was to be held in June 2025.

CAD24/24 Future agenda items

Raising funds for the hill.
The Botanical Survey to be carried out in summer 2025.
Ash Dieback Management – next inspection in 2025.
Bird & Bat Box replacement.
Directional signage on the hill.

Chair

___/___/2025