

Draft Minutes
of a meeting of the
Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils'
Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee
held on
16th July 2025.

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

Meeting commenced: 11.30 a.m.

Meeting ended: 12.45 a.m.

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

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

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD1/25: To elect a Committee Chairman.

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

CAD2/25: To appoint Committee non-voting members.

RESOLVED: to appoint Estate Manager John Harris.

CAD3/25: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Congresbury Parish Councillor Wendy Holland.

CAD4/25: Declarations of Interest

NONE.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD5/25: Public participation.

NONE.

CAD6/25: Estate Manager's Report.

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

- **Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ESS).**

The botanical survey, already postponed once, has now been put back until next summer (2026) because of the parched conditions.

Despite the tapering of payments to 2028 previously announced, in view of the fact that they have remain unchanged for ten years, the Department

has recently announced a significant rise in the payments to which we are entitled.

In effect, our nominal claim for this year rises from £629 to £1,292. With the grazing supplements next year, the claim will rise to £2,001. All subject to final confirmation.

- **Grazing.**

No grazing has taken place since the Redwater fever outbreak last year. The drought conditions have limited any rank grass growth on the crown of the Hill but have led to very vigorous scrub around the ramparts, exacerbated as tree clearance continues. The reliance on autumn scrub works to clear the grassy/bracken crown and bramble overgrowth on the ramparts and alongside paths therefore must continue.

- **Maintenance.**

The *Roboflail* work in February was very successful and well within budget. The winter storm damage essential clearance work was completed with just fencing works outstanding. Other fencing and access gates were in good/fair state of repair.

- **Trees.**

The Memorial oaks. Planted three years ago and continue to thrive though some manual watering had been done to prevent drought stress. Ash Dieback. Formal inspection completed in the spring with consequent felling required.

- **Overview.**

It has been a hot summer and the Hill continues to be well utilised for recreation by the public, with no incidents to report and no organised events. With no grazing cattle there have been no complaints, though the minor paths were very muddy in the wet winter.

Councillors discussed the Estate Manager's Report including the importance of the Botanical Survey and its importance in providing evidence to support future funding bids and as a measure of the success of the management of the Hill.

The increase in funding from the RPA was very welcome and unexpected.

The Clerk raised an enquiry she had received asking if the cattle on the hill signs could be taken down when the cattle are not on the hill. However, the signs would not be easy to uninstall so the solution was to cover them over during times when the cattle were absent.

The Estate Manager was to find out further information about how long cattle should be kept away from an area after Redwater disease occurred.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD7/25: To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2024.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CAD8/25: Exclusion of public.

Not required.

CAD9/25: To receive a financial statement including Cadbury Hill account charges and discuss the work on Cadbury Hill 2025-26.

A financial statement had been circulated by the Yatton Parish Clerk prior to the meeting. There was one monetary typo on this copy which was amended though the total figure was correct.

The Financial Statement was noted and accepted by the Committee Councillors. The Clerk had received a quote for the Ash Die Back felling work which the Committee considered.

RESOLVED: to approve the quote from *Churchill Tree Care* of £700 for a day's tree felling on the Hill.

As mentioned in the Estate Manager's Report there would be substantial *Roboflail* work required in the winter and fencing work needs to be completed.

CAD10/25: To consider progress with the Botanical Survey that was due to be carried out this summer.

The Botanical Survey was being deferred until summer 2026 due to the dry hot summer.

CAD11/25: To review the terms of reference and standing orders for the Committee.

Under the Clerk's Report from July 10th 2024 the following minute was recorded and is the reason for this agenda item.

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.

The Committee consider increasing the membership to include the Chair and Vice Chairs of both Councils and the following resolution was voted on.

RESOLVED: to increase the membership of the joint committee by including the Chair and Vice Chair of both Councils. This resolution was to be reported to both Parish Councils as an agenda item in September 2025 and to request that the Chair and Vice Chairs were appointed to the joint committee.

However, further discussion took place which prompted all members of the Committee to request a second vote and a change of the wording from Chair and Vice Chair of both Councils to two more Councillor members from both Councils.

RESOLVED: to increase the membership of the joint committee by including two more Councillors from both Councils. This resolution was to be reported to both Parish Councils as an agenda item in September 2025 and to request that two more Councillors were appointed to the joint committee.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD12/25: Clerk's Report.

i) The next meeting was to be held in October 2025.

CAD13/2 Future agenda items

The Botanical Survey to be carried out in summer 2026.

Ash Dieback Monitoring

Audit Bird & Bat Boxes and consider their replacement.

Succession Planning for the Estate Manager's role.

Chair

____/____/2025