

Draft Minutes

of a meeting of the

Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils

Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee

held on

11 July 2019

at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting commenced: 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ended: 12.25 p.m.

Present: Yatton Parish Councillors David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards and Jill Iles, Congresbury Parish Councillors Michael Greaves, Arthur Hacking and Sarah Sheehan.

In attendance: Yatton Finance Officer Jill Bradbury and retired Yatton Finance Officer Wendy Bentley, Yatton Parish Clerk Aleana Baird, Cadbury Hill Estate Manager John Harris and Janet Dickson.

***** Introductions were made by all members of staff and Councillors.**

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD1/19: Election of Chairman for the meeting

RESOLVED: that Jonathan Edwards was elected as Chair for the duration of 2019-20 Council year.

Councillor Jonathan Edwards took the Chair.

CAD2/19: To co-opt key representatives of Cadbury Hill on to the Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Cadbury Hill Estate Manager John Harris and former Congresbury Parish Councillor Janet Dickson be co-opted as a key representatives of Cadbury Hill onto the Committee to take part in discussions with no voting rights.

CAD3/19: Apologies for Absence
NONE.

CAD4/19: Declarations of Interest

Janet Dickson declared she was the secretary of YCCART.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD5/19: Public participation

None

CAD6/19 Estate Managers Report.

John Harris circulated his written report to members (Annex 1). He advised that his role involved liaising regularly with members of the public about the hill. The report included actions that have taken place since the November 2018 meeting including path clearance, storm damaged tree removal, halo of ringed tree removal, brash retention for habitat piles, scrub clearance, bramble spraying and thinning and felling in Area F adjacent to the hotel.

An overview of the hill management for new Councillors on the Committee formed part of the resulting discussion. The lit beacon was not allowed by Historic England and was not to be pursued further. It was a pleasing community involvement that schools had visited the hill. The Dexter cattle would return in August but no work was planned until the autumn.

He advised that Brexit would mean leaving the Common Agricultural Policy and from 2025 it was to be replaced by a new Environmental Land Management Scheme. This will be based on delivery of clean water, air, flood control, public access etc. Cadbury Hill will qualify in the “access for public health and wellbeing” category.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD7/19: Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CAD8/19: Exclusion of public.

Not required.

CAD9/19: To receive a budget and bank statement and to discuss the working planned for the remaining financial year to March 31st 2020.

A financial statement was circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was noted and also highlighted that the figure of £1,100 from the Rural Payments Agency 2019-20 had not yet been received but indications were that it should be forthcoming this financial year. It was anticipated that a further £800 (£400 per year for 2018-19 and for 2019-20) would be received for the grazing of Dexter's on the hill, however the problems regarding slow release of payments continued, therefore it was not prudent to include these funds within the statement for this meeting.

The bank mandate required updating for signatories on the bank account, Michael Greaves agreed to become a signatory. John Harris was still experiencing problems with the Rural Payments Agency allowing him access to deal with payments, this was to be actioned. The Committee thanks Yatton Finance Officer Wendy Bentley for all her work and wished her a long and happy retirement.

There was no work planned until the autumn when further tree thinning and scrub clearance and maintenance would be instructed.

RESOLVED: that the autumn work was instructed within the parameters of the Parish Council Financial Regulations, Committee budget and bank accounts balances.

CAD10/19: To review the grazing arrangements for the hill.

John Harris reported that the cattle had been on the hill for a week longer than prescribed by Natural England. He would ensure that the grazier adheres to the arranged periods of grazing in future though the time frame was always subject to fluctuations in weather and other factors that may dictate otherwise from year to year.

The full number of Dexter cattle were now being used for grazing so there should no longer be any need for sheep.

CAD11/19: To consider a memorial tree in memory of two members of YCCART.

RESOLVED: that a tree be funded, planted and cared for by YACCCART in memory of past key members. A suitable position for the tree was to be decided by John Harris.

CAD12/19 To consider a voluntary full botanical survey of Cadbury Hill.

The proposed survey was of significant value in acting as a performance indicator of how the hill was managed over the period of the Higher Stewardship Agreement. A photographic record of the hill had been undertaken since 2009 and the Committee viewed a few examples of the flowers that had been pictured during 2013. This record in addition to the botanical survey would provide a very detailed evidence base of the hill over time. The Committee wished to invite the Natural England officer to the next meeting when both the botanical survey and the photographic record were to be presented.

RESOLVED: that the Committee supported the undertaking of a voluntary botanical survey of the hill.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD13/19: Clerk's Report

No report.

CAD14/19: Future agenda items

Raising funds for the hill.

Date of next meeting – 6th November 2019.

Chair

___/___/2019