

Draft Minutes

of a meeting of the

Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee

held on
16 June 2017

in The Old School Rooms, Congresbury.

Meeting commenced: 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ended: 11.50 a.m.

Present: Yatton Parish Councillors Jonathan Edwards and Ian Payne, Congresbury Parish Councillors Janet Dickson and Arthur Hacking.

In attendance: Yatton Finance Officer Wendy Bentley, Congresbury Parish Clerk Liz Greaves, Congresbury RFO Tony Sawyer and John Harris Cadbury Hill Manager.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD1/17: Election of Chairman for the meeting

RESOLVED: That Janet Dickson be elected Chair for the duration of 2017-18 Council year.

Janet Dickson took the Chair.

CAD2/17: Co-option of a representative

RESOLVED: That John Harris be co-opted as a key representative of Cadbury Hill onto the Committee to take part in discussions with no voting rights.

CAD3/17: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Yatton Parish Councillor David Crossman and Congresbury Parish Councillor Jane Clarke.

CAD4/17: Declarations of Interest

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD5/17: Public participation

None

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD6/17: Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CAD7/17: Exclusion of public.

None

CAD8/17: To review that finances and budget 2017-18 and to consider budget requirements for 2018-19.

Members discussed the projected budget for the next year as drafted by Tony Sawyer and accepted that it would be helpful to add the projected date of spend. Members noted the opening balance of £3,180.53 but noted that the carry over from last year of £560 had not been noted on the spread sheet. This was from spraying that had not yet been completed.

Items on the Cadbury Hill Management Plan Phase 2 2017-19 were discussed. The scrub clearance for the grassland is expected to take place in August which will be the budgeted figure of £550 in addition to the carryover of £560. Approval has been provided by Natural England for this work.

The programme of selective thinning and felling of woodland will take place Jan/Feb 2018 and the current budget listed is £550. Members discussed whether it is appropriate to spend more on thinning.

RESOLVED: That the budget for 2017/18 to increase to £1000 for selective woodland thinning subject to the cost of works to the veteran oak. This to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Members discussed the issue of the veteran oak that had recently been blown down. John Harris stated that there were several options but he would advise that the following be completed;

- 1) The remains are winched to the tree line to naturally rot down
- 2) The stump to be left in situ and further advice sought at a later date. Fence the stump with permanent fencing
- 3) Repair the damaged neighbouring fence to secure both their land and the Hill and reinstate the track.

Currently £1,000 was available in the budget that had been earmarked for works to extend the life of the veteran oak.

RESOLVED: That the £1,000 be spent on the works to remove the remains, make good any damaged fencing and track and provide permanent fencing to protect the stump and any possible regrowth. Further funds would be made available as necessary when quotes had been obtained.

CAD9/17: To consider a letter received from a resident regarding contribution to the upkeep of Blind Lane.

RESOLVED: That an additional £150 be offered as a contribution to the recent repairs of the lane. Also that £50 per year is earmarked for any future costs of contributing towards repairs or resurfacing requirements.

CAD10/17: To discuss the work to be undertaken 2017-18 including measures that protect and encourage wild flowers and reduce the impact of fires on the hill.

This was largely discussed under CAD8/17. Members felt that the works carried out of clearing, grazing and managing the limestone grassland area encourages wild flower growth.

Members discussed whether signage would help in the reduction of fires being lit on the hill. Cllr Dickson agreed to check the current NSC signage to ensure that they are visible and reflect the current risks and required prohibitions. North Somerset Council will be contacted to discuss whether changes can be made to current signage.

CAD11/17: To discuss the disposal of the veteran oak recently blown down and how to utilise the space it will leave. The discussions to include how to manage the remaining veteran oaks.

This was discussed under CAD8/17 and a resolution agreed for immediate works to be carried out.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD12/17: Clerk's Report

No report provided.

CAD13/17: Future agenda items

Possibility of fixed habitat studies

Signage

Date of next meeting provisionally Friday 10th November

Chair

___/___/2017