

# **Draft Minutes**

of a meeting of the

## **Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils**

### **Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee**

held on

**10 November 2017**

in The Old School Rooms, Congresbury.

Meeting commenced: 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ended: 12.10 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, Yatton Parish Clerk Aleana Baird, Congresbury RFO Tony Sawyer and John Harris Cadbury Hill Manager.

#### **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

##### **CAD14/17: Apologies for Absence**

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

##### **CAD15/17: Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

##### **CAD16/17: Public participation**

No members of the public were present, but an email had been received from a member of Yacwag asking the Committee to consider protecting the stump of the fallen veteran oak tree which was showing some re-growth.

#### **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

##### **CAD17/17: Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2017.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

\*\*\* Chair Janet Dickson was to respond to a member of the public enquiry mentioned under CAD10/17 from the meeting held 16/6/17 regarding 'No Cycling' signage.

**CAD18/17: Exclusion of public.**

Not required.

**CAD19/17: To review that finances and budget 2017-18 and to consider budget requirements for 2018-19.**

Members discussed the current financial position which concluded that a carry forward of £3024.87 was calculated after all known expenditure. In light of the fact that it was not necessary to fell the ringbarked trees this year, members agreed to use the £1,200 budget for Tree Removal and reduce the carry forward balance by £1,000 to achieve further scrub clearance work.

The ringbarked tree work was to be done within 2018-19 budgets.

**RESOLVED:** that it was recommended to both Council's that the budget 2018-19 be retained at £2,000 per annum for each Council. The budget expenditure for the above discussions was also agreed.

\*\*\* RFO Tony Sawyer left the meeting.

**CAD20/17: 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.**

Members had discussed and agreed that further scrub clearance work would be carried out this financial year and this would encourage wild flower growth. In regard to fires further to discussion it was felt that presently there was no evidence of it being a regular problem but would monitor the hill for evidence of any change to this position.

**CAD21/17: To consider any possible measures regarding the increase in deer population on Cadbury Hill.**

The Committee noted the concerns raised regarding deer population and further to discussion concluded that to fence the hill was not financially viable, the deer were not being encouraged on to the hill; as wild animals they roam freely, and a cull of deer was too contentious and not a responsibility of the Committee. Estate Manager John Harris was to talk to the resident who had raised the concern.

**CAD22/17: Discuss the damaged interpretation board.**

**RESOLVED:** to claim on the insurance for the repair of the boards and if it occurs again to consider re-siting them to a less secluded position. Yatton Parish Council was to progress the claim and repair work.

**CAD23/1: To discuss the concerns raised regarding public safety and the grazing of cattle and sheep on Cadbury Hill.**

The Committee noted the concerns raised and Chair Janet Dickson and John Harris had both engaged actively with the people raising concerns. Members agreed that the grazing of animals was an essential part of the management of the hill and formed part of a ten year funded agreement with Natural England. The use of signage to raise awareness of any animals being grazed on the hill will include the following:

- What they are.
- How long they will be on the hill.
- Be put up in advance of the animals being grazed.
- Sited in the car park as well as the entrance to the hill.
- Include any instructions i.e. dogs onleads when sheep are being grazed.
- Be promoted through Parish Council websites/Facebook.

**CAD24/17: To consider the management of the surviving veteran oak trees.**

Further to discussion members concluded that the fallen veteran oak was better left and to allow nature to take its course. Members considered that once the ring barked trees had been removed the other surviving veteran oaks can be reviewed. It was agreed that when a suitable occasion arose new commemorative oak maybe be planted in the glade and protected with fencing.

**CAD25/17: To consider the Batlink Focus Area and the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund supported by Natural England.**

The advice of YACWAG member Tony Moulin was to be sought regarding the Batlink initiative as he had extensive knowledge on the subject.

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**CAD26/17: Clerk's Report**

No report.

**CAD27/17: Future agenda items**

Possibility of fixed habitat studies.

Signage.

Beacon on Cadbury Hill.

Estate Managers Report.

Date of next meeting provisionally Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

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Chair

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