

Draft Minutes

of a meeting of the

Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils

Cadbury Hill Joint Management Committee

held on

6 June 2018

at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting commenced: 10.00 a.m.

Meeting ended: 12.00 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 Kirsten Griffiths, and Cadbury Hill Estate Manager John Harris.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

***** The newly appointed Congresbury Parish Council RFO Kirsten Griffiths was introduced to the Committee.**

CAD1/18: Election of Chairman for the meeting

RESOLVED: that Janet Dickson be elected Chair for the duration of 2018-19 Council year.

Janet Dickson took the Chair.

CAD2/18: Co-option of a representative

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

CAD3/18: Apologies for Absence

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

CAD4/18: Declarations of Interest

The Estate Manager declared an interest on his arrival. See CAD8/18.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAD5/18: Public participation

None

*** Members agreed that the following item was moved to later in the meeting as the Estate Manager was not in attendance yet.

Estate Managers Report.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD6/18: Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2017.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CAD7/18: Exclusion of public.

None

*** The Estate Manager John Harris arrived and gave apologies for being late. He declared an interest as one possible selected grazier for the hill was a relative; there were no financial arrangements at all in connection with this.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD8/18 Estate Managers Report.

- The Estate Manager had discussed with Natural England the difficulties of sourcing enough Dexter breed cattle to graze the hill in compliance with the Environmental Stewardship Agreement. The impact of not doing so may mean a reduction in the grant by £169.40. However, the benefit to the hill in terms of scrub clearance, more cattle for less time (20-30 for approx. 6 weeks), possible not needing to graze sheep and its improvement to the limestone grassland was greater than the loss of grant. Natural England were being persuaded that this was the best solution for the benefit of the hill.
- The bramble spraying work was due in July. Notification of this was to be made on the Parish Council websites.
- The maintenance of Blind Lane should be provided for as a budget contingency as a £150 contribution maybe requested again in the future. Yatton Finance Officer advised that £50 was set aside each year so funds accrued for this. The Committee wished to retain good relations with the householder.
- The vandalised information boards had been repaired under insurance and in addition the backs had been replaced with a better more robust material. The Estate Manager would monitor them over the summer.
- There was no change in the presence of deer on the hill.

- YACWAG had put forward sites as part of the Batlink Focus Area discussed at the last meeting. If requested to by YACWAG, the Committee may take a part in this project.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

CAD9/18: To discuss the work to be undertaken 2018-19 and to further consider additional financial contributions.

Further to the Estate Manager declaring an interest under CAD8/18 the Committee agreed as follows:

RESOLVED: that should the relation of the Estate Manager be required as a grazier for the hill the Committee supported this as no financial benefit was involved.

Yatton Finance Officer circulated a financial statement (Appendix A) to members and advised after costs and work already committed too funds of £1,450 were available to spend on work to the hill. At this point it came to light that there had been an administrative problem following the loss of the RFO at Congresbury which resulted in a delay in the Environmental Stewardship Agreement application being submitted. This may result in penalties on the amount of grant received. The Estate Manager was to argue extenuating circumstances and would submit the grant immediately.

In light of this uncertainty of income the main priority was the thinning of trees in Area F. The Committee agreed that a request was made to both Parish Council's at their next Full Council meetings to make an additional contribution of £500.

The ten-year plan for the hill was at the half way point and therefore it was an appropriate time to review the budget requirement for Cadbury Hill. Members agreed that a proposal to increase the annual contribution from £2,000 per annum to £3,000 per annum for each Council was to be made in the autumn as part of the 2019-20 budget setting process.

CAD10/18: To consider the management of the surviving veteran oak trees.

Further to discussions members concluded that after the halo of ring barked trees had been removed consideration would be given to a new fenced oak tree at the site. The stump of the veteran oak that came down last summer was considered beyond saving and it was not financially viable to protect the stump in the hope it may in the future be a viable tree again. It was decided that the natural decaying process be allowed to take place. Monitoring of the veteran oaks would continue.

*** The Committee thanked the Estate Manager for all his work and for the difference it was making to the hill.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

CAD11/18: Clerk's Report

No report provided.

CAD12/18: Future agenda items

Possibility of fixed habitat studies.

Raising funds for the hill.

Date of next meeting – TBA November 2018

Chair

___/___/2018