

# **Draft Minutes**

of a meeting of the

## **Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils**

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

held on

**14 November 2018**

at Hangstones Pavilion (Parish Office), Stowey Road, Yatton.

Meeting commenced: 10.30 a.m.

Meeting ended: 12.15 a.m.

**Present:** Yatton Parish Councillors David Crossman, Jonathan Edwards and Ian Payne, Congresbury Parish Councillors Janet Dickson, Jane Clarke and Arthur Hacking.

**In attendance:** Yatton Finance Officer Wendy Bentley, Yatton Parish Clerk Aleana Baird and Cadbury Hill Estate Manager John Harris.

#### **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**CAD13/18: Apologies for Absence**

NONE.

**CAD14/18: Declarations of Interest**

NONE.

#### **MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**CAD15/18: Public participation**

No members of the public present.

**Estate Managers Report.**

#### **MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**CAD16/18: Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2018.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**CAD17/18: Exclusion of public.**

Not required.

**MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

**CAD18/18 Estate Managers Report.**

- It had been a good quiet six months with few problems and no fires on the hill in the very hot summer which had been a concern.
- Dexter cattle were still the only breed being grazed on the hill but only a very small herd of twelve.
- There was work instructed for autumn spraying, scrub clearance and tree thinning.
- There had been an objection to leaving the fallen veteran oak to decay naturally. Members were satisfied with that decision and it would provide habitat for insects etc as that decay process takes place.
- Since the last meeting a serious incident of a dog savaging a sheep on the hill had taken place. In light of this the option to graze sheep would be resisted if possible but if it was needed then it would be a large flock for a very short time in the winter and with robust monitoring.
- The Committee thanked John Harris for all his work and he thanks the Committee for their support.

**MATTERS FOR DECISION**

**CAD19/18: To confirm budget requirements for the next financial year 2019-20 and to discuss the working planned for the remaining financial year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.**

The one off additional payments agreed by each Council of £500 had been received in the summer. A projected budget statement for the remainder of the financial year 2018-19 had been circulated. It was highlighted that other means of funding for the hill should be explored. Members discussed next year's budget requirements in order to make a request to each Parish Council for 2019-20.

**RESOLVED:** to request as part of Yatton and Congresbury's imminent budget setting processes an increase from £2,500 per Council to £3,000 per Council for 2019-20.

**Review of Work**

An action plan for the hill work present to 2021 had been circulated. The increase in budget next year would assist the manager in the ongoing maintenance of the hill. The HLS funding was at the half way point ending in 2023, though this year only £336.75 had been received 20<sup>th</sup> June. There was optimism that a further £840 was expected this financial year though the Rural Payments Agency were historically slow at making payments. The work for the rest of this year to March 2019 was as follows:

- Clear path from the cricket club.
- Fell halo of ringed trees leaving the brash in habitat piles.
- Cut back sprayed areas and clear.
- Spray bramble in the spring.
- Carry out felling in area F to create a substantial glade and different habitat that would encourage wildflowers. This may though create more clearance work as maintenance.

The Beacon of Light on Cadbury Hill that could be lit on a day of national importance was discussed. The Clerk was asked to submit an application to have one to Historic England.

**CAD20/18: To review the grazing arrangements for the hill.**

The herd of 12 Dexter cattle were not really enough as stated at previous meetings. The grazier had been approached to see if the herd was to be increased but no response to date. A herd of 25-30 yearling Simmental or Friesian cattle maybe introduced at the peak grazing in the spring or autumn. John Harris was to make the arrangements if required.

**CAD21/18: To consider the action plan for the hill 2019-21.**

The draft action plan 2019-21 had been circulated outlining the following points:

- Maintenance work done to date.
- Tree felling and thinning in Areas F and E.
- Areas C and D may also need work over the plan period.
- Area B was now under the Committee's jurisdiction.
- Maintain the vistas.
- Monitor 2<sup>nd</sup> veteran oak – epicormic growth was doing well.
- Consider offering the hill for ecological and environmental research work to other organisations.
- To monitor performance indicators for the work done to date by asking Natural England/archaeological groups to inspect the hill. This is a part of the HLS agreement.
- To involve the community in the hill.

Councillor Janet Dickson was thanked by the Committee for her work as Chair on the Committee as she was not standing as a Parish Councillor in the elections next May 2019.

**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.

Beacon of Light.

Performance Monitoring of the hill.

Date of next meeting – TBA after May 2019.

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Chair

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