Castle Cary Town Council
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MINUTES OF CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held on Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Judi Morison (Chair), Margaret Bebbington, Philippa Biddlecombe, Robert Brown, James Camm, Steve Evans, Trevor Oats, Pek Peppin, Angela Piggott and Rob Worth

In attendance: Lisa Davis (Clerk)
Henry Hobhouse (Somerset Councillor)
Sue Seager (The Newt)
4 members of the public

19:00 – Open session

Sue Seager provided information about an upcoming archaeological project that Emily Estate are involved with in Castle Cary. Town Councillors raised queries about some other matters which Sue agreed to follow up with team members as appropriate.

Two Castle Cary residents spoke about their concerns about the development at Foxes Run and in particular the UXO. One resident reported that he had been doing some research about the UXO. Concerns were raised about the recent maintenance works carried out on site and that the UXO could have been disturbed when the digger working on site became stuck in the field. The resident reported that the Police were called and a report had also been logged with HSE following this incident.

Judi Morison confirmed that CCTC had reported the UXO to the Police and HSE in 2022.

The meeting started at 19:31

TC29 Apologies for absence
Linda Ball had sent her apologies.

TC30 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interests - no Councillors had interests to declare.

TC31 To approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 19th June to be signed by the Chair at a later time.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed (7 – for, 3 – abstained, 0 – against) that the minutes of the meeting on Monday 19th June are approved.

TC32 Community Safety and Security update
A crime report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that it would be useful to have more detailed information regarding the crimes and the work being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing team to address issues and

Philippa Biddlecombe suggested that the PCSO's are invited to attend Full Council meetings as had happened in the past. Judi Morison reported that she is meeting with PCSO Beata and the Town Clerk so will raise the concerns and ask if they would be able to attend a Full Council meeting.

Action 230717/1: Judi Morison/Town Clerk

Robert Brown suggested that crime statistics could be powerful to object against proposed housing developments.

TC33 To receive reports, updates and correspondence:

a) **Somerset Councillor:** Henry Hobhouse reported that the waste strike issues had hopefully been resolved but that gas cannisters, barbeques, batteries and throw away vapes are causing problems on the waste and recycling collection lorries. Surface dressing is underway and the tree strategy has recently been approved.
b) **Dimmer Liaison Group** A report which included water discharge data had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
c) **Caryford Hall** There was no update.
d) **Castle Cary Museum** There was no update.
e) **Update on Key Objectives/Projects** There was no update.
f) **To review action points from previous meetings** The Town Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Architect for the Pavilion who had advised that Somerset Council may ask for validation from a transport specialist following submission of a planning application.

TC34 Chairs' Report

a) **Local Community Network (LCN)** Judi Morison reported that the first South East Somerset LCN meeting took place on 22 June 2023. The meeting was well attended by Parishes. Judi and Ewan Jones (Bruton Town Council) were elected as Co-Chairs with Nicola Clark (Somerset Councillor) elected as Vice Chair. A date for the next meeting is yet to be confirmed but it is anticipated that meetings will be held bi-monthly.
b) **Update on youth provision tender and to agree contract with youth provider** Judi Morison reported that Youth Connect had been appointed following interviews with representatives from Castle Cary, Bruton and Wincanton Town Council's and Milborne Port Parish Council. Castle Cary Town Council would hold the contract and a Memorandum of Understanding would be in place with the other Council's.
c) **Community Plan** The final report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Philippa Biddlecombe commented that it feeds into the CCTC Strategic Objectives well.
d) **CCTC/APC joint meeting – to note CCTC/APC joint meeting will be held on 26th September 2023** Noted
e) **Correspondence**
    i. **Update on use of glyphosates in the River Cary** An update from Dave Boyer had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that this is not an isolated issue.

Committee Reports, Recommendations & Progress on Major Projects

TC35 Planning Committee & Neighbourhood Plan

a) **Planning Committee update report** the Council received a report of the Planning Committee meeting of 3rd July 2023.

b) **Update from APC regarding proposal for use of CIL contributions for public open space** The Town Clerk reported that APC had been asked by Somerset Council to put forward a proposal for the use of CIL for off-site public space for planning application 22/02814/FUL, Chris Edwards had confirmed that it was agreed at the APC meeting on 12 July to ask that the CIL contribution is used towards play area provision at another housing development in Ansford. It was agreed that a CIL agreement between CCTC and APC would be discussed at the joint meeting in September.

c) **To consider proposal that CCTC request that Somerset Council ask the landowner of Foxes Run site to carry out an unexploded ordnance survey and risk assessment** Judi Morison reported that she had spoken to Jo Cook about the UXO at Foxes Run and would circulate the information that she had provided. Pek Peppin reported that the lawyer for Care4Cary had written to Somerset Council regarding non commencement of works but no response had been received to date. Robert Brown raised concerns about the pollution from the UXO that could be contaminating the river and/or water supply and did not think that any more public money should be spent on the Foxes Run site.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Town Clerk would ask Abri to provide a copy of the independent desktop survey completed by a UXO professional and that Judi Morison would draft a letter to request that Somerset Council ask Abri for a detailed UXO survey and risk assessment to be completed.

Action 230717/2: Town Clerk
Action 230717/3: Judi Morison

d) **To discuss CIL liabilities for the Foxes Run development** Robert Brown advised that the problems regarding the CIL liability being granted to Yarlington Homes and not Abri had not been resolved as Somerset Council do not have a discretionary relief policy.

TC36 Properties and Infrastructure Committee

a) **Properties and Infrastructure Committee update report** – the Council received a report from the Properties and Infrastructure Committee. Concerns were raised about overgrown hedges and it was agreed to put something in the next newsletter and on social media to remind landowners to ensure that hedges are maintained.

Action 230717/4: Judi Morison/Marketing and Communications Administrator

b) **Update on Market House project** Pek Peppin reported that the decision notice was still awaited. Henry Hobhouse agreed to follow up with Somerset Council.

Action 230717/5: Henry Hobhouse

c) **Pavilion Project update** Rob Worth reported that the Ecology consultant had completed their inspection today and the report was awaited.

d) **Traffic Working Group update** An update report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Robert Brown raised concerns about a recent incident on Church Street where a parked vehicle was hit and advised that Castle Cary Station were interested in upgrades to the station as a major transport hub.

TC37 Marketing and Communications

a) **Marketing and Communications Committee update report** the Council received a report from the Properties and Infrastructure Committee. Robert Brown offered to co-ordinate the arrangements for Apple Day if Tom Trouton was no longer able to do this.

b) **To consider proposal for the use of umbrellas on the cobbles**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (7 – for, 0 – abstained, 3 – against) to purchase three umbrellas at a cost of no more than £300 in total to use on Saturday mornings during the Coffee mornings and to be stored at Pinsents when not in use.

Action 230717/6: Angela Piggott/Marketing and Communications Administrator

c) **To consider proposal and costs for marketing space and events at the Market House** It was agreed to defer this to the next Full Council meeting to allow more time to collate the information. James Camm would produce a written proposal and Judi Morison would provide information about the digital board that Langport TC have installed.

Action 230717/7: James Camm
Action 230717/8: Judi Morison

d) **To consider amended quote for Christmas Trees**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the amended quote for Christmas Trees

TC38 Finance and Management

a) **Budget year to date summary** – noted

b) **General Terms of Reference Policy – to review the General Terms of Reference Policy** Angela Piggot flagged that the Committee roles for Marketing and Communications are vast and asked that Councillors bear in mind that Committee membership is important to spread the load. Pek Peppin also reminded Councillors of the importance to send apologies if they are unable to attend meetings.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (8 – for, 2 – abstained, 0 – against) to re-adopt the General Terms of Reference Policy subject to the agreed amendments being made

Action 230717/9: Judi Morison

c) **To consider proposal from Finance and Management Committee to research the need for the hybrid meeting system with existing bookings and possible future needs informed by the embryonic Business group**
Judi Morison reported that the Finance Committee agreed that this was a positive development however, felt that the infrastructure needed to be in place to support the equipment and that research should be completed to establish the need so that the cost could be looked at when precepting. The quote for the wi-fi was still awaited so James Camm would follow this up and it was agreed that in the meantime the Marketing and Communications Administrator would undertake research with existing bookings and the embryonic Business group.

Action 230717/10: James Camm
Action 230717/11: Marketing and Communications Administrator

d) **Payments - to approve the July 2023 payment schedule for the Town Council and the Donald Pither Trust and to nominate Councillors to verify and authorise payments.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the July 2023 payment schedule for the Town Council be approved.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the July 2023 payment schedule for the Donald Pither Trust be approved.
It was agreed to ask Somerset Council if it would be possible for Rural Business Relief to be applied to the Business Rates for the Cemetery.

Action 230717/12: Town Clerk

It was agreed that Margaret Bebbington would check the invoices against the payments and that Philippa Biddlecombe would execute the payments.

TC39 Castle Cary Station

a) **To note proposed changes to ticket retailing at Castle Cary station and to agree a response to the consultation** It was noted that the proposed changes would mean that there would still be a member of staff located at Castle Cary Station. Robert Brown reported that he had arranged to meet with GWR the following day and would report back to CCTC. It was agreed to send any comments on the proposals to Robert.

Action 230717/13: All

The meeting concluded at 21:21 hours.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 14th August 2023 at 7:00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 3rd August 2023.