



Castle Cary Town Council

The Market House

Market Place

Castle Cary

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MINUTES OF CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 16th January 2023 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Lisa Davis (Clerk)
Mike Lewis (County Councillor)
3 members of the public

19:00 – Open session

A local resident spoke about the money invested by SSDC in the battery project, they raised concerns about the validity of the information relating to the investment amount and local benefit.

The same resident also raised concerns about Castle Cary Town Council and Ansford Parish Council borrowing money for Caryford Hall and the need for the extension. They felt that the majority of residents would not have read the information circulated and there was no evidence of voting merit.

The meeting started at 19:14

2022

TC128 Apologies for absence

Carly Franklin, Tom Trouton and Rob Worth had sent their apologies.

TC129 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interests - no Councillors had interests to declare.

TC130 To approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 12th December to be signed by the Chair at a later time.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed (6 – for, 4 – abstained, 0 – against) that the minutes of the meeting on Monday 12th December are approved.

TC131 Community Safety and Security update

No report had been received for December. It was noted that a suspicious vehicle near the Church had been reported to the Police.

TC132 To receive reports, updates and correspondence:

- a) **County Councillor:** Mike Lewis advised that the SCC Executive would discuss the LCN proposals at their meeting on 18th January. The report recommends 18 LCN's and it was noted that Queen Camel and West Camel would be in different LCN's should the recommendation be agreed. Communication is difficult at the moment between SSDC and members/residents. In response to a query from Robert Brown, Mike confirmed that Somerset Council would be the planning authority from 1st April.
- b) **District Councillors** There was no update
- c) **Dimmer Liaison Group** There was no update
- d) **Caryford Hall** Margaret Bebbington reported that Caryford Hall are keen to push ahead with the extension project and are applying for additional grant funding. They have been unable to recruit a volunteer Finance Assistant to date. There is a need to find a new

organiser for Moviola. Pek Peppin asked if the hall would remain open whilst the Phase 2 works were completed, it was agreed to follow this up with Ian Bynoe.

Action 231601/1: Town Clerk

- e) **Castle Cary Museum** There was no update as the Museum is closed until Spring 2023.
- f) **Update on Key Objectives/Projects** There was no update.
- g) **To review action points from previous meetings**
Wind Turbine repairs – Philippa Biddlecombe reported that Tom Trouton has made arrangements to borrow a cherry picker to complete the works.

TC133 Chairs' Report

- a) **Local Community Network (LCN) update** Judi Morison reported that the next LCN event is planned to take place on 2nd February 2023.
- b) **Youth update** A youth report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Judi Morison thanked Sam Plummer and his team at Youth Connect for all their work.
- c) **Community Plan Review update** Judi Morison reported that the questions to be included in the questionnaire had been discussed with Councillors as appropriate and a draft questionnaire would be available in due course.
- d) **Correspondence**
 - i. **Email from member of the public regarding Caryford Hall Public Works loan consultation** – noted
 - ii. **Letter from Department for Transport regarding funding for the bus sector** – noted
 - iii. **Email from Giraffe House Pickleball Club regarding the closure of 1610 sports facility** – noted. Judi Morison reported that she had been in contact with 1610, SSDC and Ansford Academy following the closure announcement in December and is awaiting a date for interested parties to meet.

Committee Reports, Recommendations & Progress on Major Projects

TC134 Planning Committee & Neighbourhood Plan –

- a) **Report of Planning Committee meeting of 9th January** the Council received a report of the Planning Committee meeting of 9th January.
- b) **Foxes Run** Trevor Oats advised that the report had been received from the Planning Consultant and that he had met with a local resident so now had the background information regarding the site. Robert Brown queried the accuracy of the details relating to the number of open market homes included on the CIL information provided by SSDC.

TC135 Properties and Infrastructure Committee

- a) **Properties and Infrastructure Committee update report** – the Council received a report from the Properties and Infrastructure Committee.
- b) **Pavilion Project** – the initial architect thoughts/designs had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Robert Brown and James Camm raised concerns about the design. Philippa Biddlecombe advised that this would be discussed at the Properties and Infrastructure Committee meeting on 23rd January.
- c) **Transport Working Group update** – Observation notes from town walks had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Robert Brown reported that there had been a lot of public interest in the Working Group and advised that he had started to enter data onto Parish Online. He reported that a lot of data had already been gathered for Station Road for a recent planning application and he felt that this could be used to request Avon and Somerset Police to be present during the Speedwatch sessions.

TC136 Marketing and Communications –

- a) **Marketing and Communications Committee update report** – the Council received a report from the Marketing and Communications Committee.

- b) **Coronation celebrations** – Margaret Bebbington reported that one response had been received to the request for volunteers to form a Working party that was included in the newsletter. This would be discussed in more detail at the Marketing and Communications Committee meeting on 30th January. It was noted that a Big Christmas Wash Up meeting would be held on 24th January.

TC137 Finance and Management

- a) **Budget year to date summary** – the budget year to date report was not available but would be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on 13th February.
- b) **Debt Policy – to review the Debt Policy**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to re-adopt the Debt Policy without amendment
- c) **To consider grant request from The Somerscience Trust towards the design and printing of Somerscience Festival brochure**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to award £150 to The Somerscience Trust
- d) **Budget and precept** - the Town Clerk presented the draft budget and precept options to be considered. It was noted that the budget and precept options included the loan repayments for Caryford Hall. Robert Brown requested that his vote on the Caryford Hall loan at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting in November 2022 due to an issue regarding what he voted for. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow this up with SALC.
Action 231601/2: Town Clerk
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed (7 – for, 2 – abstained, 1 – against) to set the precept at £201,350 for 2023/24.
- e) **Update on recruitment of Deputy Clerk** – Judi Morison reported that interviews were taking place that week.
- f) **Payments - to approve the January 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 January 2023 payment schedule for the Town Council be approved subject to clarification of the work included in the invoice from Charles Gillespie Architect.
Action 231601/3: Town Clerk
RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the January 2023 payment schedule for the Donald Pither Trust be approved.
It was agreed that Philippa Biddlecombe would check the invoices against the payments and that Judi Morison would execute the payments.

TC138 Market House

- a) **Update on Market House project** – Pek Peppin shared photos that had been received from the Architect showing the proposed amended material for the lift. Pek confirmed that the Architect and English Heritage would decide on the colour to be used. Robert Brown reported that he had investigated the problem with the wall in the Billiard Room and was confident that the leaking gutter was causing the issue.

TC139 Caryford Hall

- a) **Update on Public Works Loan consultation** – Judi Morison reported that the Public Works Loan consultation had been completed and residents had voted to proceed with the application to the Public Works Loan Board to apply for a loan to be repaid through the Precept.

TC140 Youth provision

- a) **Youth report** – to consider the report produced by Youth Connect Southwest and agree data / recommendations for Castle Cary.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the report produced by Youth Connect Southwest.

b) Youth provision

- i. To consider proposal to work in partnership with local parishes and Bruton and Wincanton Town Councils to develop a youth strategy.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to work with local parishes and Bruton and Wincanton Town Councils to develop a youth strategy.

- ii. To consider proposal to apply for external funding and use earmarked reserves to fund youth provision in Castle Cary.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to apply for external funding and use ear marked reserves to fund youth provision in Castle Cary.

c) Youth shelter – to consider proposal to install a youth shelter at the Donald Pither Memorial Field.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed (8 – for, 2 – abstained, 0 – against) to install a youth shelter at the Donald Pither Field.

It was noted that Philippa Biddlecombe and the Town Clerk would meet with the Crime Prevention Advisor at Avon and Somerset Police on 20th February to discuss the exact location and design.

The meeting concluded at 21:30 hours.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 20th February 2023 at 7:00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 9th February 2022.