



Castle Cary Town Council

The Market House

Market Place

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MINUTES OF CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Judi Morison (Chair), Frances Alden, Linda Ball, Margaret Bebbington, Philippa Biddlecombe, David Gill, Pek Peppin, Angela Piggott and Trevor Oats

In attendance: Lisa Davis (Clerk)
Kevin Messenger (Somerset Councillor)
Henry Hobhouse (Somerset Councillor)
Katie Armstrong (Deputy Clerk)
27 members of the public

Before the meeting started, Judi Morison reminded all Councillors of the Civility and Respect pledge that has been approved by CCTC.

19:00 – Open session

One member of the public spoke about the response from Somerset Council regarding the commencement of works at Foxes Run and raised concerns about the evidence to support the decision.

One resident asked for confirmation that their email regarding the 20mph speed limit had been circulated to Town Councillors, the Town Clerk confirmed that it had been circulated. Another resident spoke in support of the 20mph speed limit and suggested that it was an appropriate measure in addition to the Community Speedwatch.

The Town Clerk read a statement from a local resident who was unable to attend the meeting but supported the 20mph speed limit in Castle Cary.

The meeting started at 19:09

TC106 Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

TC107 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interests - no Councillors had interests to declare.

TC108 To approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 11th December to be signed by the Chair at a later time.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed (8 – for, 1 – abstained, 0 – against) that the minutes of the meeting on Monday 11th December are approved.

TC109 Co-option – To fill vacant seat on the Council

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Tom Trouton be co-opted onto the Council.

Tom Trouton joined the meeting as Town Councillor.

TC110 Community Safety and Security update

The Crime report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

TC111 To receive reports, updates and correspondence:

- a) Somerset Councillors:** Kevin Messenger reported that the Somerset Council budget consultation closes on 22nd January. There is a huge pressure on the Unitary Authority to save money and this will impact on everyone. Henry Hobhouse encouraged people to fight the potential closure of Dimmer Recycling centre. Decisions regarding the service cuts are due to be made at the Full Council meeting on 20th February. The proposed removal of the No. 1 bus service is not a proposed Somerset Council cut but a decision by Southwest Coaches as they can no longer afford to run the service.
- b) Dimmer Liaison Group** An update report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- c) Caryford Hall** Margaret Bebbington reported that the roof is due to go on this week and it is hoped that the new part of the building will be open by July.
- d) Castle Cary Museum** Pek Peppin reported that the Museum would re-open just before Easter and there would be a small display to celebrate the 50 year anniversary. Additional volunteers are still needed.
- e) Update on Key Objectives/Projects** There was no update.
- f) To review action points from previous meetings** No update had been received following the meeting with SWR.

TC112 Chairs' Report

- a) Local Community Network (LCN)** Judi Morison reported that a flooding/emergency planning workshop took place on 8 January. The next LCN meeting is at Charlton Musgrove Village Hall on 22nd February.
- b) Youth provision** Judi Morison reported that an amended contract had been received on Friday with comments from the Town Council's Solicitor. This is now with Youth Connect and will be discussed with the partner councils. Unfortunately Youth Connect have still not been able to recruit to date.
- c) The Castle Cary Parish Charity – to consider the appointment of a trustee by CCTC to the Parish Charity**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Linda Ball would be a trustee to the Parish Charity.
- d) Correspondence**
 - i. Email from Somerset Bus Partnership regarding Bus Service 1 (Yeovil – Castle Cary – Shepton Mallet) under threat** It was agreed to continue to promote the bus service and the £2 fare. Linda Ball queried the impact any possible service cut may have to the requirement to provide transport provision for college/school students. It was noted that comments regarding this bus service could be included in responses to the Somerset Council budget consultation.

Committee Reports, Recommendations & Progress on Major Projects

TC113 Planning Committee & Neighbourhood Plan

- a) **Planning Committee update report** the Council received a report of the Planning Committee meeting of 8th January
- b) **To approve draft response to Somerset Council regarding determination letter for Foxes Run** Trevor Oats reported that he was awaiting further discussion with Care4Cary. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would write to Somerset Council to acknowledge receipt of the letter and confirm that a response would be sent in due course.

Action 240115/1: Deputy Clerk

TC101 Properties and Infrastructure Committee

- a) **Properties and Infrastructure Committee update report** – the Council received a report from the Properties and Infrastructure Committee.
- b) **Update on Market House project** Pek Peppin reported that a response is still awaited from Somerset Council.
- c) **Pavilion Project update** There was no update. Judi Morison reported that Rob Worth had sadly resigned from the Town Council and she thanked him for all the work he had undertaken as a Town Councillor.
- d) **Traffic Working Group update** there was no update.
- e) **20mph limit zone in Castle Cary / Ansford**
 - i. **To consider proposal that CCTC approve proposed 20mph limit zone**
Concerns were raised about whether this was the best use of funds with other financial pressures and considering there are other areas where speeding traffic and other highway safety concerns are more of an issue and improvement works/maintenance would have a greater impact. Trevor Oats suggested that the volume of traffic was more of an issue than the speed. The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that they were voting on the extent of the 20mph limit zone and that the community funded scheme would be managed and implemented by Somerset Council.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (7 – for, 2 – abstained, 1 – against) that CCTC approve the proposed 20mph limit zone
 - ii. **To consider proposal that CCTC contribute £3,840 (64% of total cost) towards the associated costs to implement the 20mph limit zone** Two Councillors expressed their disappointment about the share of funding with APC as the road network is of equal value to the community.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (6 – for, 1 – abstained, 3 – against) that CCTC contribute £3,840 (64% of total cost) towards the associated costs to implement the 20mph limit zone

TC115 Marketing and Communications

- a) **Marketing and Communications Committee update report** there was no update.

TC116 Finance and Management

- a) **Budget year to date summary** – noted
- b) **To consider possible opportunities and challenges arising from the financial emergency at Somerset Council** Judi Morison reported that a good response had been received from the community consultation sessions at the Market House. Castle Cary Primary School had confirmed that they receive a

small contribution from Somerset Council towards the crossing patrol but the removal of this would not impact on the provision of the service. Somerset Council had confirmed that the car park compensation scheme payments would continue into 2024/25.

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to make further enquiries about the possible asset transfer of Millbrook Hub.

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to allocate £25,000 in the budget for 2024/25 as a contingency

c) To note cemetery fees from January 2024 Noted

d) To consider grant application from 1st Castle Cary Scouts for funding towards the purchase of a defibrillator

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve a grant of £150 to 1st Castle Cary Scouts

e) To consider grant application from 1st Castle Cary Scouts for funding towards a group camp in France it was agreed to request further details regarding the costs and to defer for further discussion when more information was available.

f) **Freedom of Information Policy – to review the Freedom of Information policy**

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to re-adopt the Freedom of Information policy

g) **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, £3,840 for the 20mph speed limit, £10,000 for youth provision and £25,000 contingency in relation to the Somerset Council financial emergency.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to set the precept at £229,142.00 for 2024/25.

h) **Payments** - to approve the January 2024 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 2024 payment schedule for the Town Council be approved.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the January 2024 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.

The meeting concluded at 21:07 hours.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7:00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 8th February 2024.