



Castle Cary Town Council

The Market House

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MINUTES OF PROPERTY & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Monday 25th March 2024 at 7.00pm

Councillors present: Philippa Biddlecombe (Chair), Frances Alden, Margaret Bebbington, Robert Brown, Judi Morison, Trevor Oats, Pek Peppin, Angela Piggott and Tom Trouton

Clerk: Lisa Davis

In attendance: Councillor Henry Hobhouse, Paul Rawson – The Newt, Debra Henderson – Ansford Parish Council, Fiona Houlton – Ansford Parish Council, 12 members of the public

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

19:00 – Open session

A town centre business owner raised concerns about the request for parking permits at Bailey Hill.

A representative from Care4Cary reminded Town Councillors of the consultation regarding parking undertaken by Somerset County Council throughout the whole of Somerset which resulted in a separate policy for Castle Cary.

A resident from Bailey Hill advised that it is not their intention to take parking spaces but the current arrangement promotes a lot of movement around the town. They queried who is using the car parks and who is policing the usage.

A town centre business owner raised concerns about the wider implications if parking permits were issued to residents in Bailey Hill.

Paul Rawson reported that a planning application would be submitted in due course to convert the former Greengrocers at 1 Park Street to residential accommodation.

A Castle Cary resident raised concerns about the possible removal of the phone box near the Horsepond and outlined a proposal to adopt and maintain it to retain its local and historic importance.

The meeting started at 19:18

2023

PI58 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Linda Ball and David Gill

PI59 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest (these must be declared BEFORE the agenda items concerned are discussed. Persons with a declared pecuniary interest must leave the meeting room when these are discussed).

There were no declarations of interest.

PI60 Approval of Minutes of Property & Infrastructure Committee meeting on 22nd January 2024

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed (7 – for, 2 – abstained, 0- against) that the minutes of the meeting on 22nd January 2024 be approved to be signed by the Chair at a later time.

PI61 Action points from previous meetings:

Tom Trouton had spoken to Spencer Sanderson regarding the wilding at Catherines Close.

Trevor Oats had contacted Ansford Academy about PAT testing equipment.

PI62 Parking

- a) **To discuss request from residents for parking permits to provide exemption from two hour parking restrictions at Bailey Hill** Robert Brown reported that a lot of data had been collected by the Traffic Working Group who had been monitoring usage of the car parks but no opinion or recommendation had been offered yet. He suggested that there is a feeling from residents that they have been put at the bottom of the pecking order. Pek Peppin confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan clearly delineates the business area and suggested that this should be honoured until 2028 when the plan expires. Concerns were raised by some Councillors about the impact of parking permits being issued for Bailey Hill as there are many other residential properties that have no parking. It was proposed that CCTC support permit parking for residents at Bailey Hill. This proposal was not seconded and therefore there was no vote.
- b) **To discuss request for parking review for Castle Cary** The Town Clerk shared the advice received from Somerset Council. Concerns were raised by Town Councillors about the potential impact on the town, residents and businesses if a parking review was undertaken. Angela Piggot asked if there were examples of good practice. Robert Brown suggested that the purchase of additional land could be looked at. It was agreed that the Traffic Working Group would share the data / information gathered to date with CCTC and APC and continue to monitor and observe parking. The Town Clerk would share the data that she had collected for Millbrook car park.

Action 240325/1: Robert Brown / Traffic Working Group

Action 240325/2: Town Clerk

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to continue to gather data and look into innovative solutions until the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed in 2028.

- c) **To discuss request from resident for double yellow lines at Victoria Court**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (5 – for, 3 – abstained, 1 – against) to support junction protection at Victoria Court / Victoria Road.

PI63 Pavilion & Donald Pither Memorial Field

- a) **Update on Pavilion project** Philippa Biddlecombe gave an update on the project.
- b) **To discuss submission of planning application for Pavilion** A positive response had been received to the pre-planning advice request. Concerns were raised regarding the cost of the works. Robert Brown queried the completion of RIBA Stage 0. Judi Morison advised that the current building is not fit for purpose and reminded Councillors that the project had been ongoing for 12 years. It was noted that the S106 monies allocated to the Pavilion could not be re-allocated and would be returned to the developer if not used. It was agreed to update the business plan.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (7 – for, 0 – abstained, 1 – against) to recommend to Full Council that a planning application is submitted subject to the business plan being approved.
- c) **To discuss quotes for re-surfacing of basketball court and cricket nets** the quotes had not yet been received so this was deferred to the next meeting.
- d) **Catherines Close toilet - to note incident with door** Noted.

PI64 Infrastructure

- a) **Pavements – update on works** Somerset Council had confirmed that the works had been delayed and would now be completed by the new highways maintenance contractor.
- b) **To discuss proposal for phone box near the Horsepond**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that CCTC adopt the phone box subject to due diligence with a view to handing it over to the Museum as a charity subject to approval.
- c) **To discuss disposal of weed from the Horsepond** Paul Rawson advised that The Newt would take the pond weed to compost.
- d) **To discuss request from resident for road markings or barriers near Castle Cary Primary School** It was agreed to support the request to Somerset Council to investigate road markings or barriers near Castle Cary Primary School.
- e) **TRO for Community funded 20 mph speed limit – to note and discuss any response**
Noted

PI65 Market House

- a) **Update on Market House project** Pek Peppin reported that only one quote had been received to date for the works to remove the staircase.

PI66 Cemetery

- a) **To discuss request for Memorial wall at the Cemetery** Tom Trouton confirmed that he was willing to build a wall at no cost to CCTC. Margaret Bebbington would take this proposal back to Friends of the Cemetery Chapel.

PI67 Traffic Working Group

- a) **To discuss progress to date and forward plan** A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Robert Brown reported that the study for the footpath leading to the Station had been completed. A comprehensive plan had been produced but assistance was now required to map out land ownership. A meeting was scheduled with Somerset Council the following day so an update would be circulated following this meeting.

Action 240325/3: Robert Brown

In response to a query regarding the design for new signage, Robert Brown confirmed that it will replicate the existing design.

- b) **To approve the Terms of Reference for the Traffic Working Group**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the Terms of Reference with amendments
- c) **To approve the Transport Strategy**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the Transport Strategy

PI68 Speedwatch

- a) **Update on Community Speedwatch in Ansford / Castle Cary** Philippa Biddlecombe reported that Speedwatch sessions had re-started recently and that a request for South Street and North Street to be added to the approved locations had been submitted to Avon and Somerset Police.

PI69 Health and Safety

- a) **To review the Health and Safety Policy**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to re-adopt the Health and Safety Policy subject to agreed amendments.

- b) Update on purchase of PAT testing kit** The PAT testing kit had been purchased in conjunction with the Repair Café. An agreement between users would be produced.

PI70 Street naming

- a) To discuss proposed changes to street naming and numbering process** It was agreed that a small group including CCTC, APC and other interested representatives would meet to discuss possible names.

PI71 Somerset Council Urban Tree Challenge Fund –

- a) To discuss proposal for tree planting at Fairfield and Donald Pither** Phillippa Biddlecombe gave an update on the proposals and the site meeting that had taken place with Somerset Council and APC.

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that Castle Cary should be included in the submission of a funding bid to the Forestry Commission.

PI72 Jubilee bench

- a) Update on Jubilee bench** It was agreed that the Jubilee bench would now be installed at Catherines Close as discussions with Abri had not progressed for the previously agreed location.

PI73 Community Resilience

- a) Update on Ansford and Castle Cary Community Resilience group** Judi Morison reported that the group is forging forward with a very knowledgeable team of stakeholders.

The meeting closed at 21:22

The next meeting of the Properties and Infrastructures Committee will be held on Monday 29th April 2024 at 7.00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 18th April 2024.