



Castle Cary Town Council

The Market House

Market Place

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MINUTES OF CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 20th October 2025 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Lisa Davis (Clerk)
Terena Isaacs (Deputy Clerk)
Cllr. Kevin Messenger
Zoe Young – The Newt
Di Pinnions – Ansford Parish Council
Ewan Jones – Somerset Association of Local Councils
1 member of the public

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

Open session

A resident asked if there had been any discussion by CCTC following the consultation regarding the proposed plans for The George. Trevor Oats reported that he asked about parking at the exhibition and was advised that the number of spaces would reduce by three. Trevor confirmed that no comments would be made by CCTC until the planning application was submitted. Zoe Young reported that the comments / concerns raised at the exhibition and on social media had been looked at and passed to the Planning team to consider and advised that there would be further consultation prior to the planning application being submitted to Somerset Council. The resident suggested that the issue of parking in the town needs to be escalated and clarified that the residents at Bailey Hill do not want designated parking spaces but want provision to be able to park at Bailey Hill without having to move their vehicles every two hours.

The meeting started at 19:06

2025

TC71 Apologies for absence

Tom Trouton had sent his apologies.

TC72 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interests

None

TC73 To approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 15th September and the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on Monday 6th October to be signed by the Chair

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 15th September.

RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (9 – for, 1 – abstained, 0 – against) to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on Monday 6th October

TC74 Community Safety and Security update

- a) **Crime report from Avon and Somerset Police** No report had been received. Judi Morison reported that the Primary School had borrowed some traffic cones due to parking issues near the school building and that the Police were attending the school regularly.

TC75 To receive reports, updates and correspondence:

- a) **Henry Hobhouse and Kevin Messenger (Somerset Councillors)** Kevin Messenger reported that he attended a presentation by Stonewater as residents were disappointed at the way the site had been left. Kevin raised concerns about people voicing personal views about things going on in the town and stressed the importance of being one community and not two communities fighting against each other.
- b) **To receive a report from the Town Council representative for Caryford Hall (DG)** A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Philippa Biddlecombe queried why APC had withdrawn their support for the pantomime at Caryford Hall.
- c) **To receive a report from the Town Council representative for Castle Cary Museum (PP)** Pek Peppin reported that the Museum would close on 1st November for the winter. They are still short of volunteers for next season. A series of talks had been arranged during the winter to keep interest in the Museum.
- d) **To receive an update on Local Community Network (LCN) and the response to the transport questionnaire (JM)** The questionnaire response had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Judi Morison reported that there was low attendance at the last LCN meeting and that the next Highways Working Group meeting would take place on 18 November.
- e) **To receive an update on youth provision (JM)** There was no update.
- f) **Update on Key Objectives/Projects** There were no updates
- g) **To review action points from previous meetings** Philippa Biddlecombe would circulate the tree plans once they had been agreed.

TC76 Chairs' Report

- a) **To agree Town Council representative for Friends of the Cemetery Chapel** It was agreed that a Councillor representative was not needed and that the Deputy Clerk would continue to attend the meetings and feedback as appropriate.
- b) **To discuss Somerset Council Community Working Review and agree who will respond** The consultation was circulated in advance of the meeting and Councillors were encouraged to respond individually.
- c) **To note the results of the In Bloom awards and to formally thank all those involved in Cary in Bloom 2025** The results were noted and Trevor Oats thanked all involved and commented on the great community cohesion. It was noted that Cary in Bloom was a lovely example of the whole community of Ansford and Castle Cary coming together.

d) Correspondence

- i. **Emails from residents regarding Community Governance Review**
Noted
- ii. **Complaint from resident regarding the fun fair held at Fairfield** Trevor Oats reported that he had undertaken some research into the history of the carnival and the fair. Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the organisers had improved the arrangements and were considerate of lighting and noise. The caravans are positioned to reduce the impact on neighbouring properties. Philippa Biddlecombe offered to meet with the complainant and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would respond.
Action 252010/1: Town Clerk

Committee Reports, Recommendations & Progress on Major Projects

TC77 Planning Committee & Neighbourhood Plan

- a) **Planning Committee update report** the Committee received an update.
- b) **To discuss Streetnaming consultation for development off Torbay Road and agree a list of suggested names** It was suggested that the estate be named Longlands because the land was known as Longlands in 'Ye Map' and the estate road names would be themed around wildflowers that would have grown on the land. It was agreed that Philippa Biddlecombe would finalise the list for Somerset Council.
Action 252010/2: Philippa Biddlecombe
- c) **Feedback from planning appeal for development off South Street** Trevor Oats reported that he attended the appeal hearing on 8 October and expressed concern and disappointment at the Planning Officer representation. Kevin Messenger suggested that CCTC should contact Somerset Council with the feedback. A decision on the appeal is expected by the end of the month.

TC78 Properties and Infrastructure Committee

- a) **Properties and Infrastructure Committee update report** A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
- b) **Update on Market House project (PP)** Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the kitchen is being installed on Wednesday.
- c) **Update on Pavilion project and agree to progress with Phase 1 of the project (PB)** Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the fundraising volunteers are collating all the necessary information and heading in the right direction. It was agreed that Phase 1 would be progressed and S106 funding should cover the majority of this Phase. It was noted that the White Hart are hosting a quiz night to raise funds for the project on behalf of the Football Club.
- d) **To consider quote from Epitaph for cemetery mapping system**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Epitaph for the cemetery mapping system and to use earmarked reserves so that the system can be updated in this financial year.
- e) **Update on arrangements for Urban Tree Challenge and to agree that CCTC will take the project forward** Philippa Biddlecombe gave an update on the arrangements for the Urban Tree Challenge and reported that APC would no longer be involved in the project and trees would not be planted along the Priory View boundary. All upfront costs would therefore now have to be covered by CCTC and re-claimed from the Forestry Commission.

RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that CCTC would take on the project. It would be funded using the Somerset Council contingency fund and then re-claimed from the Forestry Commission.

TC79 Marketing and Communications

- a) **Marketing and Communications Committee update report** the Committee received a report.
- b) **To consider a recommendation from Marketing and Communications Committee regarding the arrangements for hanging baskets for 2026**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that £5,000 would be included for expenditure and £3,000 for income in the 2026/27 budget.

TC80 Finance and Management

- a) **Budget year to date summary** Noted
- b) **To consider grant application from Caryford Community Hall for support towards the pantomime**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to award a grant of £150 towards the pantomime at Caryford Community Hall
- c) **To consider the use of .gov email addresses for all Town Council staff and Councillors**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to move email addresses for all Town Council staff and Councillors to .gov.uk addresses
- d) **To discuss proposed contribution from The Newt towards the car park compensation scheme payments for Castle Cary and Ansford made to Somerset Council during 2025 and 2026**
Zoe Young confirmed that an offer to contribute towards the car park compensation scheme payments for Castle Cary and Ansford had been made in recognition that The Newt have a footprint in the town. Contractors have been asked to park at an alternative location but it was acknowledged that they are still taking up some parking allocation within the town. Zoe confirmed that this was not a proposed solution to the parking situation for The George.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the contribution from The Newt for 2025 and 2026.
- e) **Payments - to approve the October 2025 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 October 2025 payment schedule for the Town Council be approved.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the October 2025 payment schedule for the Donald Pither Trust be approved.
It was agreed that Margaret Bebbington would check the invoices against the payments and that Judi Morison would execute the payments.

The meeting concluded at 20:17 hours.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 17th November 2025 at 7:00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 6th November 2025.