

Minutes of the Castle Cary Annual Town Forum
Held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 in Caryford Hall 7pm

Present: Chair of Town Council: Trevor Oats
Town Councillors: Frances Alden, Margaret Bebbington, David Bright, Gavin Crisp, David Gill, Judi Morison, Pek Peppin
Somerset Councillors: Cllr Henry Hobhouse, Cllr Kevin Messenger
Town Clerk: Lisa Davis
Millbrook Surgery: Helen Littell
Parish Charity: Rev'd Elisabeth Isted
Pavilion Group – Simon Bebbington

22 Local clubs' societies & organisations & their representatives attended the meeting bringing their display stands from 6.15pm onwards.

Approximately 47 members of the community attended the meeting

1.	Welcome Trevor Oats welcomed everyone and all Town Councillors introduced themselves
2.	Apologies: Linda Ball, Philippa Biddlecombe and Angela Piggott
3.	Approval of the 2025 Annual Town Forum Minutes The 2025 Minutes been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted.
4.	Chairs Report Trevor Oats presented his report and thanked the Scouts for helping with the refreshments at the start of the meeting.
5.	Presentation from Somerset Councillors Cllr Henry Hobhouse reported that works are continuing on Station Road and they are hoped to be finished on time but as they have dug down further problems have been found. Embankment works on the A371 should start in September or October and are likely to last up to 6 months at a cost of £1.9million. Unfortunately, the new bridge is not being installed at the Station this year but will be done in 2027 after Glastonbury Festival. It was noted that 370,000 people use the station each year and that there are now permanent staff located there. The Government have decided to remove the ability for Town and Parish Councils to request planning applications to go to Committees and

	Somerset Councillors will be unable to call in applications. All applications for less than 10 dwellings will be dealt with by Planning Officers and Town and Parish Councils will not be consulted. Cllr Kevin Messenger reported that MP Sarah Dyke is calling for a 10% reduction in taxes for fuel for farmers. Somerset Council agreed today to put more money into funding for SEN children. A new bus route between Glastonbury and Castle Cary should help to take more traffic off the roads. Concerns have been raised about Planning Officers refusing to reject planning applications on flood plains. Kevin encouraged people to report issues on the road through the online reporting system. Kevin thanked CCTC and all the volunteers who give up their time.
6.	Overview of the year and Town Council projects update David Gill presented his report for the Properties and Infrastructure Committee. Simon Bebbington gave an update on fundraising for the new Pavilion and it was noted that the Cary in Bloom Sow, Grow and Bloom event on 11 July would be raising funds towards this project. He thanked the local businesses and members of the community who had made generous donations towards the project so far.
7.	Parish Charity Rev'd Elisabeth Isted gave an overview of the Parish Charity that aims to relieve poverty. Grants of up to £250 can be made for people in need. Elisabeth encouraged people to promote the charity to anyone who is in need and could benefit from a grant. Application forms are available from Elisabeth, Cary Cares and Millbrook Hub. The two Churches are running out of money and people so please let Elisabeth know if there are any suggestions for fundraising for All Saints and St. Andrews.
8.	Marketing and Communications update Margaret Bebbington presented her report for the Marketing and Communications Committee.
9.	Budget presentation Judi Morison reported on the finances and budget for CCTC.

10.	Questions and other matters for discussion Helen Littell presented a report on behalf of Millbrook Surgery. A resident raised concerns about the process followed by Caryford Hall Trustees regarding the sale of land and CCTC's casual response to give Ian Bynoe permission to sell the land.
	Trevor Oats thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 7.54pm Next meeting 2027 to be agreed.