



Castle Cary Town Council

The Market House

Market Place

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MINUTES OF CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

held on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Lisa Davis (Clerk)
Cllr. Kevin Messenger
Cllr. Henry Hobhouse

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

The meeting started at 19:00

2026

TC28 Apologies for absence

None

TC29 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interests

Judi Morison declared a personal interest in items TC36c) and TC36d)

TC30 To approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 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 June subject to agreed amendments to item TC18 and TC22c)

TC31 Community Safety and Security update No crime report had been received.

TC32 To receive reports, updates and correspondence:

- a) **Henry Hobhouse and Kevin Messenger (Somerset Councillors)** Henry Hobhouse reported that Somerset Council has access to £50million funding for flooding across the county. Henry would like to work with the Town Council to apply for funding to clear the ditch near the sinkhole on Station Road. Persimmon Homes have given consent to do the works and would remove all the material that is dug out. Henry would get a quote for the works and liaise with Somerset Council and the Town Clerk. Kevin Messenger congratulated everyone involved in Cary in Bloom and the Sunflower displays and noted that it shows how we are a strong community.
- b) **To receive a report from the Town Council representative for Caryford Hall (DB)** A report was circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that it is

important to ensure that the hall remains accessible whilst the roof is being refurbished and solar panels installed.

- c) **To receive a report from the Town Council representative for Castle Cary Museum (PP)** Pek Peppin reported that the Museum visitor numbers are down due to the works at the Angel meaning that people are unaware that the Museum is there and/or open. Additional volunteers are still needed.
- d) **To receive an update on Local Community Network (LCN) (JM)** Judi Morison reported that the recent Highways meeting was well attended and that the LCN AGM would be held on 18 August in Bruton.
- e) **Youth provision and contract update** A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. It was noted that numbers are increasing. It was suggested that a rota is put in place for Town Councillors to visit the youth club each Tuesday evening. Judi Morison advised that a meeting was being held with the other Councils on 28 July to discuss the contract review arrangements.
- f) **To review action points from previous meetings** There was no update.

TC33 Chairs' Report

- a) **General update and observations** There was no update
- b) **To discuss advertising of Town Councillor vacancies** It was noted that there are three vacancies and that the next Town Council elections are due to take place in May 2027.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (5 – for, 1 – abstained, 4 – against) to advertise the three vacancies
- c) **To agree dates for Meet the Councillor sessions** It was agreed to hold the first session on 8 August and then monthly. The Town Clerk and Marketing and Communications Administrator would discuss and agree future dates.
Action 262007/1: Town Clerk/Marketing & Communications Administrator
- d) **People's Emergency Briefing – to discuss letter to MP Sarah Dyke**
Philippa Biddlecombe, Judi Morison, Linda Ball and Angela Piggott had attended the showing of the briefing at Caryford Hall and reported that it was very powerful.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to write a letter to MP Sarah Dyke to request that the briefing is broadcast on TV.
Action 262007/2: Philippa Biddlecombe/Angela Piggott
- e) **Correspondence**
 - i. **Update on Somerset Bus Franchising proposal** It was noted that the trial of the new bus service from Glastonbury to Castle Cary would start on 3 August.
 - ii. **Email from Ansford Parish Council regarding proposal to gift a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to CCTC**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (9 – for, 1 – abstained, 0 – against) to accept the SID and discuss with Somerset Council where it could be located.

Committee Reports, Recommendations & Progress on Major Projects

TC34 Planning Committee & Neighbourhood Plan

- a) **Planning Committee update report** It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Review group are meeting on 21st July to agree the response to the Local Plan consultation.

- b) To consider CCTC becoming members of SCRAPP (Somerset Communities Raging Against Poor Planning)
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed that CCTC would become members of SCRAPP.

TC35 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 (JM)** There was no update
- c) **Pavilion Project update (PB)** There was no update
- d) **To consider quotes for replacement spring for see saw** This was deferred to a future meeting as quotes are still awaited
- e) **To discuss potential funding available for clearing of ditch between Persimmon Homes and Abri development sites and application process**
This was discussed under item TC32a)
- f) **Update on damage caused to bench near Millbrook car park** Philippa Biddlecombe gave an update on the damage caused to the bench and reported that the details for a replacement would be sent to the drivers insurance company
- g) **To discuss issue with Giant Hogweed at Fairfield** Dave Gill reported that the issue had been resolved

TC36 Marketing and Communications

- a) **Marketing and Communications Committee update report** there was no report. A request was made to formally thank the Marketing and Communications Administrator for her work on the newsletter.
- b) **To agree recommendation from Marketing and Communications Committee to distribute one copy of the newsletter to all businesses in the town centre**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and unanimously agreed to distribute one copy of the newsletter to all businesses in the town centre
- c) **To agree recommendation from Marketing and Communications Committee to offer the use of the Market House free of charge for Cary in Bloom Art Exhibition**
It was noted that 420 people visited the Art Exhibition.
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (9 – for, 1 – abstained, 0 – against) to charge Cary in Bloom £150 to use the Market House for the Art Exhibition
- d) **To agree recommendation from Marketing and Communications Committee to not charge for the hire of gazebos for the Cary in Bloom Festival**
RESOLVED: it was proposed and agreed (9 – for, 1 – abstained, 0 – against) to not charge for the hire of gazebos for the Cary in Bloom Festival

TC37 Finance and Management

- a) **Budget year to date summary** Noted
- b) **To note Internal Audit visit comments and agree any actions** the Internal Audit comments from visit three were noted and actions agreed.
- c) **Payments - to approve the July 2026 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 July 2026 payment schedule for the Town Council be approved.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the July 2026 payment schedule for the Donald Pither Trust be approved.

It was agreed that Margaret Bebbington would check the invoices against the payments and that Trevor Oats would execute the payments.

The meeting concluded at 20:32 hours.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 17th August 2026 at 7:00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 6th August 2026.