

Minutes of the **Parish Meeting** held on Monday 11th April 2023, commencing at 6.00pm at The Pavilion in The Park, Victory Park.

PRESENT:

Cainscross Town Council: Councillors

A Cross
D Dale
C Fewster
C White

Community Groups

Louise Little – Randwick Scouts
Tobi Van Arkel – PCSO
Heather Clapp – Ebley Allotments
Tony Wyatt – Ebley Allotments

In Attendance:

Clerk
Assistant Clerk

Also in attendance:

County Cllr John Bloxsom

Apologies:

Steve Moss – Cainscross Allotments
Claire Madihone – Stroud Valleys Project
District Cllr Jenny Miles
District Cllr Katrina Davis
St Matthews C of E School
Jo Carter – Cainscross Rugby FC
Amanda Godber – Down to Earth

PM1/23

TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting in 2022 were confirmed accurate and approved for signing.

PM2/23

TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

A report from the Chairman Cllr Adrian Cross was given as follows:

Firstly, I would like to welcome you to our Parish meeting and thank you for attending.

As always, we have had another busy year. Jeni and Emily remain in situ as our Clerk and Assistant Clerk and Liane James joined us in August last year as our Project Officer. We also had Janice Fryer join us as Finance Assistant but for personal reasons, she has had to resign her position and we are now interviewing for a new Finance Assistant.

We are pleased to say after several years, we have finally raised all the required finance for the refurbishment of Victory Park Play Area. We were thrilled to receive grant funding from the National Lottery of £83,000 as well as funding from Stroud District Council, Tesco Bags for Life, GWR. The playground aims to be inclusive, and we look forward to the work starting in May this year. This should take about 3 weeks to complete.

At Elm Road, we have planted a lovely new hedge between the field and Cashes Green School and created a willow arbour where you will soon see a bench in situ. We are discussing further plans for the field both recreational and to improve the biodiversity of the field.

The QEII Field remains in good order and is well used by members of the public. Stroud Valleys Project have helped us with both Elm Road and the QEII Field and we are hoping to

start some work with them at Hamwell Leaze, once again to improve biodiversity. Other projects that are presently out for consultation are the youth shelter and bike ramps at Victory Park.

Improvements to our bus shelters are on the agenda as well as potential solar projects for our buildings at Victory Park. We would also like to create some picnic areas in all our open spaces with some wildflower planting to set them off.

The community hub is thriving with the book swap every Tuesday, the community café once a month and the monthly quiz. When not busy as a hub the private and commercial hiring helps to enable us to invest in the hall.

PM3/23 **TO RECEIVE THE COUNCIL'S OBSERVATIONS ON ITS BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

Observations were received with no concerns.

PM4/23 **TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

No reports were received.

PM5/23 **TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

County Councillor John Bloxsom circulated a written report which he also presented, which read as follows:

As this is the annual meeting, I will give a brief overview of County Council matters and how I been representing Cainscross.

County Council – I attend meetings of the full Council which are held 6 times during the year. One of these was dedicated to tributes to Her majesty the late Queen. I also serve on three committees (Corporate Overview and Scrutiny, Audit and Governance and Constitution Committee). I also serve as the Leader of the Labour Group which has five members.

Issues - In debates, and through questions, I have raised a wide range of issues including the loss of bus services, closure of The Elms Care Home, end of the meals on wheels contract with Apetito, community safety, violence against women and girls, relocation of Stroud Library, the cost of living crisis and the need to better adult social care and provision for children and young people.

Highways – This is what most of the issues raised with me by residents are to do with. I share information, report repair issues and progress chase. I have taken up the need for better gritting during cold weather and clearer and easier routes to secure reduced speed limits. I have allocated funding from a Highways Local budget to community maintenance and footpath resurfacing. Parking - I have pursued the need for further parking restrictions on Greenaways and Westward Road and I am pleased to report that a revised proposal will be published and posted next Wednesday. I have also raised concerns about development proposals in the area which lack sufficient parking.

Cycling and Walking – I have reported blocked and damaged paths and supported clearance. I am progress chasing ideas to create level access from the towpath to Lidl, additional pedestrian crossing over Dudbridge Road and improved cycle routes into Stroud. I am talking with interested parties to secure the long-term future of The Lawn, which is a County owned area of open space.

Community Grants – I am pleased to have been able to support applications to support the development of youth activities at Cashes Green Community Centre. I have supported grant towards a youth shelter in Victory Park, community gardening in Cashes Green and Ebley and

a defibrillator at Foxmoor Primary School. I have secured further youth provision funding yet to be allocated.

County Electoral Review – An independent review has commenced on the boundaries of the divisions which elect County Councillors. This is inviting comments on how communities identify themselves and will later invite comments on proposed boundaries. It is proposed Stroud District will have 11 seats rather than 10 to reflect growth west of Stonehouse, in Severn Vale and around Cam.

PM6/23

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Written reports from Cainscross WI, Cainscross RFC and Stroud Valleys Project were circulated, and members of the meeting were notified that copies would be attached to the minutes following the meeting.

A verbal report was given by Louise Little of Randwick Scouts as follows:

The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have all been away recently, with lots of outside activities planned for the summer months to come. They have a healthy number of members with a long waiting list. The next project is to introduce 'Squirrels' - which is a group for 4-6yr olds – they are now actively looking for someone who would be keen to run this group ideally with pre-school or teaching experience.

A verbal report was given by Heather Clapp, Secretary of Ebley Allotments as follows:

Heather reported that the allotments are thriving with 101 full plots with a waiting list of approx. 9 people, Heather reported that often this can move a little when allotments fees are due. Their allotments are measured in 'Lugs' which is a traditional way of measuring a plot. They offer a 10 Lug plot or a small 3 Lug plot when allocating meaning that the allotment community has a diverse group of tenants. Heather also reported that the allotment runs a scheme for surplus crop, sending what is not wanted to the local foodbank, in 2022 Ebley allotments helped 226 Adults, and 190 Children with their donations – Stroud District Foodbank passed on their thanks for their efforts. Finally, it was reported that the association also purchase compost and fertiliser at trade prices from a long-standing contact which they also share with other local allotment sites, this brought in approx. £133 last year. There is to be a BBQ held on the 10th of June for allotment plot holders.

A verbal report was given by PCSO Tobi Van-Arkel as follows:

The number of ASB incidents in the area has greatly reduced, thanks to the more frequent patrols from the PCSO's and Police Specials. This has also been helped immensely by reporting. Tobi reported that there are neighbourhood warden walkabouts taking place alongside the police to create an effective working relationship to tackle local issues. Drug issues have also decreased in the area. Tobi encouraged members of the public to report as much as possible to help create a clear picture meaning work can be done effectively.

PM7/23

TO CONSIDER ANY RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None given.

PM8/22

TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No items were raised by members of the public.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Signed

Dated