

Minutes of the of **Cainscross Town Council's Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 29th January 2024 commencing at **6.00pm**.

Present: Councillors: Adrian Cross
Clive White
Deb Balster
James Booker
Dave Dale
Gavin Lindsay
Chris Stanley
Linda Stinchcombe

In Attendance: Jeni Marshall (Clerk)
Emily Forgione (Assistant Clerk)

Also in attendance: County Councillor John Bloxsom
District Councillor Jenny Miles
Member of public

Apologies: Elaine Burnett
Christine Fewster
Az Jasat
District Councillor Katrina Davis

FC169/24 To receive apologies
Apologies were received as above.

FC170/24 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Council
The minutes of the last Full Council meeting were confirmed.

FC171/24 To receive the chairman's announcements
The Chairman announced that the elections are coming up in May and that nominations would be taking place in March – it was suggested that Councillors should ensure that they have enough time to take on the role again and to consider the responsibility before standing again this year.

FC172/24 To receive any declarations of interest
None received.

FC173/24 To receive any representations or questions from members of the public
One member of the public was present who had previously raised concerns regarding Councillor / Council communication as well as that of District and County.

The Chairman moved the following item up the agenda with approval of Council

FC174/24 To consider and approve the councillor communication policy and address issues raised in meeting with local resident

It was explained that the Council are only able to act as a corporate body. The member of the public felt that the policy was fait accompli however the Clerk explained that it is a starting point, and the Council are always open to suggestions to help and improve communication.

- FC175/24** To receive Officer reports
The Project officer gave a written report that was circulated before the meeting. Please see appendix A.
- FC176/24** To receive any reports from County and District Councillors
Reports were received from County Councillor John Bloxsom and District Councillor Jenny Miles and a written report from District Councillor Katrina Davis was circulated before the meeting. Please see appendix B, C and D.
- FC177/24** To note the minutes of the last Finance, Staffing and Policy meeting
The minutes of the last Finance, Staffing and Policy meeting were noted.
- FC178/24** To consider renewal of the Clerks SLCC subscription
The renewal of the SLCC subscription was approved
- FC179/24** To consider the following grant applications
- **Tom Hoskin, The Life Coach** – Due to the limited funds, it was agreed to defer this item to the new financial year
 - **Randwick Scouts** – a grant of £250 was approved.

Planning, Highways, Amenities and Recreation

- FC180/24** To consider the following planning applications.
- S.24/0090/HHOLD - 6 Fox Close, Cashes Green - Construction of a new 2m retaining wall on boundary & replace existing boundary fence - Support
- FC181/24** To note any planning decisions
Planning decisions were noted.
- FC182/24** To review the contract for Smiths waste collection
This item was deferred to the next meeting as no quotations had yet been received.
- FC183/24** To consider a quote to have the zip boiler replaced and re-sited
Three quotations were received> for the sake of openness and transparency, the Clerk asked Council to note that one of the quotations was from a family member. After due consideration, the quotation from Marshalls Plumbing was approved.
- FC184/24** To consider further private security in our open spaces for the next financial year
The Assistant Clerk had endeavoured to get three quotations but was only able to get one from the previous security company. It was therefore resolved to appoint J.A.K.K Security again for the summer months.
- FC185/24** To note the Bus Shelter report and agree works
The bus shelter report was considered, and it was agreed that the Tricorn House shelter should be removed as soon as possible. It was further agreed to carry out repairs to shelters within the budget for this financial year and the financial year 2024/25. It was also agreed to replace the bus shelters at Hunters Way, House and Westward Road (by Frome Gardens) in the 2024/5 financial year with anti-vandal 2 bay shelters.
- FC186/24** To receive a brief report from the Assistant Clerk regarding the application for a food outlet in Victory Park, consider findings and agree further steps

The Assistant Clerk reported that she had research all necessary licenses and this could go ahead, however it was sensible to consider fairness with other traders in the area and therefore it was resolved to put an advert for this service in the Fourwards to allow other Parishioners the same opportunity. If no other food trader comes forward, then it was agreed that the applicant could go ahead on a trial basis and an agreement would be drawn up.

- FC187/24** To consider quotations for replacement chain link fence panels at the QEII Field
This item was deferred as no quotations have yet been received.
- FC188/24** To consider dates for the annual summer event
It was resolved to hold the summer event on Sunday 30 January 2024.
- FC189/24** To approve expenditure from 12/01/24 - 23/01/23
Expenditure was approved.
- FC190/24** To consider the draft Biodiversity Policy and Draft Action Plan
The policy and action plan were approved however it was agreed that this will stay live as a fluid document to update and improve.
- FC191/24** To note any training / meetings attended by staff or Councillors
It was reported that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk have received some training from the HR company Citation on how to use the new employee platform.
- FC192/24** To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas
Cllr Balster requested that a litter pick could be considered again this year.
- FC193/24** To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of the Full Council.
The next meeting of Full Council is to be held on Monday the 26th of February

The meeting concluded at 7.10pm

Signed

Dated

Actions

FC174/24	Edit and publish communications policy	Clerk
FC178/24	Renew SLCC subscription	Clerk
FC182/24	Chase up waste contract quotations	Assistant Clerk
FC183/24	Instruct works for zip boiler	Clerk
FC184/24	Accept quotation and meet JAKK security to discuss	Assistant Clerk
FC185/24	Confirm works on mentioned bus shelters and work towards replacement of others.	Clerk/Assistant Clerk
FC186/24	Advertise tender	Assistant Clerk
FC187/24	Chase quotations	Clerk
FC190/24	Confirm and publish policy	Clerk

Appendix A

Project Officer update for Full Council Meeting 29th January 2024

- **Victory Park playground**

The accessible picnic table

We've had no further reports of accidents concerning the overhang.

The trampoline

Five out of the eight sections can be lifted slightly at the edges. After Proludic telling us that we are the only customer in Europe to have this issue, I found the names of other UK customers and went to their websites to see which of them had images of the same trampoline. I found four councils and wrote to each of them asking if they'd had any issues. I was not specific. Only one of the four (Woodley Town Council in Reading) responded, saying they've had no problems with their trampoline.

Double perch (arched seesaw)

Holes were created in the rubber matting within days of the playground opening - where both ends of the perch hit the matting. Proludic had said it would look to install rubber stops. That hasn't been done and will be chased.

- **Pump track**

Matt Hughes, Rorie Scott (community members involved in original track creation) and James Beecher (Access Bike Stroud) looked at the brief and had nothing to add that could help contractors understand the project and come forward with options. It was then sent to four specialist contractors - Kent & Clarke, Velo Solutions, Bike Track and Trailcraft. **The brief is in the meeting folder.**

There are two responses so far – Bike Track will meet with us online to discuss (they think we will need between £50k and £70k) and Kent & Clarke have offered us a site visit and scheme design at a cost of £600 plus VAT. I will be chasing up the other two contractors.

Consultation has shown us that, whatever construction method we choose or amount of money we spend, we should use specialist contractors. That will ensure the track will meet user expectations, be easier to maintain and be more durable.

I continue to look at funding and expect to have made several applications in the next few weeks.

- **Youth Shelter**

The youth shelter will be installed on Monday 12th February. It should take one day. The contractor will put a skip in the car park for spoils and packaging – we have asked for it to be collected on the day or very soon after and if it's possible to put Heras fencing around the skip.

- **Elm Rd Adult Exercise Equipment**

Our Thriving Communities application was not successful – the fund has supported 250 projects for the six years between 2018 to 2023, and there were 130 applications for support this year (2024). I am looking elsewhere.

- **Community lunches**

New for 2024 – I'll be inviting local organisations to come along, have lunch and engage with councillors. They'll also have an information table. Input will be very informal, but useful.

The digital skills team from Creative Sustainability will be joining us on Wednesday 28th February with U3A and GOPA joining us on Wednesday 27th March.

It would be good to see some councillors at the community lunches – a great way to engage with residents, especially in an election year.

- **Waitrose grant of £1,000 for Cainscross Town Council community events.**

Waitrose is having difficulty with a new, contracted out system they must use to give local grants, so we don't have this money, yet. I'm waiting to be asked back to the store when the community champion has it figured out. We were one of a few organisations nominated by her for the grant because of our community offer – she got to know us when I approached her last year to support our free Father Christmas event. The money can be spent on any of CTC's community events.

- **Tesco blue token scheme**

Our pump track project is one of three projects being voted for at Stroud's main Tesco store. **Please remember to vote, when in the store, and encourage others to, as well.** We will get £1,500, £1,000 or £500 towards the pump track.

Liane James 26/01/24

Appendix B

County Councillor Report January 2024 - John Bloxsom

1. At the last Council on 8 November 2023 the Chair invited members to join a one minute's silence for the thousands of civilians who had lost their lives in the Middle East over recent weeks. Motions were agreed on concessionary bus travel for veterans, train ticketing prices, 'sustainable catering and procurement' and policing in Gloucestershire.
2. I submitted a motion about the Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons which was not reached (due to the 2-hour guillotine of the time allocated for motions). The Cabinet has, however, agreed to form a panel consisting of the three relevant Cabinet Members and the three divisional members which met on 24 January 2024 and will engage with the graziers, parishes, Natural England and the National Trust to identify actions to reduce cattle deaths and injuries and help sustain grazing which is key to the nature of the commons.
3. The next Council on 21 February 2024 will set its budget and the County precept for 2024/25 – which represents 75% of Council Tax bills. The draft budget proposes a 2.99% increase in the Council Tax and a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care Levy – this is the maximum level of increase permitted without a referendum. This is equivalent to £76.04 per year or £1.46 per week for a Band D property.
4. The budgeted revenue spend, excluding Dedicated Schools Grant, is £609m of which £389m is anticipated to come from Council Tax and the remainder in grants, use of reserves and other 'one off' income including the Energy from Waste facility. A national announcement of additional grants for adult social care was made last week and confirmation of the local share is awaited. An update will be given after Cabinet on 31 January 2024.
5. A short-term grant to improve some bus services is expected to lead to provision of late-night Stagecoach 67 buses on Fridays and Saturdays and Sundays and Bank Holidays running between Cashes |Green and Bussage via Stroud. This will put back some services previously cut by Stagecoach. The 67-bus timetable applicable from 18 February 2024 was 'inadvertently' published, and circulated on social media, but has now been removed pending agreement on changes anticipated 'later in the spring'.
6. Drainage works, which closed Cashes Green Road last year, will resume on 26 February 2024 with temporary traffic lights operating for the week commencing 26 February 2024 and a closure of Hyett Road 1 – 22 March 2024 during which time resident access will be permitted. A letter to residents will outline these arrangements. The major diversions of 2023 are not anticipated. Further information will be available on 08000 514 514 and highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk.
7. Recent grant awards from the Build Back Better Fund which now totals £50k over a 4-year period for each county division including Rodborough Division have been Rodborough Playgroup £2,500, Cashes Green Youth FC £1,750, Rodborough Youth Project £1,200 and Creative Sustainability 3rd Space & Access Bike £2,500. Previous grants include Cashes Green Community Centre. The balance available is currently £5,464.
8. Stroud District Council is being recommended to approve County bids to the Community Infrastructure Levy including Standish Multi User Path (to be part of the Gloucestershire Cycle Spine) £400k (towards project costs of £982K), Gastrells School accommodation improvements £228K (whole project funding) and Merrywalks Interchange Hub £98k (towards total costs of £364k) which includes new shelters with CCTV and Real Time Passenger Information. I have requested that a bus shelter on Russell Street be included. CIL is funding from developer contributions levied by SDC.
9. The Local Government Boundary Commission is considering comments made on this proposals and will publish its final decision in March 2024. These will take effect from May 2025. The initial proposals would

keep all of the Rodborough and Cainscross District Wards within the Rodborough County Division whilst moving the Rodborough Butterow Parish Ward into the Bisley and Painswick County Division. Randwick would move from the Bisley and Painswick County Division into new division to be created in the north of Stroud district running from Harsefield to Upton St Leonards.

10. I am told that an order has been placed for the additional double yellow lines on Westward Road near Home Orchard and the corner of Greenaways. I am told this will be completed in the next two months.

Appendix C

District Councillor Report – Jenny Miles

There is an extraordinary council meeting about the local plan, the inspector has concerns about junction 14 capacity. SDC is trying to work with county council about up grading the infrastructure.

DCC seems to be doing a lot of tree preservation orders in the meeting this wee there were two contentious applications in Dursley and on the A38.

The new council homes in Queens drive are supposed to be coming to planning soon. Officers are still trying to sort out parking on 5th dimension application.

Walter Preston court is being updated with new décor and insulation, but Malvern Gardens does not seem to be getting the investment - I am try to look into this. Some problems with antisocial behavior around Malvern Garden > Have contacted Charlie Moss the officer who deals with Anti social behavior.

Cashes Green Community Centre has been busy doing holiday activities with lunch over the school break for Cashes green children.

Thursday café doing well and there is now an adviser on universal credit there on Thursday mornings.

The Friday afternoon café is still hosting the food bank, children's clothes bank and advice on fuel bills, the council officer is going once a month on a Friday to give advice on antisocial behavior, tenancy issues and repairs.

Appendix D

District Councillor Report – Katrina Davis

Foxmoor estate - trees

The work around the estate is still underway to include the tree cutting/removal. I understand that there are a few more trees to be cut down fully - however SDC and Vistry have confirmed that the majority of the trees will be replaced like for like with a small number being of choice with the community and with the agreement of the Town Council. The planting is hoped to take place October time when the new planting season is.

Mike Wardell will be in touch with the Town Council directly to discuss ideas for trees and locations and ways of getting school and community engagement.

I understand Foxmoor lane potholes has been temporarily fixed and remedial works will be scheduled soon. I'm not sure when.

Tom has now finished the 12 months life coach sessions however due to its success in Cainscross has reapplied for a further grant to start in April. This is to allow some works to the bus to take place. There will also be some fundraising events taking place later on in the year to raise funds to fully fund and provide aids.