

Minutes of the of **Cainscross Town Council's Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 18 December 2023 commencing at **6.00pm**.

Present: Councillors: Adrian Cross (Chair)
Clive White (Vice Chair)
Dave Dale
Gavin Lindsay
Chris Stanley
Linda Stinchcombe

In Attendance: Clerk
Assistant Clerk

Also in attendance: County Cllr John Bloxsom

Apologies: Deb Balster
James Booker
Elaine Burnett
Az Jasat
Chris Stanley
District Cllr Jenny Miles
District Cllr Katrina Davis

FC146/23 To receive apologies
Apologies were received as above.

FC147/23 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Council
The minutes of the last full council meeting were confirmed and duly signed.

FC148/23 To receive any declarations of interest
No declarations of interest were given.

FC149/23 To receive any representations or questions from members of the public
No members of the public were present.

FC150/23 To receive officer reports
The clerk's report was received as follows:
I met with Stroud Valleys Project to arrange for the hedge planting at Elm Road as previously approved. They are also interested in planting some wildflowers at the field. They will put a proposal and get back to us with prices and plans, but we will need to consult with residents bordering the field.

Stroud Gardening Club folded last year and with their remaining funds they wish to purchase a bench seat and 3 flowering cherry trees for the QEII Field. They are working with Stroud Valleys Project to draw up a plan and will get back to us to discuss plans further.

all Liane and Emily ran another very successful Christmas event - a big thank you for their hard work.

Liane approached Waitrose for help with last year's Christmas event for which they gave us £100 vouchers to use in store and having various conversations later, the

Community Lead put us forward for funding to support our community lunches and events and they have awarded us £1000.

- FC151/23** To receive any reports from County and District Councillors
A brief report was given by County Councillor John Bloxson regarding the date set for County Council to set the budget for 2024/25 - this will take place mid-February and they are looking at 2.99% and 2% for adult and social care which means an overall rise of 4.99%.
- FC152/23** To note the minutes of the last Finance, Staffing and Policy meeting
The minutes of the last finance, staffing and policy committee were noted.
- FC153/23** To consider recommendations regarding the budget for 2024-25 and the resulting precept
The budget proposal was considered. A budget of £333,950 was agreed with a resulting precept of £318,370, a 6.05% increase on the previous year. It was also agreed that any expenditure for Hilly Orchard Bridge or the 3 Allotment sites could be funded from a reserve and any remaining budget from this financial year for the Bike ramps, Elm Road Play area and the Groundman's van will be moved to an earmarked reserve at the end of this financial year.
- FC154/23** To consider the renewal of our Microsoft 365 contract and review alternative quotations
Two quotations were considered, one from our existing provider Edge IT and the other from Cloudy IT who currently provides hosting for our website. The quotations were like for like comparisons, it was recommended by the Assistant Clerk that the quotation from Edge IT was considerably cheaper even with additional IT support and as they are our existing provider this would roll on and eliminate any new integration. It was resolved to stay with Edge IT and take the additional IT support package.
- FC155/23** To consider a grant application for CCP (toddler group)
The application for a grant from CCP of £133.35 for resources to help run the toddler group was considered and agreed.
- FC156/23** To note the adverse weather action plan and consider a volunteer Snow Warden and Snow plough operator
After discussion it was agreed that all councillors would be provided with a list of contacts and information on signposting members of the parish in an adverse weather situation.

Planning, Highways, Amenities and Recreation

- FC157/23** To consider the following planning applications.
- S.23/2297/TCA - Double Lock Cottage, Ryeford Road North - Trees in a Conservation Area – Noted.
 - S.23/2230/HHOLD - 3 Mosley Crescent - Erection of a porch – Supported.
 - S.23/1859/FUL - 41 Etheldene Road, Cashes Green - Demolition of detached dwelling and garage. Erection of 3 no. dwellings (C3 Use Class) with associated works. Resubmission S.22/2052/FUL. (Revised Plans 08.12.2023. - Objection on the grounds of overdevelopment.

- FC158/23** To note any planning decisions
One planning decision was noted.
- FC159/23** To note asset inspections and consider any works required
A play area inspection report was circulated, it was reported that the works that are in progress are minor, mostly involving surfacing – this will be addressed when the play equipment is replaced in Elm Road and Ashway Court.
- FC160/23** To consider and agree the purchase of a cordless industrial, hoover for glass clean up in our play areas
A cordless vacuum was recommended by the Assistant Clerk, it was agreed that it was suitable for the job and the purchase was approved.
- FC161/23** To consider the purchase of a grit bin for Harper Road
After consideration, the purchase of a grit bin for Harper Road was rejected by Council.
- FC162/23** To note the tree survey and agree any works required
A comprehensive tree survey was noted, and it was agreed that recommended works should be instructed.
- FC163/23** To consider works to a fallen tree at Hamwell Leaze
Pictures of a fallen tree that was reported by a resident were presented to council, it was agreed that as the tree is away from the path and to accept the quotation so that it should be chopped up and left in place for wildlife.
- FC164/23** To consider replacing some of the trees on the Foxmoor Estate
After due consideration it was agreed that the Council would work with Vistry Homes and Stroud Town Council to replace the trees on the Foxmoor Estate.
- FC165/23** To consider actions to take regarding Biodiversity under the 2021 Environment Act
& After due discussion, it was agreed that Cainscross Town Council are already considering and acting on biodiversity. We have been carrying out hedge planting & wildflower planting in various open spaces as well as signing up for the hedgehog highways. Members also confirmed that biodiversity is considered when making any decisions. The staff will draw up a new policy regarding further steps to enhance biodiversity and present to Council.
- FC166/23** To note any training / meetings attended by staff or Councillors
It was reported that the Clerk had attended a meeting regarding the Tricorn House development, the renovation is on track to market the properties early in the new year, it was reported that there had been some damage to two of the top floors properties due to some water damage, this has now been fixed. The properties will be marketed by a local agent.
The Clerk also attended a meeting with Citation who deal with all the Council staff employment. They are due to review the employment contracts and make sure all is in order as well as producing a staff handbook. This is part of the package that Cainscross Town Council pay for on an annual basis.
- FC167/23** To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas

Councillor Lindsay requested that the Community Grants budget is discussed at the January meeting. The Clerk queried this as the budget and precept were approved earlier in the meeting under agenda item 8 (minute number 153/23). Councillor Lindsay had no further questions.

FC168/23 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of the Full Council.

The next meeting of Full Council will take place at 6pm on the 29th of January.

The meeting concluded at 6.55pm

Signed

Dated

Actions

<u>FC154/23</u>	Notify Edge of contract renewal and additional IT support package	Clerk/Assistant Clerk
<u>FC155/23</u>	Email CCP, notify and ask for bank details	Assistant Clerk
<u>FC156/23</u>	Produce info document for adverse weather plan	Clerk/Assistant Clerk
<u>FC157/23</u>	Send in planning comments	Assistant Clerk
<u>FC160/23</u>	Order hoover	Clerk/Assistant Clerk
<u>FC162/23</u>	Instruct works	Clerk
<u>FC163/23</u>	Instruct works	Clerk
<u>FC165/23</u>	Draw up policy	Clerk/Assistant Clerk