

Minutes of the of **Cainscross Town Council's Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 30 September 2024 commencing at **6.00pm**.

Present: Councillors: C White (Vice-Chair)
D Balster
J Booker
D Dale
C Fewster
G Lindsay
L Stinchcombe

In Attendance: Assistant Clerk- Emily Forgione
Administration Officer- Carrie Marshall-Couling

Also in attendance: District Councillor Elizabeth Stanley
County Councillor John Bloxsom

Apologies: Adrian Cross
Charlie Mitchell

Absent: Yvonne Tester

- FC74/24** To note apologies
Apologies were received as above, and one absence was noted.
- FC75/24** To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Council
The minutes of the last meeting of Full Council (19 August 2024) were confirmed as accurate and duly signed.
- FC76/24** To receive any declarations of interest
None received.
- FC77/24** To receive the chairman's announcements
The Chairman was not present.
- FC78/24** To receive any representations or questions from members of the public
None received.
- FC79/24** To receive officer reports
Reports were noted from the Clerk and Project Officer (attached appendix A & B).
- FC80/24** To receive any reports from County and District Councillors
Reports were noted from District Councillor Elizabeth Stanley and County Councillor John Bloxsom (attached appendix C & D).
- FC81/24** To note the minutes of the last Finance, Staffing & Policy meeting
The minutes of the last Finance, Staffing and Policy committee meeting were noted.
- FC82/24** To note the minutes of the Recreation Committee

The Council accepted the Recreation Committees recommendation to suspend the Financial Regulations regarding the Pump Track and confirm the provider as Bike. The minutes of the last Recreation committee meeting were noted.

- FC83/24** To approve this year's Insurance Premium (Last year of long-term agreement)
The Insurance Premium was noted and approved.
- FC84/24** To consider recommendations for council resources to be offered as rewards for bike pump track Crowdfunder campaign
The Councillors heard the proposal to offer three sessions of three-hour hall hire as one of the Crowdfunder rewards. Councillors approved the recommendation, noting that it would incur no additional cost to the Council.
- FC85/24** To approve renewal of membership to Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association
The renewal of membership was approved.
- FC86/24** To receive an update on County Council's weed killing policy and consider lobbying Highways regarding the state of the pavements and gullies in the Parish
No update had been received from County Council however it was agreed that the Council would continue to press the County Council regarding the poor condition of the pavements and gullies in the Parish.
- FC87/24** To discuss the safety of the roads in and around the Cainscross roundabout, to include traffic lights, pedestrian crossings (existing and required), possible yellow box requirements, as well as the speeds on Ebley Road, Dudbridge Road and Cashes Green Road
Councillor Booker gave a thorough explanation of the issues regarding road safety at the locations mentioned above and addressed further concern that these issues will only be amplified when Tricorn House is populated. It was agreed that speed surveys will be arranged for Ebley Road, Dudbridge Road and Cashes Green Road. Additionally, the Assistant Clerk will endeavour to arrange a meeting with Highways during rush hour timeframes to demonstrate the issues and discuss potential solutions. County Councillor John Bloxson is also keen to support this initiative.
- FC88/24** To consider the design and proposed position of the shipping container at Victory Park requested by Cainscross Rugby Football Club
After extensive discussion, it was concluded that the proposed location was too prominent and may appear out of place in the park. The Council suggested exploring alternative positioning by way of a face-to-face discussion with the Rugby Club. Members considered engaging with the Rugby Club regarding the possibility of extending their lease on the Rugby Pavilion, with a view to exploring a more permanent storage solution, such as an extension of the pavilion, in lieu of the shipping container. The Assistant Clerk advised that it would be unlikely to get planning permission for any further permanent structures in Victory Park.

- FC89/24** To consider the following planning applications:
 - S.24/1469/HHOLD- 22 Bridge Street, Cainscross- Erection of a rear extension and rear dormer (retrospective). - Note
 - S.24/1584/HHOLD - 2 Jasmine Villas, Paganhill Lane - Proposed loft conversion, two storey rear extension, replacement windows and replacement garage -
 Note
- FC90/24** To note any planning decisions
 The planning decisions were noted.
- FC91/24** To consider a local artist carrying out some artwork to one of the Council owned bus shelters
 After careful consideration, it was decided to decline the offer, as the artwork was deemed not sufficiently relevant to the local area. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the costs involved and the potential risk of vandalism.
- FC92/24** To further consider refurbishing the disused phone box in Ebley and agree a suitable budget for the works
 Following thorough discussion, it was resolved that the cost of refurbishing the phone box was deemed too high for the Town Council to fund at this time. However, the Council is supportive of community-led initiatives and encourages residents to explore options for raising the necessary funds.
- FC93/24** To consider a request for a grit bin
 After careful consideration, the Council agreed that clarity was required on who holds responsibility for refilling grit bins before approving the provision of new ones. Additionally, it was suggested that an audit of existing grit bins within the Parish may be necessary to ensure they are being supplied based on need. It was resolved that the Assistant Clerk will investigate who is responsible for refilling the bins.
- FC94/24** To approve expenditure from 12 September – 24 September
 Expenditure was approved. Councillor Stinchcombe queried the monthly cost of The Pavilion cleaning services, and it was agreed that the cost should be reviewed and other quotes obtained to ensure it is still competitive in the current market conditions.
- FC95/24** To consider the Annual Governance and Accountability return and note recommendations (if any) and confirm the conclusion of audit
 The auditors' comments and the conclusion of the audit were noted.
- FC96/24** To note any training/meetings attended by staff or Councillors
 Councillor Lindsay attended a planning webinar with GAPTC and a First Aid Course.
- FC97/24** To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas
 Councillor Stinchcombe requested a review of the cleaning contract at the Pavilion in the park.
 Councillor Booker proposed discussing parking issues caused by sports clubs on Sundays.
- FC98/24** To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of the Full Council
 The next meeting of Full Council will be held on Monday the 21st of October.

The meeting concluded at 7:47pm

Signed

Dated

Actions

FC85/24	Renew membership with Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association.	
FC86/24	Follow up with Gloucestershire County Council regarding their weed killing policy.	
FC87/24	Contact Highways to book in speed surveys and arrange a meeting with the Highways Manager	
FC88/24	Set up a meeting with Cainscross Rugby Club to discuss the lease of the Pavilion.	
FC90/24	Send in planning responses.	
FC91/24	Respond to local artist	
FC92/24	Respond to resident regarding the refurbishment of the disused phone box	
FC93/24	Investigate who is responsible for filling the grit bins.	

Appendix A: Clerks Report

I am now away on holiday and return on the 10th of October. I have left the office in the more than capable hands of our Assistant Clerk, Em with the support of Carrie and Liane.

It turns out that our air con units should be serviced annually so i have arranged for this to be carried out!

On asking Steve and Paul to tidy up the air source heat pump, Steve discovered that the pipe connection had come away and was therefore not working. I have arranged for Pollards to come in and run through the system with Steve, allowing Steve to take over the service and maintenance going forward.

We have now had a quote from Steve Maplin for Elm Road Play area which is well within the budget, however due to the procurement rules, we have to advertise the opportunity for contractors on the Government portal. Liane will be working on a brief whilst I am away to post on my return and I believe (although I will check) that it needs to be on site for at least 3 weeks.

This means that we should be ready to make some valuable improvements to Elm Road Play area in the near future. We will discuss the in depth plans with the Recreation Committee for approval.

You are probably all aware that we have managed to get names for the vandals who damaged Victory Park Play area and ripped up a young tree. We have now spoken to the PCSO who initially wanted to go to their homes and give them a little telling off. Em and I felt that after a long summer of excessive vandalism that this should be taken further. We have agreed that the children and families will be contacted by the Police with a consideration for Restorative Justice

[Do you need restorative justice? | Restorative Justice Council](#)

Em will no doubt be able to update you at this meeting as to what has happened since the time of writing this.

Otherwise, there are no major issues and on my return we will be starting to work on the budget for 2025/26. Keep this in mind if there are any projects you are interested in taking forward.

Jeni

24/09/24

Appendix B: Project Officer Report

Pump Track

- Crowdfunder campaign
- Aiming for campaign to run from 14th October to 2nd December with a target of £5,000 which would secure match funding of £5,000 from Sport England
- If council agree to suspend financial regs and are happy with B1KE as the contractor we will immediately start to publicise the grant, the campaign and what B1KE will do
- Liane will be visiting local businesses this week to ask for support – pledges but also to supply rewards, which is an SE condition
- Drone aerial video footage has been taken by a friend of Liane's which will form the basis of a video for our Crowdfunder page
- Community member Chris Handbury will be filmed for the video
- Cllr Deb Balster will be filmed for the video

- Hoping to film some current track users for the video
- Will get written endorsement from Access Bike for the Crowdfunder page

An Audience with Father Christmas – our Christmas event

- Saturday 30th November 10:00 to 15:00
- Colin Dymond will be Father Christmas (magician from Music & More)
- Father Christmas will tell a story, do a Q & A and have photos taken
- Free event but we will tie in with Crowdfunder and ask people to make pledges
- Four sessions, ticket only and locals first

Elm Road Playground

We will be putting it on the government contract finder portal – I'll be writing a tender invitation for when Jen gets back from holidays on 10th October.

Appendix C: Report from County Councillor John Bloxsom

1. **Local Buses** - Improvements to some local bus routes commenced from 1 September 2024 including Stagecoach no. 67 running services to Stroud and Bussage on Friday evening, Saturday evening, Sundays and Bank Holidays and a Sunday service on the Stagecoach no. 65 from Dursley to Stroud which runs via Dudbridge.
2. **Buses Bill** - It is good to hear the announcement of a Bill that will enable more local control of bus services. So far power to introduce franchising has been restricted to combined authorities with a mayor. We should be looking at the consultation on [draft revised guidance](#) issued on 9 September 2024 to see what the opportunities and challenges may be to pursue this in Gloucestershire as a way to take back some control of bus services.
3. **Public EV Charging Points** - There is a programme to roll out on-street EV charging points in residential areas. Consultation has taken place on a proposal to install three charging points on Home Orchard, Ebley. Work is underway to identify a location in Rodborough. Potential locations can be nominated to electricvehicles@gloucestershire.gov.uk. SDC also has a plan to install some charging points in the public car park at Ebley Mill.
4. **Council Leadership** - At the last Council, Mark Hawthorne stood down after 14 years as Council Leader and remains in the Cabinet with responsibility for the public health portfolio. The new Leader until May 2025 is Stephen Davies (Hardwicke and Severn Division). His former role as Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years is now taken by Paul McLain (Highnam Division). The full list of Cabinet members is [here](#).
5. **Footpaths** – At the last Council I wrote and spoke in favour of a [motion](#) calling for a review of the 2031 cut-off date introduced by the former Secretary of State after which applications to add footpaths to the definitive map could not be made. This motion was agreed unanimously and also asked for a report on the backlog of cases requiring submission to the Secretary of State and asked Cabinet to consider further enhancing the resources made available in making the Council budget so as to resolve more DMMO applications.
6. **Devolution** - The County Council is working with all district councils in a 'City Region Board' on submission of an expression of interest to Government in [devolution](#) of some functions and funds to Gloucestershire. This is at an early stage and will be agreed to the Council leaders. Details of what may be available under the new Government are not yet known and are to be set out in a forthcoming devolution framework and [English Devolution Bill](#).
7. **Former Stroud Library** - A set of documents has been published [here](#) about the proposed sale of former County library on Lansdown and the lease of the adjacent former spiritualist church. A 6-month legal moratorium will run until 20 February 2025 provided that a community interest group makes a request to be treated as a potential bidder by making a written request to SDC by 1 October 2024 which should be emailed to ndp.consultation@stroud.gov.uk

8. **Merrywalks Transport Hub** - Public engagement [here](#) has now closed on proposals to make improvements to the Merrywalks 'Transport Hub' which include new bus shelters, improved information provision, including Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI), CCTV, cycle storage and lighting improvements. This is being funded from a range of sources including the District Council and Town Council. Comments are now being analysed.

9. **Cainscross Roundabout** - I received complaints about the new directional arrows on the Cainscross roundabout and made representations about the concerns and the widespread confusion over these. They were subsequently removed so that traffic has reverted to the left-hand lane being used both to turn into Farmhill Lane and to enter Cainscross Road.

10. **Westward Road Resurfacing** - Highways have now re-scheduled the resurfacing Westward Road, between Orchard Road and Chapel Lane for 6 – 14 March 2025. This is the job pulled from its originally scheduled dates in June/July in order to prevent disruption of access to Stroud District Council offices. I am told the rescheduled date is the earliest opportunity to carry this work out.

11. **Changes to reporting highways issues** - From 18 September 2024 a form will appear at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/contact-us/>. GCC is asking that highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk be removed from records and any publicity materials. The email inbox for this email address will no longer be monitored, although an automated response will direct people to Fix My Street and the new contact form. The email: highwayscouncillors@gloucestershire.gov.uk will remain available.
12. **Hawthorne Rise and Perry Orchard Resurfacing** – This is to be carried out on 10 – 11 October 09:30 – 15:30 when there will be a road closure. Pedestrian access will be maintained. Emergency vehicles will have access. A Temporary TRO has been granted for the road closure and appears on <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads/roadworks/>

13. **Highways Local** – I have asked that 2024/25 monies be allocated resurface a section of the footway in front of properties on The Bridle that are in particularly poor condition, the paths between the kerbside and the pavement on Hunters Way at the bus stops near The Bridle and The Beagles and replacement of a missing bollard on Foxmoor Lane. I will press for the resurfacing of The Martins and Westrip Place in a future programme,

John Bloxsom

John.bloxsom@gloucestershire.gov.uk

07900 185 275

Appendix D: Report from SDC Councillors to Cainscross Town Council

At the August meeting of the Town Council we commented on the parking charges being put in place at the old Visitors' Car Park at Ebley Mill. It was felt that people would be unwilling to pay the charges and that this combined with the new double yellow lines along Westward Road, would lead to an increase in car parking around Home Orchard.

This has now happened. Hand-made notices are appearing from the residents of Home Orchard, asking people to park elsewhere and suggesting the prices at Ebley Mill are "very reasonable". The people on the receiving end of these notices obviously feel quite "got at". We will ask SDC to look at reducing the prices.

As regards Tricorn House we have no further information.

We have had the kind of casework one might expect: concerns about flooding, and the need for hedges to be cut back properly alongside footpaths. I go to Cashes Green Community Centre most weeks and drop in to Victory Park fairly regularly too, and this means I can pick up concerns face to face, as well as by email (which all three of us do).