

Minutes of the of **Cainscross Town Council's Full Council Meeting** held on 25 November 2024 commencing at **6.00pm**.

Present: Councillors: Cllr Adrian Cross (Chair)
Cllr Deb Balster
Cllr James Booker
Cllr David Dale
Cllr Gavin Lindsay
Cllr Charlie Mitchell
Cllr Linda Stinchcombe
Cllr Clive White (Vice-Chair)

In Attendance: Clerk - Jeni Marshall
Assistant Clerk – Emily Forgione

Also in Attendance: Sharon Ashenford
District Councillor Fraser Dahdouh

Apologies: Cllr Christine Fewster
District Councillor Elizabeth Stanley

Absent Cllr. Yvonne Tester

FC119/24 To receive apologies
Apologies were received as above.

FC120/24 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Council
The minutes of the last meeting of the full council (21 October 2024) were confirmed and duly signed.

FC121/24 To receive any declarations of interest
No declarations of interest were given.

FC122/24` To receive the Chairman's announcements
The Chair expressed concerns that of three County Councillors elected in May, only one had attended a meeting or made themselves known to the Town Council. Members agreed this is very disappointing as the Town Council represents the area and have a lot of local knowledge which would no doubt be relevant to elected District Councillors representing Cainscross. It was agreed to send an email to the District Councillors expressing these concerns and copy District Council into the correspondence.

FC123/24 To receive any representations or questions from members of the public
Anna from Creative Sustainability was present at the meeting.

FC124/24 To receive the officer reports
The Clerk's report was given as follows -
I am pleased to say that the Crowdfunder for Victory Park pump track is going well and as well as many private donations, we have also received a grant from the Coop for £500 and a message from the mum of an Archway School boy who is organising a non-uniform day and a bag pack which should raise some large amounts. All in all, we are doing well thanks to Lianes sterling work and if you haven't donated yet, please do.

Opus energy (our energy supplier) ceased trading in September 2024 and i have worked with Clear Utilities (approved by GAPTC) to get us a good deal with a new company, Tomato Energy - Opus energy price was 32.86 p/kWH with a daily standing charge of 74p per day.

Our new contract is 32.9p/kWH with no standing charge. With this and the new photovoltaic roof panels we should start to see some savings.

- FC125/24** To receive any reports from County and District Councillors
A written report from County Councillor Bloxsom was circulated prior to the meeting. - [County Councillor Report November 2024](#)
- FC126/24** To consider any applications for co-option to the Council
A member of the public was considered for co-option.
After a brief conversation, Sharon Ashenford was co-opted to the Cashes Green West ward and given the relevant papers to complete.
- FC127/24** To receive a presentation from Creative Sustainability
Anna from Creative Sustainability gave a comprehensive presentation regarding the work they do with young people. The Council were impressed with this and were encouraged to look at their website and promote the work. [Our CS Programmes - Creative Sustainability](#)
- FC128/24** To note and approve the minutes of the Recreation Committee
The minutes of the last meeting of the Recreation Committee were noted.
- FC129/24** To note and approve the minutes of the last Finance, Staffing and Policy Committee
The minutes of the last meeting of the Finance, Staffing and Policy Committee were noted.
- FC130/24** To consider budget recommendations from the Finance, Staffing and Policy committee
The Clerk gave a brief report on the budget to date, however as the tax base has not yet been received, the percentage increase is likely to change. She highlighted new budgets discussed including lighting in the park and some further youth funding for youth activities. It was also highlighted that the Employers' National Insurance implications are having an effect on the budget.
Members resolved to try and keep any increase to a maximum of 8% and would review this at the next meeting of the Council.
- FC131/24** To consider an offer of donation from a local resident for a new bench in Victory Park
A resident of St Matthews Court would like to donate some funds towards a new bench in Victory Park, the bench would be located under the tree in the top left-hand corner of the football pitch. He would like to donate up to £800.00 and is keen to have a plaque inviting walkers to sit and take a rest.

Planning, Highways, Amenities and Recreation

- FC132/24** To consider the following planning applications.
- S.24/1969/HHOLD- 11A Upper Church Road, Cainscross- Erection of a replacement single storey, rear extension - Noted
 - S.24/1837/HHOLD- 12 Robbins Close, Ebley- Erection of a porch - Noted

- S.24/1891/HHOLD- 51 The Beagles, Cashes Green- Erection of a two storey side extension - Noted

- FC133/24** To note any planning decisions
The planning decisions were received and noted.
- FC134/24** To consider commissioning a traffic survey for the roads by Cainscross Roundabout
The Chair suggested this should be deferred until Tricorn House and the Cope Chat buildings are occupied. Councillor Booker felt that due to the existing issues in the area we should go ahead with surveys.
Following further discussion, it was agreed that a working party will be set up to discuss the roads in general and what the Council wished to achieve before commissioning surveys. It was further agreed that as this is a Working Party that meetings can be held using Teams and reported to Full Council.
Councillors Booker, Balster, Mitchell and Lindsay agreed to be on the working party. The Clerk agreed to send out information and asked that she be informed of dates and time of the meetings.
- FC135/24** To receive an update regarding the new bus shelters
It was reported that the logistics for the installation of replacement bus shelters at Frome Gardens, Hunters Way and Tricorn House have been difficult, having liaised with the contractor and Gloucestershire Highways, the works have now been booked in for the week commencing 13th of January 2025.
- FC136/24** To approve expenditure from 14th November to 19th November
Expenditure from the 14th of November to the 19th of November was considered and approved. [Payments for approval](#)
- FC137/24** To approve the Internal Auditor and confirm they are competent and independent of the financial operations of the Council.
It was resolved to approve GAPTC as the internal auditor and members confirmed that GAPTC are competent and independent of the Council.
- FC138/24** To consider a grant application from Citizens Advice
A grant application was received from Citizen's advice Stroud and Cotswold District, the same application was re-submitted from a previous occasion in 2023, therefore the paperwork was not up to date. The paperwork submitted states that applications requesting any amount over £250 should be accompanied by a balance sheet, this was not provided, therefore Councillors resolved to grant £250 as a maximum at this time.
- FC139/24** To consider and comment on Stroud District Councils, 'Council Plan Review'
The Council Plan review was considered, and it was resolved to note the document, however Councillors would like to monitor this once it is confirmed and if necessary hold Stroud District Council to account on outlined plans.
- FC140/24** To note any training/meetings attended by staff or Councillors
It was noted that the Clerk and Assistant Clerk attended two meetings this month; the SLCC Annual General meeting which included an informative presentation about procurement for Parish and Town Councils, and a Stroud District Community Hubs Forum at Stonehouse Community Centre.

It was also noted that the Chair and Vice Chair held a remembrance reading in Victory Park on remembrance Sunday which was well attended.

Councillor Lindsay attended the GAPTC course 'In the Hot Seat' although he felt it very much overlapped the information given in the 'Being a Better Councillor' course.

Councillor Stinchcombe attended a coffee morning at Cashes Green Community Centre and reported that it was very good.

Councillor Booker attended a 20 is plenty course which he reported was very informative.

FC141/24 To consider any items for inclusion on future agendas
There were no items for inclusion on future agendas at this time.

FC142/24 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of the Full Council
The next meeting of the Full Council is to be held on December the 16th at 6pm.

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm

Signed

Dated

Actions

FC122/24	Email District Councillors with minutes	Clerk
FC126/24	Send forms to SDC	Clerk / Assistant Clerk
FC130/24	Add budget to next FC agenda	Administrator
FC131/24	Contact donator and order bench & Plaque	Assistant Clerk
FC132/24	Send planning observations	Clerk
FC134/24	Se up working party reporting the Full Council	Cllr. Booker
FC137/24	Appoint Internal Auditor	Clerk
FC138/24	Inform applicant and pay grant	Clerk