



Castle Cary Town Council

The Market House

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APPROVED MINUTES OF CASTLE CARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held on Monday 9th December 2019 at the Market House, Castle Cary

Present: Judi Morison (Chair), Justin Birch, Philippa Biddlecombe, Stephen Biddlecombe, Hedge Burley, Nick Crowley, Margaret Bebbington, Bob Gilbey, Pek Peppin, Sally Snook, Penny Steiner, Nick Weeks and Rob Worth

Also present: County Councillor Mike Lewis

Clerk: Zöe Godden

There were four members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

19:00 – The Chair allowed a public open session

A member of the public expressed dissatisfaction with recent interactions with South Somerset District Council and with a recent road closure in Castle Cary for the Big Christmas event held on 5th December.

19:04 – One member of the public left the meeting.

A member of the public explained the role of an anti-foxhunting organisation and her own objections to foxhunting.

A representative from All Saint's Church explained plans to open up the church building as a centre for arts and culture in order to raise funds required to repair the roof and other aspects of the fabric of the building. Councillors were asked if they would in future consider offering support in principle for such a project, to suggest any possible uses for the building and also to consider the church building when planning events.

19:11 - The Chair brought the public open session to a close and opened the meeting.

2019

TC110 Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

TC111 To approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 18th November 2019 to be signed by the Chair

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as presented.

TC112 Declarations of personal or pecuniary interest (*these must be declared BEFORE the agenda items concerned are discussed. Persons with a declared pecuniary interest must leave the meeting room when these are discussed*)

There were no declarations of interest.

TC113 Community Safety and Security update

The Clerk reported that the PCSO John Winfield had put no parking cones along Station Road to tackle poor parking, probably generated by increased use of Castle Cary station as a result of the strikes taking place on South Western lines.

The Chair reported that the number of new parking spaces to be constructed at Castle Cary station would soon be announced, along with the opening date.

TC114 To receive any reports/updates:

- a) **Mike Lewis (County Councillor)** thanked all those involved in the Big Christmas event and said that it had been a great success. Mike had found out that the damaged railway bridge on Station Road would be repaired before Christmas. Sally Snook added that an overnight road closure would be in place from 9th December for five days to enable the work to take place.
- b) **Henry Hobhouse and Kevin Messenger (District Councillors)** were not present.
- c) Update on Key Objectives/Projects

Philippa Biddlecombe reported that the application for Castle Cary to become a dementia friendly town had been submitted and the result should be announced within 14 days.

The Chair reported that a meeting had been arranged to view the Drill Hall, with a view to working in partnership with the Army to provide a community youth facility at the site.

- d) To review action points from previous meetings

Some action points were ongoing but none were outstanding.

TC115 Chairs' Report:

- a) To note that a public consultation has been launched by Connecting Devon and Somerset regarding the roll out of the next phase of its work; to consider if the Council wishes to make a response.

There was some discussion about different approaches to getting faster broadband and the specific areas of Castle Cary that suffered from poor broadband speeds.

It was **agreed** that Judi Morison would submit a response and would include the issue of farming businesses relying on broadband and the need to ensure that fast broadband was available in new homes and business units.

Action 191209/1: Judi Morison

- b) To note receipt of follow-up information from South Somerset District Council relating to its Environment Strategy and to note that the Deputy Town Clerk had drawn up a draft action plan for the Town Council.

Noted.

- c) Following from the above agenda item, to consider nominating the Deputy Town Clerk to be the Town Council's Environment Champion, as requested by SSDC.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to nominate the Deputy Town Clerk to be the Environment Champion for the Town Council.

TC116 Correspondence

- a) To note receipt of two emails from two residents who oppose the Boxing Day meet of the Blackmore Vale and Sparkford Hunt and to consider making a statement that the Town Council disapproves of the meet.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Town Council did not wish to make any comment because the event was not run by the Town Council.

19:32 – One member of the public left the meeting.

- b) To consider resolving to support the Local Electricity Bill, as per a request from Power for People and details in the document circulated before the meeting.

The Town Council did not wish to make any comment.

Committees Reports, Recommendations & Progress on Major Projects

TC117 Planning Committee & Neighbourhood Plan

- a) To hear feedback from the recent Planning Committee meeting.

Pek Peppin reported that the Planning Committee had recommended refusal of application 19/03109/S73, which sought to make changes to conditions of the planning permission granted for 165 dwellings at the site off Torbay Road and Station Road. As a result, SSDC was organising a meeting of interested parties, including the Town Council, Ansford Parish Council, County Highways, County Education and the developer, to take place in early January 2020.

Pek also reported that a meeting between the Town Council, Ansford Parish Council, SSDC and planning consultants was due to take place on 12th December to discuss planning application 19/01840/OUT for 200 dwellings off Ansford Hill. SSDC was asking for a financial contribution from the Town Council and Ansford Parish Council to cover the cost of planning consultants and it had been agreed at the previous Full Council meeting that the Town Council would contribute up to £2000.

Finally, Pek reported that application 19/02038/FUL for a new dwelling at The Park had been approved. The application had not been considered by the Area East Committee. Pek wanted to write to SSDC to clarify the procedure for bringing applications before the Area East Committee and said she would draft a letter or email.

Action 191209/2: Pek Peppin

- b) To note a response to the Clerk's letter requesting a meeting regarding concerns over the cumulative effect of the many planning applications in Ansford and Castle Cary and agree how to respond.

Pek said that, although it was disappointing that SSDC's CEO would not meet with Castle Cary and Ansford Councils, it was hoped that the alternative meeting with Simon Fox and others, to take place on 12th December, would be productive.

- c) To finalise the list of preferred projects that should benefit from S106 contributions.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the preferred projects would be provision of a building for youth groups, provision of a new Pavilion and footpaths and cycle paths.

Action 191207/3: Town Clerk

TC118 Properties, Infrastructure, Pither Project & Fairfield-updates

- a) Market House – to hear an update on progress with works.

Nick Weeks reported that work to the windows was nearly finished and would be completed by the following week. Although the scaffolding had been in place for longer than planned, Nick said that there would be no additional charge to the Town Council. The scaffolding should be removed before Christmas. Once it had been removed, it would be necessary to ensure adequate egress of rainwater by digging an investigative hole outside the Market House.

- b) To agree councillors to sit on the Market House task and finish group and to agree meeting dates.

Before Councillors committed to working on the task and finish group, they instructed the Clerk to arrange a tour of the second floor of the Market House, preferably to take place on Monday 16th December at 9am.

Action 191209/4: Town Clerk

- c) To note that the proposed water quality monitoring work (see agenda item TC120 d)) does not cover testing for leachate; to consider asking for this work to be carried out and to consider consulting Carymoor and Babcary Parish Councils to find out if they would be willing to share the cost.

Nick Weeks explained that testing for leachate was not part of the quote to be considered at TC120 d) and that, in the past, this testing work had been carried out and the cost shared between the Town Council and Carymoor and Babcary Parish Councils. Nick volunteered to speak with both of these parishes to find out if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of leachate testing.

Action 191209/5: Nick Weeks

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to contribute up to £250 from general reserves to cover part of the cost of leachate testing.

It was **agreed** to take item TC120 d) at this point in the meeting.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the quote of £1800 from Dr Lisa Thomas for water testing of Cary Brook/River Cary.

Action 191209/6: Town Clerk

- d) To hear an update on the Friends of Fairfield group.

Penny Steiner reported that the planting of apple trees, due to take place on Saturday 7th December, had not taken place because the trees had not been ready for collection. The trees would now be planted in the new year. Penny agreed to speak with the Friends of Fairfield group regarding the proposed planting of native species trees along the zigzag path. It was **agreed** that anyone wishing to plant a tree along the path would be instructed as to the species they would be allowed to plant.

Action 191209/7: Penny Steiner

TC119 Marketing & Communication

- a) Marketing and Communications update

Penny Steiner reminded Councillors that there had not been a Marketing and Communications Committee meeting since the previous Full Council meeting. The Welcome Pack folder had been finalised and was with the sponsor so they could obtain prices for printing the folders. The Information Desk volunteers had seen the folder and were happy with the design. Pek Peppin asked if a leaflet from the Museum could be included in the Welcome Pack and Penny suggested liaising with the Information Desk volunteers about this.

Action 191209/8: Pek Peppin

Finally, Penny thanked all those who had been involved in the Big Christmas event, although this had not been run by the Town Council. The event had been a great success.

TC120 Finance and Management

- a) To consider the draft 2020/21 budget and precept request of £168,765 and agree any amendments required.

Rob Worth asked if it would be possible to offer some funds to the primary school to cover transport costs to sports events and school trips. Judi Morison said that Rob should ask the

Headteacher to email the Clerk with a timetable showing when transport would be needed so that this could be considered by the Town Council, with a view to using the Youth Matters budget to offer support.

Action 191209/9: Rob Worth

The Clerk was instructed find out if any of the new dwellings for which planning permission has been granted had been included in SSDC's calculation for the tax base.

Action 191209/10: Town Clerk

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the budget and precept request of £168,765. All in favour except Bob Gilbey, who abstained from voting.

b) To consider quotes for the extension of the path at Fairfield.
Three quotes for this work had been obtained and were considered by the Councillors.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the quote from GJS Landscapes Ltd, for the sum of £8165.

Action 191209/11: Town Clerk

c) To consider renewing the maintenance agreement for the Market House CCTV system at a cost of £221.50 for the 2020/21 year.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to renew the maintenance agreement as presented.

Action 191209/12: Town Clerk

d) To consider a proposal and price for water quality monitoring of Cary Brook/River Cary.
This matter was dealt with after item TC118 c) above.

e) To consider a grant request from Castle Cary and Ansford Carnival Society for £150.00.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the grant of £150. All in favour except Pek Peppin who abstained from voting.

Action 191209/13: Town Clerk

f) To approve the cash book and bank reconciliation for November 2019.
It was **agreed** to defer this matter to the next Full Council meeting.

g) To approve the December payment schedule for the Town Council and the Donald Pither Trust and to nominate Councillors to verify and authorise payments.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the payments as presented, that Philippa Biddlecombe would verify the payments on Wednesday 11th December and that Judi Morison would authorise the payments after verification.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 20th January 2020 in the Market House at 7:00pm. Any items for inclusion on the agenda should be forwarded to the Town Clerk by Thursday 9th January 2020.

The meeting ended at 20:38.

Approved as a correct record.....20th January 2020