

**Draft Minutes of the Joint Ansford Parish & Castle Cary Town
Annual Town Meeting
Held on Tuesday 27th July 2021 in Caryford Hall**

Present: Chair of Parish Council: Chris Edwards
 Parish Councillors: Nigel Begg, Ray Leary, Di Pinnions.
 Chair of Town Council: Judi Morison
 Town Councillors: Philippa Biddlecombe, Nick Crowley, Bob Gilbey, Kenneth Grey, Pek Peppin, Sally Snook, Penny Steiner, Rob Worth
 District Councillors: None in attendance
 County Councillor: Mike Lewis
 Clerks: Lisa Davis & Claire Craner-Buckley CCTC
 Bookings & Promotions Administrator: Colleen Bower CCTC
 Clerk: Angela Roberts APC

8 local clubs societies & organisations & their representatives- approximately 15 people

Approximately 18 members of the community

Note: The Joint ATM did not take place in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

1	<p>Welcome and Introduction of Councillors</p> <p>CE introduced the APC Councillors</p> <p>JM introduced the CCTC Councillors & Mike Lewis the County Councillor</p>
2	<p>Apologies for absence had been received from</p> <p>Henry Hobhouse District Councillor Kevin Messenger District Councillor Margaret Bebbington CCTC Farès K Moussa CCTC Geoffrey Clothier APC Barbara Williams APC Somerset Wildlife Trust- Caroline Rathbone The Primary School- Sarah Martin Ansford Academy- Verity Smith The Bowls Club- Carol Lowe Colin Kay Eat Festival Bev & Sarah Milner- Simonds</p>

3	<p>Approval of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes-Ansford</p> <p>The 2019 Minutes were accepted and can be signed off.</p>
4	<p>Approval of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Minutes-Castle Cary</p> <p>The 2019 Minutes were accepted and can be signed off.</p>
5	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>It was noted that issues relating to speeding traffic had been brought up in 2019 and that these would be addressed during the course of this meeting.</p>
6	<p>Chair's Report-Ansford</p> <p>CE gave his report- attached</p>
7	<p>Chair's Report- Castle Cary</p> <p>JM gave her report – attached</p> <p>JM welcomed the new vicar Rev Elisabeth Isted to the meeting and the town</p>
8	<p>Updates- Environmental & Other Outcomes</p> <p>At the 2019 meeting local clubs and organisations were asked to respond re the following key issues for the town:</p> <p>Environmental Plans to - reduce/Re-use/Recycle Welcoming New residents Promoting wellbeing</p> <p>During her report, JM invited local organisations to contact the Council to update us on their progress with these issues.</p> <p>She also reported on CCTC's Environmental Improvements & plans</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>Caryford Hall-Update report</p> <p>Ian Bynoe – Chair of Caryford Hall gave his report. He told the meeting that the extension plans for the hall were much delayed by the pandemic. The Hall have received financial support from Ansford Parish Council during 2021 and 2021 as bookings have all been cancelled. The ATM was the biggest meeting held at the hall since March 2020. There are bookings now in place for the Summer and Autumn 2021.</p> <p>The Hall is changing the way it is run and is now a separate legal identity, which means the Committee members are now trustees so no longer have to take personal liability. It also means they are looking for members to join to support the hall and it's activities. There are 50 members so far. With more members the Hall has a greater chance of receiving the grants that they apply for as they demonstrate the popularity of the venue.</p> <p>The extension plans have now been revised so new planning permission is needed. They hope for construction to start in 2022.</p> <p>New voluntary Board members are being sort. There is a vacancy for the Treasurer role, this would be advisory and would ensure that the £500,000 renovation project progresses well.</p> <p>They are also looking for someone to take on the hall's digital communications programme and have another vacancy for a maintenance and safety officer.</p> <p>Ian asked for interested residents to apply for these roles and/or to take a leaflet to become a member.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Market House- Update report on Assembly Room improvements and Cary21 Objects display</p> <p>Pek Peppin gave her report-attached.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Presentations by Parish & Town Councillors</p>
<p>11.1 Castle Cary</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>SS- gave her report - attached</p>

<p>11.2 Castle Cary</p>	<p>Property & Infrastructure</p> <p>PB gave her report – attached</p>
<p>11.3 Castle Cary</p>	<p>Marketing & Communications</p> <p>PS gave her report – attached.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Presentation by Mike Lewis Somerset County Councillor</p> <p>Mike Lewis gave a short report, explaining that many staff members from Somerset County Council had been seconded to vaccination centres or furloughed during the pandemic. They are now back in their original roles. Last week was the first week of resumed face to face meetings. Hybrid meetings- with some people in person and some remote- are proving challenging. He gave his thanks to our local Councillors and said how impressed his was with the very wide range of activities in Ansford and Castle Cary.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Local Government Re-organisation</p> <p>JM advised the meeting that Robert Jenrick Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government had recently made the decision that Somerset would have one unitary authority. She felt concern whether the rural voice would be heard with this structure of local government as Taunton is geographically a long way from Castle Cary and Ansford.</p> <p>ML advised that the elections for the 110 new councillors for the new unitary authority would take place in May 2022. And that by 2023 the current Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council would be replaced. There are still many questions around this major change, a key one being whether the 100,00 contracts currently in place across the two authorities can be transferred or need to be re-tendered. There is also uncertainty where the administration centres will be and discussions are taking place around local community networks & NHS districts. He told the meeting that Parish and Town Council's will become even more important following this re-organisation.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Questions and other matters for discussion</p> <p>The meeting was reminded that in 2021 the Local Government constituency boundaries for Members of Parliament will also be changing and it is not certain where the new boundaries will be. However ML believes that Castle Cary will be linked in with Somerton and Glastonbury. Bruton will be in a separate constituency with Frome.</p>

<p>14.1</p>	<p>A resident asked for an explanation of the difference between the Ansford & Castle Cary precept amounts and if the 2 councils can join together to operate as one. She wanted to understand why residents in Ansford paid less precept but could use the same facilities as Castle Cary residents who pay more. (Approximately £74 vs £200).</p> <p>CE responded by saying that any changes affecting Ansford Parish can only be decided by consultation with parishioners, via a referendum.</p> <p>JM advised that the 2 Councils aim to work as closely together as possible.</p> <p>It was noted that CCTC have more properties & facilities to maintain so have to ask a higher amount but they don't distinguish between who actually uses the facilities.</p> <p>APC makes a 1/3 contribution to the running of the Fairfield and to the Community Newsletter, Tourism Leaflet, Welcome Packs and the Car Parks in CC, with CCTC paying 2/3.</p> <p>JM said that Castle Cary & Ansford is growing apace as a community with many of the new houses now being occupied so discussions will be ongoing about the future split of costs for joint projects.</p> <p>Another resident asked if Ansford Parish Council received the S106 funding from the housing developers.</p> <p>JM explained that we are seen as one community because we submitted a joint Neighbourhood Plan. APC is included in all discussions about S106 but some payments have gone to CCTC as most developments are in Cary although Caryford Hall receives large payments.</p> <p>CE explained that APC had not been included in <u>any</u> discussions about the allocation of S106 contributions, despite all four of the Station Road developments being located in Ansford. All of these high value contributions have gone directly to projects within Castle Cary, with one exception for Caryford Community Hall that has received one modest value contribution.</p> <p>Chris acknowledged that lots of discussion takes place between APC & CCTC around this issue with some agreement and some disagreement. It is hoped that there will be some flexibility around this issue going forward that reflects the changing profile and numbers in the 2 adjoined communities.</p>
<p>14.2</p>	<p>A suggestion was made and noted that double yellow lines on the road beside the Barclays cashpoint on Woodcock Street would make using this facility much safer.</p> <p>It was also suggested that railings here would also help. JM advised that Highways had quoted £20,000 to install railings so this would not be taken forward.</p>

14.3	A resident was concerned about the speed of traffic on Lower Ansford. CE agreed to look into this matter and invited the parishioner to attend the next Council Meeting, in August.
14.4	A resident advised the meeting that she felt that the Sports Pavilion was not treated well by it's users. She felt also that the new pavilion project should be prioritized. JM advised that 106 and other grant monies were earmarked for the new pavilion project and also that regular meetings were being held with the football and cricket clubs who are based there.
14.5	The meeting was advised that the All Saints Church Development Group were aiming to raise a further £250,000 for more important maintenance of the church. They are holding a fund-raising event on Sunday 15 th August.
14.6	JM thanked everyone for coming. The meeting finished at 20.45pm