

Minutes of the **Parish Meeting** held on Monday 9 April 2018, commencing at 7.00pm at St. Matthews Church Hall, chaired by Councillor Eileen Berry.

PRESENT:

Cainscross Parish Council: Councillors Eileen Berry
Peter Berry
Jenny Miles (Parish and District Councillor)
Kim Cordon
Roger Cordon
Adrian Cross
Keith Mace
Neil Watkins

Speakers David Marshall – Canal Project Manager at Stroud District Council
Clive Field – Cotswold Canals Trust

District Councillors Rachel Curley
Tom Williams

County Councillor Lesley Williams

Neighbourhood Warden Simon Moulding

PCSO Jayne Fellowes

Community Group David and Daphne Dale - Sunnyhill Residents Association
Louise Little – Randwick Scout Group

Youth Work Steve Miles – Stroud District Council Youth Work Team

Sports Clubs Darren Vasey, Rodborough and Cainscross RFC

In Attendance: Clerk & Administration Assistant

Member of the Public Debbie Westgate plus 2 other members of the public

Apologies: Parish Councillor J Batten
County Councillor Brian Oothuysen
Liam Gilby Cashes Green FC

PM1/18 TO CONFIRM AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last Parish Meeting, held on 3 April 2017 were approved as a correct record and duly signed.

PM2/18 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor E Berry read the following report;

This civic year started on a rather sad note with the arson attack on the play boat at the QEII Field on the 12 April 2017. Despite best efforts the perpetrators were never caught. We were then unfortunate enough to have a second arson attack in February of this year to the hedge between Victory Park play area and the bowls club. To date no one had been arrested for this either. On a more positive note the play boat was replaced and has proved to be an even bigger hit than the last.

We have also replaced a rather dilapidated bus shelter at the bottom of Chapel Lane with a very nice new one plus you may have noticed an attractive 'Welcome to Ebley' sign at the bottom of Orchard Road with the junction of Westward Road.

We continue to maintain our owned sites, Victory Park, Hamwell Leaze and the QEII Field.

In Victory Park, we hope to start the final phase of the Pavilion re-build this summer with the part demolition of the old Pavilion and the refurbishment and construction of a new pavilion. The new Pavilion will house changing rooms, the Parish Council offices and a community hall. We are looking forward to seeing our vision become a reality.

We have also given the go ahead to get the dirt bike ramps remodelled at the top of the park and this should be taking place very soon.

At the QEII Field, Stroud Valley Projects are visiting once a month with volunteers to continue and build on the work they started last season. They are always looking for more volunteers so if you are interested in helping out, please see our Clerk, Jeni who will put you in touch.

Our allotment sites at Cainscross and Ebley are thriving with both sites being run extremely well. Cashes Green Allotments are also starting to take shape and we hope to set up a management committee like the other sites very soon.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the youth club provision. This has been due to damage caused during the sessions resulting in local venues not willing to host the club. May I say that the actions of a few have spoilt this for all the young people. We will reconsider youth activities in the future once our new hall is completed.

Jeni our Clerk has been working hard with District Council and Bovis Homes to address some of the issues on the Foxmoor Estate. So far extensive tree works have taken place as well as the removal of the old rather tatty paving slabs throughout the estate. They are being replaced with grass which we think will look much nicer. Many of the walls on the estate are crumbling and we are in the process of identifying who owns which wall and then will speak to the affected residents to discuss options.

As always, the office staff Jeni, Sally and Lilia are working hard and are always happy to help Parishioners' with any queries they may have. You may spot our Groundstaff Paul and Linda hard at work in the Parish, for them the Spring and Summer is a particularly busy time.

I would like to thank all our staff and Councillors for their hard work and congratulate Sally who has passed her Certificate in Council Administration this year.

PM3/18

TO RECEIVE A SHORT PRESENTATION FROM DAVE MARSHALL CANAL PROJECT MANAGER AT STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dave explained that Stroud District Council had taken the decision to take over the canal project in 2008 when British Waterways walked away taking their funding with them. Although an unusual step for a District Council, Councillors supported the move across the political divide. The canal is presently open from Stonehouse to

Bowbridge although this has not been without its issues. The structure is approximately 240 years old and problems such as buried feeder pipes, flood risks, buried gas and water pipes, electric cables and sewers plus land ownership problems have all added to the challenge of restoring the canal. He also confirmed that any adverse procession has not so far led to any compulsory purchases. One of the worse problems faced has been due to rubbish being piled on to hilly areas to create flat areas. This has caused problems of destabilisation when digging out. Dave then went on to give the following statistics. There are now 6.6km (4.1 miles) of navigable canal open with another 600mtrs to be added when dredging is complete at Bowbridge. There is 9.3km of towpath which is approximately 2mtrs wide making it usable for all, 10 restored locks, 4 new moving bridges, 3 new fixed bridges, over 60 new benches and 21 interpretation panels with QR codes. Over 200 pupils from local schools have benefited from canal learning such as canal life in the past, how locks work and much more.

Dave explained that District Council had got involved with the regeneration for economic benefits and 10 years ago the Stroud and Cainscross area was not blossoming and that the canal project has helped to improve these areas. He gave examples such as the QEII Field and the derelict site outside of Ebley Mill which are now vastly improved and the canal corridor is now a place to go rather than avoid. The 115 million pounds investment has also provided 26,000sq metres of work space on the canal corridor and a wonderful leisure corridor used for commuting, travelling and exercising with no cars in site.

None of this would have been possible without local volunteers and he estimated that in the last 4 years, volunteers have amounted to approximately 135,000 hours which in paid terms would have cost approximately 1.7 million. He applauded the partnership working between local groups and Councils and thanked local residents who during periods of 7-day dredging did not complain despite the noise.

Dave thanked the Parish Council for re-opening the QEII Field and tying in with the project with the lovely play barge explaining that this is a great example of joint working.

The existing volunteers will now be moving on to maintenance and a grant has been applied for of 9.8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to continue work from Stonehouse to Saul Junction which will put Stroud on the National Waterways Network.

Finally Dave explained that the regeneration of Brimscombe Port with a 3 million investment will give a destination to the canal journey and bring investment to the Stroud District. He appealed for more volunteers and also people to join the Canals Trust.

Dave handed over to Clive Field the Visitor Centre Manager at Cotswold Canals Trust.

Clive spoke about the corporate and commemorative bench project and explained that the benches are made by volunteers with 61 benches sold to date (3 are situated on the QEII Field). He told a lovely story of how a lady had called him on Christmas Eve to say she and her family were all at the bench, she heard a noise and the lady explained that they had just sighted an otter who had then swam away and returned with another Otter holding a fish in its paws.

Clive thanked the Parish Council for their assistance in raising funds to help design and build a wheelchair access boat which is now well on its way to being developed. Clive told another story of how he met a gentleman who picks up litter from his kayak and got talking to Clive and ultimately became a member of the Cotswold

Canal Trust. He explained how the Waterway Recovery Group cleared trees at the Ocean and Tom can now paddle to work, a journey of approximately 55 minutes from Stroud to Stonehouse. The story was picked up by BBC and ITV South West and shows a clear example of canal and community spirit. Clive thanked Stroud District Council for having the courage to take over the project.

Councillor L Williams questioned the economic benefit to the area and Dave Marshall assured her that the Regional Development Agency had looked at economic activity. Councillor Tom Williams questioned public access to the canal in Cainscross for visitors. Dave responded that at present the demand is not there and they do not own the available land. As well as there being no budget to add car parking.

Louise Little of Randwick Scouts thanked Dave Marshall and his team saying the Scouts are benefitting hugely from the regeneration with trips to the Visitors Centre and she would be happy to involve the Scouts in volunteering should a suitable activity be identified.

Debbie Westgate left the meeting

PM4/18

TO RECEIVE THE COUNCIL'S OBSERVATIONS ON ITS BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

Councillor E Berry reported that the precept request this year is £209,632 an increase of £12,890, 6.5 % on the previous year. This rise equates to an increase in a band D property of £5.57 per annum.

PM5/18

TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Jenny Miles reported that she was overall pleased with the decision to allow the Lidl application to go ahead and delighted that the majority of the Industrial Heritage has been preserved. She also commented on Tricorn House and said development is starting to look more likely.

District Councillor Rachel Curley commented that Councillor Miles has covered the majority of things however confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant from Central Government is now zero and from 2019 the District will have to pay to Central Government the sum of £549,000 meaning the Council's finances are particularly challenging.

District Councillor Tom Williams agreed that all necessary topics have been covered by the other District Councillors and agreed that the decision to approve the Lidl application was probably the best deal for the area.

PM6/18

TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor Lesley Williams confirmed that the precept has increased and finances are considerably challenging. There has been a huge amount of work following the report regarding children's services and things are steadily improving. The new Highways contractor will be announced very shortly.

The police in Gloucestershire have this year lost 254 Police Officers and 35 PCSOs and she commented that the Police do really well considering the circumstances.

PM7/18

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Sunnyhill Residents Association

The Chair of the Association gave the following report;

'Good evening ladies and gentlemen. For those of you who don't know me, may I take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am David Dale, the Chairperson for Sunnyhill Residents Association. I am thrilled to say, we have experienced an excellent year once again. We arranged several day trips to various locations and a good time was had by all.

We also enjoyed many show visits to the Bristol Hippodrome and a fish and chip supper beforehand.

The Christmas party at Cashes Green Community Centre was well attended, considering the amount of snow we had and we considered that we may have to cancel, however the show must go on!

We had music, various food, an excellent raffle and to top it all off, an ode composed by our Treasurer, also singing and acted out by our committee members. Last December we had to change to a smaller venue for our New Year's Eve dance but it was still enjoyed by everyone.

In our committee meetings, several different ideas for this year have been discussed that we hope come to fruition in order to keep the interest in our community.

Thank you for allowing me to address you all and I wish you all a safe journey home after the close of the meeting.

Jayne Fellowes PCSO

Jayne spoke about speed checks around Cashes Green School and Westward Road with the majority of vehicles being within the speed limit.

She notified the meeting that the Police and Crime Commissioners vehicle will be at Foxmoor School on the 9 June from 12.30-4pm and everyone is welcome.

She has been informed of members of the public using their mobile phones whilst sitting at the traffic lights on Westward Road and will be following this up. She also asked that if residents should see any odd behaviour to call 101 as they can only do something about incidents that are recorded at the time. She is aware the 101 number is very busy but she asked the public to be patient as the call will be answered...

Councillor E Berry then read the report from PCSO Gary Lynch which also covered the speed check. He also mentioned that the QEII Field is still on his radar particularly with the light and warmer nights coming soon and he mentioned the Community Alert System which he now uses to send out information and encourages others to sign up to.

Simon Moulding – Neighbourhood Warden

Simon introduced himself and explained that he is employed by Stroud District Council and informed the meeting of his role, which includes helping vulnerable people, carrying out ASB Patrols, signposting to other agencies, litter picking, cleaning up graffiti amongst many other things. He also works closely with the Parish Council and contributes articles to the Four Wards magazine under the guise of Simon Says.

Steve Miles – Stroud District Council Youth Work Team

Steve commented that he was disappointed to hear about the demise of the Youth Club but reported some very positive youth work locally with excellent outcomes such as employment. He also commented that the major issue at present is mental

health and he is working with the Clinical Commissioning Group to deal with these issues.

Rodborough and Cainscross Old Boys

Darren reported that two teams had been playing at Victory Park, but to save the pitch this had been reduced to 1.5 and with the build of the new pavilion due to start this year would be further reduced to just one team. He informed the meeting that they are presently second in division two and hoping to achieve division one next season. At present there are approximately 65 players signed up with 40/50% from the Cainscross Parish. Darren is the Chairman for the Youth Team and there are currently 300 plus young people signed up. There is also a disabled team playing at Brimscombe and Thrupp. There are also girl's teams which are proving very popular.

Darren thanked the Parish Council for all its help.

Randwick Scout Group

Louise Little commented that girls are also welcome in the Scout movement and have been for at least 20 years. She explained they are very busy and have a waiting list. There are 6 – 14-year olds registered with 14 – 18-year olds as young leaders. The Scouts had recently been on a survival camp and the Beavers did a sleep over at Go Bananas although she did comment that many of them did not sleep at all! Louise said that they try and take the children out and about as much as possible and they have links with Scarlett House recently taking memory boxes to show the residents which proved to be very positive.

Councillor E Berry read the following reports from Ebley Allotments, Cainscross Allotments and The WI.

Ebley Allotments

The Allotments continue to thrive and plots are always in demand with 14 plots changing hands this year, no vacant plots and two people on the waiting list. The Committee make inspections throughout the year to check that plots are kept tidy and cultivated and not left to go to weed. Plot holders are informed if needs be.

The food bank which we donate our surplus produce to is well supported by most plot holders and it helped 158 adults and 91 children in the last year, that's an increase of 19% on 2016.

We came in to the 21st century in 2017 after many years of poor pressure on our water supply. If we opened more than 1 tap the flow stopped but thanks to the Parish Council we now have a new supply pipe which has made a tremendous improvement and reduced the frustration we had when a second person opened a tap. THANK YOU.

Our annual BBQ was a great success despite a few rain showers, everyone that attended had good time and maybe the weather will be better this year – *Rose Philpott*

Cainscross Allotments

The allotments have had another good year. We contributed to the replacement of the old chain link fence with a new section of palisade fencing and thanks to Haydn for the new gates. The strip alongside the new fence has been sown to grass and I plan to put more bulbs in next autumn. The manure quality from Chris Daniel has

been 1st class. The switch to ferric phosphate slug pellets has encouraged the return of the hedgehogs and will be encouraged again this season. Most of the plots are being well managed and at present there are three small plots available for rent. I now hope the weather improves so we can all get started – *Steve Moss*

The Woman's Institute

We have again enjoyed a variety of talks covering an interesting range of subjects; Olympic volunteering, all about Puppetry, Bookbinding and being an Author, A child's life in the 1950's in Tetbury and The Life of a Magistrate.

As usual we have had our popular Cheese and Wine evening complete with a fun quiz organised by Pam who also kindly donated prizes. For our birthday in July we went by coach through lovely countryside to Kington with Dormston WI in Worcestershire for a delicious three course supper. Their hall was in a quiet spot near the church and a beautiful old farmhouse. Everyone was fascinated to see a completely unattended automated mower working its way quietly round the large garden lawns; and we were delighted when the owner came out to tell us about the history of the area.

We had another craft evening in September and enjoyed chatting while we produced some lovely lavender bags, cute mini animals form felt and colourful hand printed tea-towels using Indian wood-blocks. Our competitions were well supported throughout the year and the 'rather rude' entrants for most amusing vegetable caused much hilarity. At Christmas we put on a lovely spread for our party of ham, cheese, potato, salads and lots of yummy puddings, with wine, chocolates ad mice pies to finish. Altogether a happy year- *Doreen Tucker*

PM8/18 **TO CONSIDER ANY RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**
None

PM9/18 **TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**
None

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed

Dated