

Minutes of the meeting of Cainscross Parish Council's **Planning, Highways, Amenities AND Recreation Committee** held on Monday 3 June 2019, commencing at **7pm** in the Parish Council Office, 39 Westward Road, Cainscross.

Present: Councillors Graham Barton (Chair)  
Eileen Berry (Vice-Chair)  
Laura Beattie  
Adrian Cross  
David Dale  
Jenny Miles  
Carlos Novoth  
Ron Smith  
John Tyror  
Clive White

In Attendance: Clerk Jeni Marshall  
Groundsman Paul Underwood

Apologies: Ros Scott Hodgetts

- PHAR1/19 To elect a Chairperson for the Committee  
The Chair of Council opened the meeting of the new Committee and reminded members that once a Chair is elected members must direct all questions and comments through the Chair.  
The Clerk has received one nomination for Chair, Councillor Graham Barton. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and carried with all in favour. Councillor Barton took the Chair.
- PHAR2/19 To elect a Vice-Chair for the Committee  
Councillor Barton asked for any nominations. Councillor White nominated Councillor Berry. This was seconded by Councillor Tyror and carried with all in favour.
- PHAR3/19 To receive any apologies  
Apologies were received from Councillor Scott-Hodgetts.
- PHAR4/19 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee  
The minutes of the last meeting of the Planning, Highways and Amenities Committee held on 1 April 2019 were approved as a correct record and duly signed.  
The minutes of the last meeting of the Recreation Committee held on 8 April 2019 were approved as a correct record and duly signed.
- PHAR5/19 To receive any declarations of interest  
Councillor Smith declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 16 (minute number PHAR16/19).
- PHAR6/19 To receive any representations from members of the public  
None
- PHAR7/19 To receive the Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that the transfer of Elm Road is ongoing but all the transfer documents have been signed and returned to the Solicitor. The construction of the Pavilion is well under way and members had a tour of the new facility and are very impressed. The build is still on target for completion at the end of June despite there being an issue with the water connection.

Victory Park Play area refurbishment is progressing and the Clerk has met with several playground companies to discuss inclusive play. At least two of the companies will be attending the open event to show case their ideas. The event on the 11 August is also progressing and community groups are being invited to attend.

With regard to sewage issues, she has received information that Severn Trent are currently working on the Stroud Sewage Strategy which will look at removing some of the flooding issues in Stroud. She has booked for a representative to attend the Full Council meeting on the 19 August to update members.

## Planning

PHAR8/19

### To note any planning decisions

The following planning decision were noted;

S.19/0740/TPO 42 Glynfield Rise – Sycamore Tree – Refused

S.19/0572/HHOLD 135 The Bassetts – First floor extension – Permitted

S.19/0552/HHOLD 1 Park View Drive – Single storey extension, garage conversion and front porch – Permitted

An appeal decision for S.18/0884/HHOLD 121 The Bassetts was also noted – Appeal Dismissed

PHAR9/19

### To consider the impending application for Stroud Auction Rooms

Councillor Barton reminded members of a previous meeting where Stroud Auction Rooms had made representation requesting the support of the Council. After considering some additional information that has been provided by Stroud Auction Rooms members agreed that as this area is not in the Parish, to note the information and forthcoming application.

*(Heather Walker and Sue Nicholls of Victory Park Bowling Club joined the meeting)*

PHAR10/19

### To note the summary of consultations for the Statement of Community Involvement

Having considered the responses to the consultation, Councillor Novoth pointed out that there are several comments regarding the consultation process for Planning Applications. Although it was acknowledged that the Planning Department notify immediate neighbours and advertise on nearby lampposts it was felt that this is still not enough. He gave the example of the Orchard Road development which has a potential impact on more than just the neighbouring properties. It was also highlighted that there are still a lot of the population who are unable to use the internet and therefore this form of communication although effective does not cover all those who will potentially be affected by developments.

It was resolved that the Clerk will email the District Council to give support to these views and request that they find as many ways as possible of

consulting and potentially widen the net to more properties near a new development.

Cainscross Parish Councils own comments to the consultation regarding giving Parish and Town Councils a 'heads up' to any pre-applications was dismissed by the District. They stated that although they encourage applicants to consult with Parish and Town Councils, they can't insist.

Councillor Novoth explained that it was more important that the District Council informed us rather than the developer as we have valuable insights in to the local area and can help at this early stage to develop any plans.

The Clerk was requested to email the Council to further discuss this issue.

### **Highways and Amenities**

PHAR11/19

#### To note use of the Highways Local Budget

The Clerk thanked members for their thoughts and ideas and informed them that it has been agreed with Highways from Councillor Oothuysens fund to spend the 12.5k on resurfacing some of the pathways on the Foxmoor Estate starting in The Bridle. It was further suggested that this could be an ongoing use of the funds for the next few years.

It has further been requested that Councillor Lesley Williams uses some of her funding to re-surface the paths at Devereaux Crescent which are in a very poor state. The Clerk has not had confirmation from Councillor Williams as yet.

PHAR12/19

#### To note information from Bovis Homes regarding the Foxmoor Estate

Councillor Novoth informed members that in his previous role at District Council, he was responsible for negotiating with Bovis Homes regarding the Foxmoor Estate at Cashes Green. He gave members a summary of negotiations to date and informed them that there is an offer of 45k on the table for the transfer of the estate to District Council. He felt that it is important to request a timeline from Bovis Homes and District Council on the transfer so as not to lose the offer presently on the table. It was agreed that Councillor Novoth will liaise with the District Council and Bovis Homes and that he will request that Bovis Homes inform the residents who own adjoining walls of their ownership. Councillor Barton asked if there is any amenity space on the estate which may be of interest to the Parish Council. On reflection it was agreed that the amenity spaces should be left as open spaces and would have no benefit to the Parish Council.

Councillor Smith commented that there is green waste fly tipped all over the estate. The Clerk commented that this comes down to the lack of availability of brown bins and the reduced opening times at the refuse centres.

Councillor Miles explained that to issue more brown bins would mean another round and they need enough requests to warrant this. Councillor Novoth explained that the District Council has a legal responsibility to collect green waste under the 'Control of Waste Regulations 2012'. He further commented that the Council cannot keep ignoring part of the population in what appears to be a single tier system.

The Clerk was asked to write to District Council to ask what they intend to do to help people get on to the brown bin scheme. Councillor Beattie commented that if brown bins are available then there would be more grounds to prosecute fly tippers. Another possible solution suggested is a community compost area.

Recreation

- PHAR13/19 To receive the Groundsman report  
The Groundsman reported the following;
- He has located a gap in the fence surrounding the pond at the QEII Field and will secure this using chicken wire
  - He has treated and painted the rusted supports on the front of the rugby pavilion
  - He is trying to match the paint colour on the new construction to paint the rugby pavilion in the same colour.
- PHAR14/19 To agree the contract for the allotment grant money  
Members considered proposals from Stroud Valleys Project and Down to Earth. After some deliberation it was agreed that the Down to Earth proposal was more comprehensive and Councillor Novoth proposed offering the contract to Down to Earth. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and carried with all in favour.
- PHAR15/19 To consider complaints about the grass cutting at Cashes Green  
The Clerk reported that numerous complaints have been received by the Parish Council regarding the infrequency of the cutting as well as the quality. District Council have responded as follows;  
*'Mid-way through the grass cutting season last year , due to budget pressures, the Council made £40K in savings which resulted in the loss of a grasscutting team . A press release was issued at the time to explain the Councils' decision. With the subsequent very hot weather the effect of the cuts was not fully appreciated by the public last year. The budget cuts are affecting Councils all around the Country but we will still try and endeavour to provide a reasonable service within the resources available. Grass cutting now takes place every 3 to 4 weeks instead of every 2 weeks and at this time of year grass is growing at its' fastest rate so by the time the grasscutters come round again the grass is very long and the ride-on cylinder mowers that we use at present cannot cope and tend to tear the grass rather than cut it resulting in a poorer standard of maintenance. Fortunately, we have just taken delivery of 4 new rotary mowers this week as part of the machinery replacement programme so from the next cut there should be a huge difference in the quality of the cut.*
- Members discussed this response and Councillor Novoth informed members that Gloucester City Council had tried the same approach which had been a disaster and they had been forced to return to a more regular cutting schedule. Members agreed that the 3-4 week cutting schedule leaves a mess with huge amounts of grass then tracked on to the paths making them hazardous. They raised further concerns about the long grass inhibiting people picking up dog faeces effectively and it masking things such as undulations and other unsavoury paraphernalia. Councillor Miles has spoken to the Chair of the Environment Committee who has commented that he gets issues from two camps, those who want the grass left longer for wildlife and those who prefer the neat tidy lawns. It was agreed that this is not a valid excuse and that there are certain areas that should be left for wildflowers/pollinators but verges in residential areas

need to be kept neat and tidy. Councillor Beattie felt this needed to be done in a more mindful way and suggested the Parish Council find some areas where they could potentially grow the grass and add some pollinators and start creating a green corridor. It was agreed to add this to the next agenda. It was also agreed that the Clerk would write to the District Council to voice their concerns about the reduction in grass cutting and the effects on health and safety as well as contacting other Parish Councils in the District to seek their views.

PHAR16/19 To consider the removal of the mesh fence between Victory Park Play Area and the Bowls Club

Heather Walker from Victory Park Bowls Club raised concerns about removing the chain link fence without a plan for some defensive planting. The Clerk explained that the idea was to remove the fence to help ascertain what was presently behind it and what could be done to improve this area from a defensive and aesthetic view.

It was resolved and agreed with the Bowls Club representatives that the Clerk would do a proposal for the removal of the fence and type of planting which once approved will be shared with the Bowls Club and taken forward. It is likely that the fence will come down sooner rather than later and any planting will be carried out in the Autumn.

PHAR17/19 To consider setting up a working party to discuss usage, access and costs for the new 'Pavilion in the Park' Hall

It was resolved to set up a working party to discuss the hall and the Clerk will write terms of reference for the Working Party. It was further agreed that the Working party will report back to the PHAR Committee. The following Councillors Beattie, Berry, Miles, Tyror and White agreed to be on the Working Party.

PHAR18/19 To confirm the time and date of the next meeting of the committee  
The date of the next meeting of the Committee is the 8 July 2019.

Signed

Dated

**Actions**

PHAR10/19	Respond to SDC regarding Planning Consultation and Pre-Applications	Clerk
PHAR12/19	Respond to SDC regarding timeline of the Bovis Estate transfer	Cllr. Novoth
PHAR12/19	Write to SDC regarding the Brown Bin Scheme	Clerk
PHAR14/19	Inform Down to Earth and SVP of decision and liaise with Down to Earth	Assistant Clerk
PHAR15/19	Respond to SDC regarding Health and Safety / Grass Cutting	Clerk
PHAR15/19	Add grassy areas for pollination to next PHAR Agenda	Clerk
PHAR16/19	Complete a specification for removal of fence and planting	Clerk
PHAR17/19	Arrange a date for the first meeting of the Working Party and write terms of reference	Clerk