

Minutes of the of **Cainscross Town Council's Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 27th September 2021, commencing at **6.00pm**.

Present: Councillors Graham Barton (Chairman)
Clive White (Vice Chairman)
Adrian Cross
David Dale
Christine Fewster
Diane Prosser
Ron Smith
George Williams

In Attendance: Emily Forgione (Assistant Clerk)
Jessie Hoskin (Project Officer)

Also in Attendance: County Councillor John Bloxsom
County Councillor Katrina Davies
District Councillor Jenny Miles

Apologies: James Booker
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Absent: Matthew Ferguson

FC71/21 To receive apologies
Apologies were received as above

FC72/21 To confirm the minutes of the last advisory meeting of the Council
The minutes were received, and it was agreed they were a correct record of the last Full Council meeting and the previous advisory group meetings.

FC73/21 To receive any declarations of interest
None received

FC74/21 To receive any representations or questions from members of the public
None present

FC75/21 To receive the Clerks report
The clerk's report was read as follows -
The Council are having some issues with the local youth and recently a councillor reported them climbing on the roof of the Pavilions. The staff have identified the youth involved and spoken to parents.

Generally, the other open spaces are reasonably quiet although we have had members of the public reporting orange pollen like dust on their shoes. The Assistant Clerk discovered that this is in fact rust mould and is safe for humans and animals and will naturally disappear in the Autumn.

As per the last meeting, a letter has been sent to a resident whose boundary has infringed into the park and The Clerk is awaiting a response.

Hall bookings are now starting to pick up, with Brimscombe and Thrupp WI and Wild Stroud booking on a monthly basis, a baby massage class booking in November and of course our Quiz, Café and book swap are running successfully.

There have been two good events held at the Pavilion during September, the first being the pop-up Community Café. Cream teas were served with the help of volunteers where 20 plus people attended. Many of them are booking on to the next café where soup and a roll will be served.

The Council would like to invite all Councillors to the December community café, where a seasonal buffet will be served, it would be really beneficial to the community for the councillors to come along and chat with members of the public. The Council are also looking for volunteers to help and potentially provide food to help out.

Cllr White held the first quiz afternoon with 8 attendees. Once again it was enjoyable, and it is hoped that this can expand going forward.

FC76/21

To receive the Project Officers report

The project officer reported as follows -

Natural Gloucestershire have asked if Cainscross Town Council would host their first Festival of Nature, as an exemplar of what can be done in gardens and other parks. They are proposing a program of rewilding in Victory Park, this could be near the playground creating a picnic area or by the bike track. The festival would also include making and installation of bird and hedgehog boxes in the park and also seed packets. More details will follow as they are received.

This would need to be coordinated with Groundwork's plans for the play park also in Victory Park.

Groundworks who are working with us to raise funds for our two projects in Victory Park have submitted 2 funding applications now, one to Summerfield and one to Gloucestershire County Council. They are confident that the total funds will be raised by the end of the year.

Bike track - Gloucestershire Community Foundation trust have promised The Council another £4,000 toward the Victory Park Bike Track providing the rest of the money is raised by the Council. We now have £6,000, not including the donation that we are expecting from the friends and family of North.

Community hub – The project officer has now submitted a funding application for a small program of events as follows, all workshops are based on the need of the parish identified through the profile:

- Young learners after school club
- Outside/inside art workshop for older people living in isolation and people suffering memory loss or dementia
- Art group giving young careers an opportunity to meet, discuss experiences and create artwork
- Digital skills workshop for older people
- Marketing workshop for young people

Community café - The first café was really successful with 20 people attending. There is still £1119.20 in the community café reserve.

Long table - The Council have applied for funding for a chef for the community café that would be provided at no cost by the Long Table for a period of three months. The Council propose weekly cafés and hope that after this period will either have obtained more funding or that the café will be self-sustaining.

More '**Holiday Activity and Food**' funding is to be released by the District Council to fund Christmas food and activities. The Project Officer would like to propose that The Council outsource this to the same facilitator who provided the Art in the Park Holiday and Food Activity.

Tunnel – the Council have now spoken to a sign writer from Ebley, who with approval would like to commission designs for the tunnel at the entrance of Victory Park. These will be based on the children’s designs from Art in the Park and paid for by the District Council.

Awning – The Council are proposing applying for funding that is available through Gloucestershire County Council to install an awning for the outside of the Pavilion to the left of the door (if facing the building). This would allow the Council to provide more outdoor activities such as the book swap, when the hall is being used.

FC76/21

To receive any reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Jenny Miles reported that District council is getting going again after the holidays and budget setting is underway. A draft council plan which sets out the District Councils priorities and objectives is going through the committees before being adopted.

Housing committee met on the 14th of September, the option appraisal for the Decarbonisation and energy efficiency of council housing came to committee and it was decided that by 2030 the average energy efficiency across all council stock will be sap c. This will require additional borrowing (over 7 years of £18 million) and annual savings of £0.9m indicative amount. Cllr Miles has been attending the Task and Finish group and it was decided that hard to heat homes were to be done first, taking a fabric first approach. Priority will be given to those homes off the Gas grid with storage heaters, primarily to increase insulation and install heat pumps.

A response to the government White Paper on social housing is being prepared and Cllr Miles reports that she is in favour of the plans.

Cllr Miles also attended a Task and Finish group on voids and repairs, there is back log of homes needing repairs because of covid which will take until early next year to work through.

Cllr Miles attended the cream tea organised by Cainscross Town Council in Victory Park and reported it was lovely to see people meeting up in the sunshine, and sends her thanks to Council staff or organising this.

Cllr Miles has also been to several meetings with the trustees of Cashes Green Community center as they develop their Community Hub, and passes her thanks to all those involved in the craft and Art events over the summer and that it was great to see the young people so engaged.

County Councillor John Bloxson reported that the roadworks at Foxmoor Lane is nearly finished, however there had been problems with access to begin with. Therefore, the work has been slightly delayed.

Cashes Green Road is currently undergoing a traffic survey, that will track the number of cars that use this piece of road over the bridge & the speed that they travel at. There are currently county wide pilot schemes to introduce 20mph speed limits, so this may be an area of interest.

There is an ongoing plan to extend the double yellow lines on the part of road at the entrance to Greenaways, Ebley – County Council are to publish a formal notice.

Highways have a £30k budget for the Cainscross, Rodborough and Randwick – there will be a quarterly spend review of this at the beginning of October, and Cllr Bloxson will be able to allocate remaining funds.

The Market Town & Community Fund bids closed on Sunday, there has been one bid from Stroud Town Council for play equipment and two expressions of interest from Down to Earth, Stroud and Cashes Green Community Centre.

Cllr Bloxson reported that there have been ongoing issues in the area with bus routes and that this is being addressed, he is working with Gloucestershire County Council's Integrated Transport Team and Unite the Union, which represents bus drivers to improve the situation. There will be an online meeting held on Thursday the 21st October at 7pm via zoom. Details of which will be sent to the Assistant Clerk to distribute.

An inspection of Children's services in Gloucestershire is scheduled for October.

District Councillor Katrina Davies reported that she is working to gather information regarding open spaces around Cashes Green Estate and is awaiting information from Bovis Homes about parts of open spaces that is not maintained efficiently. It is hoped that these areas will be acquired and maintained by District Council.

Cllr Davies is also working on safety in the Cainscross areas, for example poor lighting in alleyways, antisocial behaviour and such like. Ideas and suggestions will be collated by her and presented in a meeting with the relevant people in the near future.

District Cllr Jessie Hoskin reported that she had attended a meeting of the Youth Council, and that they have just completed a transport survey.

Youth Consultations have now been concluded at Cashes Green Community Centre.

The Stroud District Council Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy has now been approved.

And finally the work on pavements at Sunny Hill, Cashes Green have now been completed.

FC77/21

To consider the initial draft for the new website & propose any changes for review
The Councillors reviewed the draft version of the website and were happy with the progress, there were not specific requests for improvement and they are happy to let the Assistant Clerk suggest changes to the designers in a meeting scheduled for Friday the 1st of October.

FC78/21

To consider providing baby changing facilities in the pavilion
It was reported that the Council have managed to obtain a baby changing unit from Rush Skate park as part of their shut down sale. The unit cost the Council £50 which has been paid for with part of the community café funding pot. This has saved the Council a good £200 by purchasing second hand.

Finance & Staffing & Policy

FC79/21 To note the Finance, Staffing and Policy report
The minutes from the last Finance, Staffing and Policy meeting were noted.

FC80/21 To consider insurance quotations
The Council were presented with a quote from a broker Came & Co, two other companies were approached and were unable to quote at this time. The annual quotation was considerably higher than the previous year, after due discussion the Councillors decided that the quote would be accepted due to the short time before expiration, however, the Assistant Clerk should approach them again and try to reduce the amount if possible.

FC81/21 To consider and approve the Code of Conduct
The Code of Conduct was considered and approved.

FC82/21 To note the conclusion of the external audit
The conclusion of audit was noted.

Planning, Highways, Amenities and Recreation

FC83/21 To discuss the following planning applications –

- S.21/2063/ADV - Olympic Cars (Stroud) Ltd, The Wharf, Dudbridge Road, Stroud –
The Council approved this application.
- S.21/2107/VAR - 91 Westward Road, Ebley, Stroud - Variation to conditions 3
(access), 4 (parking & turning), 5 (cycle parking / storage), 10 (approved plans) from the application S.17/0008/VAR. – The Council approved this application.

FC84/21 To note any planning decisions
The planning decisions were noted.

FC85/21 To further consider taking over the Lower Church Road car park
After due discussion the Council approved the decision to take on the ownership of Lower Church Car Park with a Dowry of £5000 from Stroud District Council.

FC86/21 To discuss a memorial plaque at the QEII Field and Victory Park
The council agreed to approve a plaque at the QEII Field and Victory Park in memory of North Vernon-White and to acknowledge the families large donation to the bike track project in Victory Park.

FC87/21 To consider an offer of two English Oak Trees from The Honorable Company of Gloucestershire to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee
After due discussion it was agreed that it would be sensible to accept the offer of the two oak tree's, one tree was suggested to be placed at Hamwell Leaze to replace a tree that had been destroyed in bad weather previously. The other tree was suggested to be placed in Victory Park near the top entrance, where one of the trees needs removing due to disease.

FC88/21 To further consider a Climate Action Group
It was agreed that the previous attempt to form a climate action group was unsuccessful and that The Town Council was unable to manage a group that may need a large amount of support. Alternatively, it was agreed that the Town Council will move forward with it's own initiatives and ways to improve our green footprint, for example, re-wilding projects, recycling, growing produce for

community events, and joining forces with existing groups such as Wild Stroud, Stroud Nature, and Down to Earth, also providing local residents with resources and ideas to get involved and do their own part.

- FC89/21** To consider forming a Working Party to re-write the Parish Plan
After due discussion and a brief review of the current parish plan that was completed some time ago, it was agreed to hold an informal meeting to discuss what work is needed and how to go about re-writing the plan. After this meeting the councillors agree to look into forming a working party to carry out this large project.
- FC90/21** To consider DBS and Food Hygiene qualifications for staff
The staff reported that they are more frequently coming across situations when they are in contact with the youth of the area, with more community hub events happening and plans to move forward with youth initiatives. Also considering the community café it is important that staff are covered when handling food for the general public. The councillors approved obtaining DBS & food hygiene certificates for relevant staff members.
- FC91/21** To consider quotations for maintenance of CCTV / Fire and Burglar alarms
Three quotations were presented to council, the council approved a quote with Stroud alarms on the Clerks recommendation. The company are local, cost effective and offer all of the services that we need. It was also agreed to move the position of one of the cctv cameras at the rear of the main Pavilion.
- FC92/21** To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of the Full Council
The date of the next Full Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 25th October.

The meeting concluded at 19:29

Signed

Dated

Actions

FC77/21	To meet with Cloudy IT and review draft & suggest edits	Assistant Clerk
FC78/21	To collect Baby Changing wall unit & fit	Clerk/Groundsman
FC80/21	To approach Came & Co to squeeze premium & confirm before October 1 st .	Assistant Clerk
FC83/21	To send in planning comments	Assistant Clerk
FC85/21	To confirm agreement with SDC	Clerk
FC86/21	To organise with family of North & order plaque	Project Officer
FC87/21	To accept offer and decide placement	Clerk
FC88/21	Ongoing Projects	Project Officer
FC89/21	To initiate a meeting between Councillors to discuss Parish Plan	Clerk/Assistant Clerk
FC90/21	To obtain info re food hygiene courses	Project Officer
FC90/21	To obtain DBS applications for relevant staff members	Clerk
FC91/21	To accept quote from Stroud Alarms and book work	Clerk