

Minutes of the **Town Meeting** held on Tuesday 20 May 2025, commencing at 6.00pm at The Pavilion in The Park, Victory Park.

PRESENT:

Cainscross Town Council: Councillors

A Cross - Chair
D Balster- Vice Chair
J Booker
D Dale
C Fewster
G Lindsay
L Stinchcombe

Community Groups:

Louise Little- Randwick Scouts
Tamsin - Stroud Valleys Project
Yasmin Darling- Neuroverse Community Science Club
Karolina Edwards - PCSO

In Attendance:

Clerk
Assistant Clerk

Also in attendance:

Cllr Craig Horrocks
Cllr Elizabeth Stanley

Apologies:

Cashes Green FC

- TM1/25** To confirm and sign the minutes of the last Parish Meeting
The minutes of the last Parish meeting on 29th April 2024 were confirmed as accurate and approved for signing.
- TM2/25** To receive the Annual Report of the Town Council
An annual report was read by the Chairman. (See appendix A)
- TM3/25** To receive the Council's observations on its budget for the current year
Observations were received with no concerns and noted.
- TM4/25** To receive the District Councillors' reports
A report from Elizabeth Stanley circulated to all attendees. (Please see appendix B)
- TM5/25** To receive the County Councillors' reports
County Cllr Craig Horrocks circulated a report prior to the meeting; all attendees received a copy. (Please see appendix C)
- TM6/25** To receive reports from community organisations
Reports were given by several representatives of local community organisations – a comprehensive report was given by Yasmin Darling of The Neuroverse Hub which holds a weekly group in the Pavilion Hall.
Dan of Cashes Green YFC provided a written report (see appendix D).
Tamsin of Stroud Valleys Project presented a report (see appendix E).
Louise Little of Randwick Scouts gave a brief report of the Scout Groups progress over the year, she highlighted that the focus for the coming year will be on recruiting new volunteers to help run the groups.
PCSO Karolina Edwards reported on the levels of crime in the area.

TM7/25 To consider any resolutions of which written notice has been given
None given.

TM8/25 To consider any items raised by members of the public
The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed

Dated

Appendix A

Cainscross Town Council – Chairman's Report

Annual Town Meeting – 20th May 2025

Good evening,

Welcome, and thank you for joining us at this year's Annual Town Meeting.

As Chairman of Cainscross Town Council, I'm pleased to present this report summarising our work over the past year, our achievements, and our plans moving forward.

As many of you will know, one of our most significant accomplishments this year has been the renovation of the bike ramps in Victory Park, this project has greatly improved the usability of an already much-loved and long-standing facility that's used by young people in our community. We've received excellent feedback so far from a wide range of people, it stands as a great example of investment in facilities for our youth, but also to promote active, healthy lifestyles in our community.

We continue to consider biodiversity throughout our open spaces, this year, having planted a mixture of trees in Victory Park and considering the next steps for Hamwell Leaze, alongside Stroud Valleys Project. The pollinator patches and wildlife hedges planted at Elm Road playing field continue to thrive.

Our community hall is thriving with groups, organisations and private hirers filling the diary on a regular basis. The income from this means it is self-sustaining and therefore, recently had a new paint job to keep it looking fresh. Plans to replace the flooring in the Pavilion lobby are in the pipeline.

As many of you already know we run a successful community lunch once a month in the Pavilion Hall – the jacket potatoes have been so popular, that this is now the only thing served (along with an array of toppings and sides), in addition we serve a Cream Tea in the summer and a finger buffet and Christmas which are always well attended.

This year we ran two fantastic community events that brought our community together:

- In June last year, the Summer Event was a great success, offering activities for all ages, a community market for local makers and creators, and a real sense of fun. We hope this year will be just as much of a success – please join us on Sunday the 29th of June in Victory Park.
- In December, our Christmas celebration was once again a highlight, made extra special by a visit from Father Christmas — an event that continues to bring joy to children and families and we hope for this to continue.

These events are made possible through the efforts of many, so I'd like to thank everyone involved in planning, volunteering, and participating – particularly the staff who work hard in the background.

Looking Ahead: Projects for 2025–26

As we plan for the coming year, the Council remains committed to making improvements across the parish. Some key initiatives on the horizon:

- Renovations to Elm Road Play Area and Ashway Court Play Area - enhancing safety, inclusivity, and enjoyment for local families.
- Installation of solar panels on the Rugby Pavilion - reflecting our commitment to sustainability and reducing energy costs.
- Hosting the Play Rangers during the school holidays in Victory Park, providing children with free, safe, and engaging outdoor play experiences.

Thanks, and Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Council staff for their hard work, professionalism, and dedication throughout the year. Their efforts ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the Council and the successful delivery of our services and projects.

I also thank my fellow councillors for their continued support, collaboration, and commitment to our community.

Cainscross continues to grow as a welcoming, and active community. Through our shared efforts, we have made meaningful progress over the year — and we remain firmly focused on the year ahead.

Thank you once again for your support, your participation, and your belief in our shared community.

Warm regards,

Cllr Adrian Cross

Chairman

Cainscross Town Council

Appendix B

Report to Cainscross Town Council, May 2025

For this month's report I thought I would do something a little bit different and focus on a theme: waste and waste disposal.

You will be aware that there is now a doorstep battery collection (in clear plastic bags on top of food bins). This has proved popular, and it's anticipated that there will be small electricals collected in a similar way later this year. So that's really good news for those who would struggle to get up to B & Q with their defunct kettle, toaster or whatever.

But here's the thing: despite progress with recycling, we're still throwing away more than we used to. And when I say “we” I mean Stroud District, not the whole country. We throw away more than we recycle (calculating by weight), and whilst we can all understand why “residual waste”, as it's called, increased during lockdown, it's not clear why it didn't go back down again afterwards.

My personal theory is that it's down to the increase in people buying ultra-cheap goods online and then throwing them away soon afterwards, as “ultra-cheap” tends to mean “very poor quality”. Disposable clothing seems to have become a trend.

Now this affects all of us because everything we throw away, we pay for. Good quality textiles – pure cotton, pure wool - can be recycled. Low grade textiles just have to be dumped or burned.

Because the County Council is responsible for waste disposal, they actually give us (Stroud District Council) cash incentives if we throw less stuff away. We also get recycling rebates. So, less stuff in your black bin = more money for local services.

Garden waste collection will continue to be a paid-for service for the foreseeable future – again this all-costs money to dispose of, so reducing garden waste with composting schemes is worth doing, and composting vegetable waste is better than putting it in your food bin.

I'm sure all the Town Councillors know this stuff already, but I wonder if anyone has any creative ideas for getting the message out there to the general public?

District Councillor - Elizabeth Stanley

Appendix C

County Council update for Cainscross

Do contact me at any time on:

Craig.horrocks@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel 07763 138208

And please report any Highways defects via highwayscouncillors@gloucestershire.gov.uk (for town councillors & clerk use only) – feel free to copy me in if you'd like to – or via the Fix My Street app or <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

Local election results for Gloucestershire County Council (now in NO OVERALL CONTROL):



Political Group	No. of councillors
Liberal Democrats	27
Reform	11
Green	9
Conservative	6
Labour	1
Independent	1
Total	55

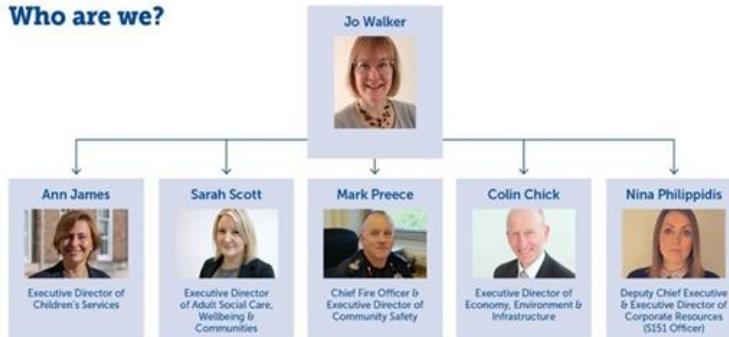
Results within Stroud District:

Stroud district summary

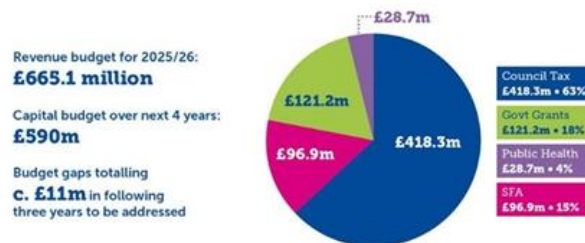
Party	Seats	+/-	Votes	%	+/-
Green	6	▲ 5	12,152	31.1	+10.4
Reform UK	2	▲ 2	8,785	22.5	N/A
Labour	1	▼ 3	6,878	17.6	-10.8
Conservative	1	▼ 3	6,570	16.8	-24.3
Liberal Democrats	1	—	3,727	9.5	+1.5
Independent	0	—	927	2.4	+1.5
TUSC	0	—	58	0.1	±0.0
Socialist (GB)	0	—	25	0.1	N/A
Total	11	▲ 1	39,122		

New officer leadership team at GCC (from Chief Executive down):

Who are we?

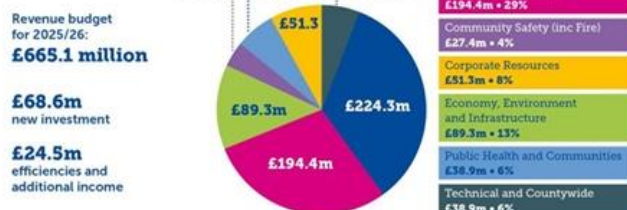


GCC income for this financial year:



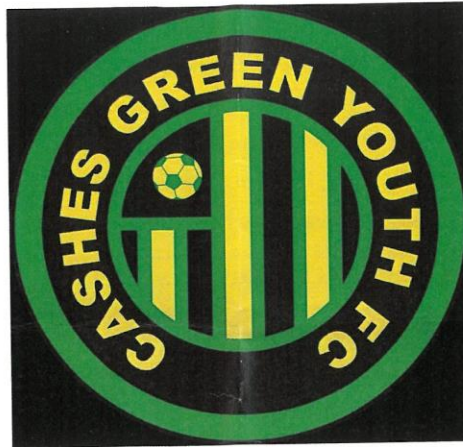
GCC spend this financial year:

Spend by directorate - 2025/26



Other GCC News:

- Cashes Green and Foxmoor schools part of a 6-school County pilot Road Safety scheme, including review of parking arrangements
- Made Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) was published in "The Stroud News and Journal" on Wednesday 7th May 2025, formally recognising the footpath from Queens Rd to Mill Farm Drive in Paganhill
- Residents are being invited to have their say on Gloucestershire's strategy to tackle domestic abuse 2025/28 (survey open until 16th June)
<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/we-want-your-views-on-domestic-abuse>
- GCC's Climate Action Fund has reopened, until 6pm 9th June, for applications from £2k to £4,999 <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/greener-gloucestershire-dashboard/greener-gloucestershire-community-fund/who-can-apply/>



CASHES GREEN YOUTH REPORT 24/25

Hi, I'm Dan and nice to meet everyone. I have recently become chair and secretary of Cashes Green Youth FC.

We have used Elm road playing field with 2 boys sides playing on the 7 aside pitch up in the corner. Throughout the season it was a struggle for 1 of the sides to have enough players. We managed to get to the end of the season which was the end of January and then merged the 2 teams together. I coach this team and it has been a success, the boys are enjoying it again now, results have started to improve and we are currently unbeaten in 4 games. Most of our games since the merge have been away as we have been playing 9aside to get ready for next season. This boys team will be moving to Foxmoor School to play 9 aside next season. The pitch up at elm road has been brilliant, not once have we had an issue, always cut and marked out well and from playing up there we have had interest from some locals and their kids have been along to training the last month or so.

Our u13 girls team have played down at Victory Park this season, they have had an amazing season finishing 3rd in their league. At the start of the season Garys team and my own u12s girls team were broken up so it left Gary and Myself short. Gary has worked extremely hard having them training when other clubs were having a break and the reward is the group togetherness they now have. Just watching them play you can see they all enjoy it, they all work for each other as a team but they all work and respect Gary.

Gary has enjoyed playing at victory park, I quote, "I have found the pitch first class, the facilities are the best in the league". He has had great communication with the parish council (Jenny and Emily have been a great help) Even the gents who empty the bins helped him after he accidentally set off an alarm. The only problem encountered is loose dogs chasing the footballs and the occasional lazy owners not picking up after their dog.

Next season Gary and his team will be staying at victory park and they will be joined by my girls side as we move up to 11aside football.

WE as a club look forward to using these excellent facilities offered to us by the parish and we hope to keep the community spirit going and thrive in the new upcoming season. I am looking forward to meeting many more of you in the upcoming months.

Regards,

Dan

Cashes Green Youth

Stroud Valleys Project

We are proud to be working with Cainscross Town Council on a few projects around the Parish

Update of Conservation Work at Queen Elizabeth II Field

Since September 2016, Stroud Valleys Project has been working with Cainscross Parish Council to improve Queen Elizabeth II Field (QE2) for both people and wildlife. The work has mainly been carried out by local people and our volunteers.

Last year we planted more wildflowers on the ramp bank, this time using biodegradable mats to keep the grass and nettles down. When we visited in the spring, they seemed to have really helped. However, the wet summer meant that the more vigorous grasses, bindweed and nettles had a head start, so it was a poor flowering year. We came back and tried to free up any wildflowers we could find!



Everything grew like crazy around the pond, too and we spent time making sure that the path and bramble hedge were kept well cut back. However, the poor summer meant that we had fewer wildflowers in previous years.



This spring, the warmer weather has meant that some of the species we had previously have returned, including Ragged Robin.



Graeme Davis, an ecologist who lives in Cainscross, who spotted the ragged robin, also spotted his first grass snake at the pond

Elm Road Field

The living willow bower we planted in 2023 has been maintained by willow worker, Norah Kennedy, and has been well looked after by Paul, the senior grounds person.

We held a community planting day there in May last year to plant up the pollinator patches that we'd created earlier.



The patches were a real success, providing colour and pollen until the first frost of the winter in November.



We returned in April this year to cut back any dead seedheads from last year. Many of the plants had survived but we topped them up by sowing a few more. So hopefully this summer we'll get another good display.



Wildlife workshops

We ran some more wildlife workshops at the Pavilion. In October, Chloe Cox from Wild Stroud, ran a pond workshop for us and we ran the ever popular willow bird feeder making workshop with Norah in November.

