



**Minutes of the Ansford Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm, in Caryford Community Hall**

Councillors: Cllr B Williams, Cllr P Clark, Cllr C Edwards, Cllr F Houlton, Cllr D Henderson, Cllr D Pinnions
Parish Clerk: R.Coombes
County Councillors: Cllr K Messenger, Cllr H Hobhouse
Parishioners: 2 members of the public were present
CCTC: Judi Morrison, Lisa Davis

- 130/2023 Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllr R Leary
- 131/2023 Declarations of Interest**
None.
- 132/2023 To Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2023**
These had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed and agreed that these minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 133/2023 Matters arising from the Minutes.**
None.
- 134/2023 Members of the Public**
Cary Cares
A request for a donation towards the running costs of Cary Cares had been received prior to the meeting. Cary Cares has been running for 2.5 years and provide food for 120 households in hardship across Ansford and Castle Cary, there have been 2000 visits since April 2023 and visits are increasing. Cary Cares fundraise to be able to supply this service.
After information regarding Cary Cares was presented to the council, it was decided the Councillors would like to complete more research and propose a donation at the next meeting.
- Newsletter*
Representatives from Castle Cary Town Council (CCTC) discussed the future of the newsletter that is currently circulated in both parishes. While CCTC wishes to maintain current expenditure, Ansford Parish Council (APC) supports reducing costs and the environmental impact by primarily moving the newsletter online, with limited hard copies available at specific locations. This decision aligns with a previous APC meeting consensus, despite differing opinions, and CCTC is expected to present a proposal for a new format to APC for further consideration. APC agreed to support the next newsletter in the existing arrangement only.
- Maintenance of the Churchyard*
The church has previously requested a grant to help towards the clearance of the churchyard. Councilor's previously agreed to contribute to specific work on removing the lower branches of hedges that border footpaths. This will allow the church to be able to trim in between as the growing season starts and

keep footpaths clear from overgrowing brambles. It was decided 3 quotes would be obtained for the work to be completed. A formal response and specification of the quoted work is required from the council, representatives of the Church will get the required quotes.

135/2023

Unitary Councillor and Police Reports

Cllr Hobhouse reported on the budget for Somerset Council, so far there are 297 pages of proposed cuts, no decisions will be made until 15th February. There is a public consultation on the budget on 22nd January and CCTC are running open days on Saturday 13th & 20th about the consultation. There are proposed cuts to the budget that will directly affect Ansford & Castle Cary, though they have not been made publicly available at the time of the meeting.

It was reported there will be a reduction in the S106 payment due from the Wayside Farm development. Confirmation of the reduction or how much has not yet been received but this will impact the Councils finances.

Police Reports

The latest statistics from the police were read out. Councillors reported there had been problems with Anti-social behaviour over Christmas in the Toybox car park and surrounding area. The Police are trying to provide more of a presence to reduce the anti anti-social driving, however they would like to remind parishioners that traffic resources are deployed based on the number of reports received. APC would like to take this opportunity to remind people to report any problem they come across via the police website.

137/2023

Caryford Hall

Cllr Williams reported that the extension is progressing, and the roof will be fitted on Friday. There will be new charges for hire which will be confirmed shortly and Caryford Hall Committee hope to have everything completed by 1st June. There will be a new information leaflet produced to explain how to use the new facilities.

Caryford Hall Committee would like to have a page on the APC website; Councillors approved this request and have offered 2 hours of the Clerks time to assist with creating a new website page and help with Hallmaster.

139/2023

Footpaths and Highways

CCA28 Traffic Working Group Update

On the 18th December, members of the Traffic Working Group walked the pathway from the station to Castle Cary to see where the signage could be replaced or updated which would clarify where the route was from the station to town.

20pmh speed limit

More information and feedback has been requested from the Highways department. A quote of £8,000 has been received but there are concerns over the placement of the signs. The Highways department need to know by the end of January as to whether or not APC & CCTC wish to implement a 20mph zone.

Service 1 Bus Route

There are proposed cuts to the Service 1 Bus Route. The council are concerned regarding the impacts of these cuts relating to children getting to Sexeys/Strode/Yeovil College, and people without their own transport not being able to access Yeovil/Street/surrounding villages easily. The Council are aware they may be asked for financial support. Further discussions are being had around the service to ensure it is sustainable.

140/2023

Finance

The financial report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed that this be signed. Resolved (5.0.0)

Online & cheque payments:

R Coombes – Clerk Salary

Lighthouse Payroll Processing - £13.00

Caryford Hall Hire - £39.38

C Edwards – Plants for station - £12.00

J Camm – Design Fee - £500.00

Royal British Legion – Wreath contribution - £75.00

It was proposed and agreed that these payments be made (5.0.0)

Further financial discussions:

Donation towards Cary Cares – It was decided to re-visit this donation at the next meeting.

141/2023

Budget

The budget has been approved; a statement will be added to the website. A precept request of £50,730.00 was confirmed.

142/2023

Parishioner Contact

The clerk reported there had been one occasion of contact received via CCTC about the bus shelter at the station. This was rectified imminently by the station staff who repositioned a clip on the frame.

Ansford Parish Council would like to remind parishioners that they can contact the council via the website.

143/2023

Any Other Correspondence

Information had been received by one of the Councillors that a proposal to build 24 houses on the nursery site is going to be logged as a planning application. No confirmed information had been received at this time via Somerset Council, APC will discuss the matter when the application is received formally.

144/2023

Any Other Business

Cllr Edwards noted that the website 1.network which shows road closures, shows the wrong part of Wyke Road closed. Cllr Edwards agreed to contact the company and correct the information.

It was reported that the condition of the pavement on station road is deteriorating as the footpath width is reduced due to overgrown hedges. It was agreed the Council will forward the information on to Highways and establish who is responsible for maintenance to ensure the pavement remains usable.

Concerns were raised over the carpark at Caryford Hall and whether the CCTV specifications were sufficient. Cllr Williams will report back at the next meeting.

SID – The laptop will be passed to Cllr Clark to enable the set up of the software to run the SID device.

Cllr Houlton raised the issue that the Ansford Church sign has been removed. Cllr Edwards - a new one is being made by the sign people.

Ansford Parish Council would like to encourage parishioners to complete the Police and Crime Commissioners Survey which can be found here.

The meeting ended at 20:36.

Next Parish Council Meeting to be held on 14th February 2023, at Caryford Hall 7pm.

Signed..... Date.....