



**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT CARYFORD HALL AT 6:30PM ON 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025**

Present : Cllrs Henderson (Chair), Houlton, Edwards, Leary, Parker and Pinnions

In attendance: Cllr Kevin Messenger (Somerset Council) and 4 members of the public.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllr Hobhouse (Somerset Council).
- 2. Declarations of interests.**  
Cllr Pinnions declared a discloseable pecuniary interest in Item 10.
- 3. To consider whether any items should be considered “in camera”.**  
It was unanimously agreed to hold item 10 in closed session (legal advice).
- 4. To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**  
The minutes were unanimously approved as a correct record of the meeting.
- 5. To receive reports from Unitary Councillors and Police, if any.**  
Cllr Messenger has spoken with the local police team and asked them to attend parish council meetings or send regular reports.  
The financial situation at Somerset Council has improved slightly this year.  
A meeting had been arranged to discuss the sinkhole and hedgerows on Station Road.
- 6. Planning**  
There were no planning applications or determinations received.
- 7. Items for decision or requiring further action:**
  - 7.1 To consider co-opting a new councillor.**  
It was hoped that a candidate would come forward for consideration at the next meeting.
  - 7.2 Fairfield**  
Cllr Parker updated members – no further progress has been made on agreeing terms of reference, although APC remain committed to moving this forward. It was agreed that Cllr Parker would resend her previous email to CCTC.
  - 7.3 SID**  
Cllr Houlton provided an update – there are some issues with downloading the data from the current SID and it is hoped this can be resolved by the manufacturer. Further quotes are being sought for a second device for the next meeting of council. The clerk will chase SLR re the replacement posts.

**7.4 Grants** – to consider an application from Caryford Hall Pantomime.  
Members gave detailed consideration to the application and were supportive in principle but felt that further information was needed on why only one performance was being proposed before a decision could be made by APC.

**7.5 To consider September dates for the next joint meeting with CCTC.**

It was unanimously agreed to defer this to the next meeting, with a view to holding a joint meeting in October.

**7.6 To consider a request for a memorial seat near St Andrews Church.**

Members were both supportive and appreciative of the idea. As the land in question was not owned by APC, it was unanimously agreed to support the project in principle with the proviso that the family supplying the bench will be responsible for obtaining any necessary consents.

**7.7 To consider rejoining the Somerset Association of Local Councils.**

Members unanimously agreed to rejoin the association but it was noted that APC should appoint representatives to attend SALC meeting and events at the September council meeting.

**7.8 To receive a report on the “Good Neighbour” scheme.**

Cllr Leary had attended the meeting on behalf of APC. There was little to report as Cary Cares were not in attendance and it was felt that their input was essential to prevent possible duplication. The group hoped to meet again in August and Cllr Leary would attend. Cllr Leary also mentioned that data had been circulated on CAT Bus usage, with 1096 users in Castle Cary and 134 in Ansford.

**7.9 To agree any actions relating to tree planting at Fairfield.**

Members noted that no further activity has taken place since the Spring. The Clerk was asked to contact CCTC for an update on the current position and future plans for tree planting.

**7.10 To consider providing defibrillator training.**

Cllr Parker has contacted a potential trainer who would be willing to provide training for a charitable donation. It was agreed that the council would be to support two sessions with dates to be considered at the next meeting. It was also suggested that Caryford Hall should be approached re locating the Defibrillator so that it could be accessed from outside the hall.

**7.11 To consider how to respond to Somerset Council’s Local Transport Plan consultation.**

Cllr Leary agreed to review the plan and report back to the next meeting.

**7.12 To consider quotations for cleaning the war memorial.**

The matter will need to be considered at a later meeting as the works may require planning consent; the clerk to investigate.

**7.13 To consider repairs to the grit bin at Tucker’s Lane.**

There was no need for action as a resident had kindly removed the graffiti.

## **8. Items for report only**

### **8.1. Footpaths and highways (Cllr Edwards)**

The farmer who has cut the hedgerows has kindly done so on a voluntary basis. There is still an ongoing issue with a blocked footpath in Clanville and it is hoped to speak with the property owner. A spreadsheet detailing all rights of way is now on the website, together with a maintenance schedule; Cllr Edwards was thanked for his hard work on this.

### **8.2. LCN (Cllr Edwards)**

The notes of the April meeting have finally been circulated and the LCN AGM is to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> July at Queen Camel Village Hall.

### **8.3. A371 (Cllr Houlton)**

Cllr Houlton is continuing to liaise with Somerset Highways on potential traffic calming measures and a possible village gateway for Clanville. Liaison with other parishes re the A371 is positive, with much support for reducing the speed limit to 40 mph where it is still 60. To achieve this, a sound evidence base would be required together with the local support of residents and divisional members. Parish councils would also need to consider whether to pay for the associated costs. Cllr Messenger was supportive of this idea.

### **8.4. Fairfield (Cllr Parker and Working Group)**

There was nothing further to report.

### **8.5. Maggs Lane (Cllr Henderson)**

The chair reported that Charlie Field has now left Somerset Council and Matthew Driver will now be the officer managing the land transfer. There is a covenant in place restricting the use of the land to recreational use only. There is currently a storage container on site and investigations are ongoing to ascertain who gave consent for this.

### **8.6. Parishioner contact (Clerk and Cllrs)**

It was agreed to give further consideration to the issue of installing a handrail at the church. Cllr Houlton will contact Tracey Harris to ascertain whether Highways are supportive of the idea.

## **9. Finance**

### **9.1 To consider recommendations from the internal audit and agree any actions.**

Members considered the recommendations in the revised report and delegated their implementation to the Clerk and RFO, as appropriate.

### **9.2 To approve the schedule of payments.**

It was unanimously agreed to approve the schedule of payments. A payment of £100 for literacy resources to Ansford Academy was also approved.

### **9.3 To note the financial reports.**

Members noted the financial reports for the month and approved the CIL return for Somerset Council.

At this point, the public and Cllr Pinnions left the meeting.

#### **10 Update on Legal Advice**

Members received an update and unanimously resolved to send a further letter to Somerset Council, as drafted by APC's solicitor.