



## CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

#### Present

Cllr C Williams – Chair

Cllr S Cooper Caine – Vice Chair.

Cllr P Hall

Cllr L McVey

Cllr M Patrick

T. Whyborn (Clerk)

Seven residents

#### 1. Annual Report from Parish Council Chairman – Cllr C Williams

Chairman's Report to the Castle Eaton Parish Council AGM

My first year has fortunately been without apparent controversy. I wish to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and of course our Parish Clerk, Teresa, without whose guidance I would probably have made more mistakes.

Our focus this year has been, and still is,

Traffic and Parking,

The Anaerobic Digester Expansion,

The CBF,

Graffiti

The Precept.

Cllr Phil Hall will update the meeting on our progress since the traffic survey that was conducted by the previous Council.

When I accepted the Parish Council Chairman's role, I was already Chair of the Castle Eaton Digester Working Group. I have reported to Council Meetings the status of the AD application as the DWG understands it. The PC meeting Minutes thus record this status.

The CBF will be reported in detail by its Chair. Recommendations for expenditure from the fund are made to the Council by the CBF Members and then approved by Councillors.

There have been multiple incidences of graffiti both in and around the village. This anti-social behaviour is both annoying and unnecessary and despoils the village. We do not know who the culprits are. I ask all residents to inform any of the Councillors or the Police if they spot anyone defacing any village amenity and/or signage.

The Precept, effectively the village budget, has been kept within 6.5% of the previous year. This funds, for example, a subsidy to the village hall, the opening of the Post Office on Thursday mornings, grass cutting of the playing field and remunerating our Parish Clerk.

Finally, I would like to thank all residents for their efforts, conscious or subconscious, that make Castle Eaton such a lovely place to live in.

## **2. Reports From Parish Groups**

### **a. VILLAGE HALL CHAIRMANS REPORT**

**2022-2023**

The village hall trustees would again like to thank the Parish Council for the ongoing Maintenance Grant and for the Post Office rental.

We have kept the maintenance grant request, consistent for 3 years, against an already agreed increasing funding plan. This, to avoid putting an increased burden on the parishioners through an increased precept at this difficult time. This will need to be reviewed again soon, to ensure that we can maintain this facility.

The maintenance grant has been put to good use maintaining the high standard of cleanliness of the building, plus wine glasses and tumblers replaced and lobby carpet.

Plus whom can fail to notice the improvement in the seating which was 50% funded from the village benefit fund.

Future projects have been identified including the rebuilding of the dry-stone wall at the front of the building. All this is on top of the regular maintenance and utilities charges, related to the upkeep and use of a Public Building.

In addition, there will be additional responsibility for the Community Cinema, more on that later.

We are also very grateful to the Coffee Morning group who support the hall with their use of the hall on a Thursday and their ongoing donations to the hall.

Bookings are steady and new hirers are appearing from within the parish, helping to boost our income.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Trustees for their ongoing support to the village hall and their support to the officers of the village hall.

This year saw Tony Trinder retire from the Trustees. Tony has been a great support as and when required since retiring and has a wealth of knowledge about the hall, being instrumental in the funding, and building of the hall. Also, a thank you too to the environmental group and others who often keep an eye on the appearance of the exterior of the hall, with planters and weeding as required.

I would also like to announce that 2023 will be our departure year from the village. Pauline & I will need to resign as a village hall Trustees, me as Chairman, Treasurer Admin clerk and general dogs' body.

I would like to request that you all form and orderly queue to volunteer your interest , to replace us and take over these responsibilities.

Thank you.

David Price Chairman / Treasurer

#### **b. Ladies club**

Once again, the last 18 months have seen a very varied programme of events for the Ladies club and mostly uninterrupted by Covid.

Our year runs from January to January so I will give a quick overview of these events for the past 18 months.

Covid did strike again in January 2022 and prevented us from having our AGM. Not to be deterred we held it in February with what has now become our tradition of cream tea and prosecco. We have really benefitted from a lot of new members over the past couple of years. Some long-standing members have left for a variety of reasons and now we have an injection of new blood which keeps us and our annual programme of events interesting and vibrant.

So, during 2022 we have been to the theatre for the Menopause show, had a talk about internet fraud from Wiltshire Fraud Protection team. We have visited the sculpture park and had a talk on ancient woodland. We've enjoyed our annual garden party when we all bring food and drinks to share. Hosted by Sue Sainsbury in her lovely garden. We had our first art tutorial with water colours which we hope to repeat this September. There was a talk from a volunteer with the National trust and Christmas decoration making along with bath bombs. Not to forget the Christmas meal hosted by the Red Lion.

2023 kicked off with our AGM and of course the cream tea and Prosecco. This year saw a few resignations of people who have been committee members for many years and who now feel they need a break. They are remaining as members. We thank them for their commitment to the club.

Fortunately, several of our wonderful new members have been brave enough to volunteer themselves for the committee including undertaking the role of treasurer. We thank them for taking up the challenge.

We have made cards from paper serviettes. Yes, that is a thing, and it works brilliantly. We had a talk on keeping our feet in tip top condition and a workshop with Lesley from Cricklade glass. All of us produced a wonderful, personalised glass offering to take home.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May saw 18 of us, not all Ladies, as there were one or two honorary male Ladies club members, all travel by coach to the Houses of Parliament. This had been a long time in the planning



as covid interrupted the trip previously. Justin Tomlinson's aide helped to organise the day and it was an interesting and enjoyable visit.

Garden party and a trip to Poulton vineyard are next on the agenda before we learn to Jive in August. We will definitely need this to get rid of excess weight after all the eating and drinking.

Sadly, I will need to resign as chair in the near future. I am confident that a new chair will emerge very soon, and the club will greatly benefit from a new person at the helm. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as both a member and as chair and wish the club every success for the future.

#### **c. VCC Annual Report**

The Barn Dance held on the 2nd of July raised a total of £1444.54.

Carol singing, raised £370 in December for the Air Ambulance.

Village Fete May 20th, 2023 raised £1223 which is approx. £50 down on 2022.

Money from the Fete shared among the Village Groups

Payments of cheque's 505 (Cinema Club Refreshments) and 506 (Community First Insurance renewal).

Payment of £322.70 contribution from the VCC for the Fireworks November 2022 at the Red Lion.

This to be reviewed and discussed with Mark Stone closer to November 2023.

Signed cover letter and cheque for £2212.56 which transfers out all of the rural cinema club funds from VCC to CE Village Hall dropped around to David Price.

£1922.91 in the current account.

£12971.05 in national savings

Application for funding put into the CBF for £ 15,479.50+VAT (£18575.40 gross) for the Village Playground refurb.

VCC proposed to contribute £4000 to the cost.

#### **d. Castle Eaton Cinema club**

We have had a good run of films since February 2022 uninterrupted by Covid.

Our first screening of the year was in February 2022 with Off the Rails, and it was very well supported. In fact the best supported film for the year substantially increasing our capital.

Since the start of the Cinema club, we have tended to increased our capital with few losses. However, since September of 2022 we have started to see a decline in attendance. This coupled with increased costs for the licence has resulted in a loss for each film thereby affecting our capital.

We are ever hopeful that this situation will improve.

We do still have a healthy amount remaining from our initial grant however we are also aware how easily this can disappear without the support of the village. We want to take this opportunity to thank



those who do support the club especially those who have pretty much attended every film since the conception of the Castle Eaton Cinema club.

We have striven to provide a varied and exciting range of films and genre, maybe sometimes challenging, to attempt to appeal to a wide audience. We have endeavoured not to become too middle ground in our selection otherwise all the films become too samey.

We always welcome suggestions for future films to keep things fresh and interesting and hope to screen one such suggestion for our September screening.

Our May's film will be shown on 31<sup>st</sup> May and is Last night in Soho.

This year has seen the loss of our treasurer, Louise. She will be sorely missed for her valuable accounting and her input to the committee.

We had been thinking for some time that the Cinema club would be better housed under the umbrella of the Village Hall committee rather than the VCC. The VH already provide the music licence, the TV, the new chairs, much more comfortable for prolonged periods of sitting, and the venue. With the resignation of Louise, we decide that this was the right moment to approach the VH which we did at their AGM. Our application was approved and supported by the VCC. We are currently in the process of moving our accounts from VCC.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the VCC for enabling us to make use of their bank account and hold our accounts alongside their own since the beginning of the Cinema club.

#### **e. Environmental Group**

The Environmental Group purchased a Cherry Blossom Tree to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee and also to mark our winning the Best Kept Village Competition in 2021. We planted it in November last year, just inside the gate to the Red Lion Garden. It has taken well and was in blossom this Spring. We decided not to enter the competition last year or this year, as other village activities are now back up and running.

However, during the past year, members of the group have organised a village tidy-up, enhanced the Airmen Memorial on the Church Path, tidied up around the village hall and have continued to plant and maintain the tubs around the village. The village has suffered from mindless graffiti, usually during school holidays, which people have been very quick to highlight and clean up, so a big thank you to those of you who did that. Our village Community Police Officer was going to try to arrange extra police drive-throughs to try to deter the graffiti artists, so it is important to report any graffiti incidents to her.

Fly tipping in the laybys outside the village is promptly reported to, and cleared up by, the Council and we will continue to do litter picks around the village as needed. If anyone spots an area in the village that needs tidying up, please do let someone in the group know. Finally, we would like to thank all villagers for their help in keeping the village looking good - every little bit helps.

#### **f. Community Benefit Fund**

##### **Chairman's Report**

**22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023**

Mr Chairman and Councillors

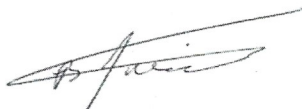
Sadly, I have still not made any effort to market the fund around the village for any new ideas, from the new families coming to live in the village. However, the team has reviewed several applications and approved the following:



1. In December 2022 the team reviewed an application for a new Large Screen TV for the Village Hall, and this was approved and supported.
2. In February 2023 the team reviewed an application for a street party to celebrate the late Queens Jubilee. This was approved and supported.
3. In June 2023 we reviewed an application from Marcus Koo for the repair to the two water fountains in the village and this too was approved and supported.
4. The team is currently reviewing an application from the VCC for the repair and renewal of items for the children's play area.

It is the team's intention to market the fund this year in the hope that new ideas will be forward by people from the village.

Yours sincerely



Barry Wicks  
Chairman of the group.

#### g. Garden Club

Annual Report of the Castle Eaton Gardening Club  
20 May 2023 – prepared by Ruth Wilkins

##### Executive Summary

The club is going strong after 38 years.

Committee members are thin on the ground making all the activities challenge to manage.

Speaker fees have risen significantly.

Fundraising activities have increased to cover costs of speakers.

Accounts are healthy leaving us £2,478.50 current balance.

##### The Report

The Castle Eaton Gardening Club has now been going 38 years.

**Membership:** 32 members

**Committee:** With the lack of active members now on the committee, most roles have fallen to Ruth Wilkins, with support from Dawn Saunders and Les Wilkins, to ensure we keep the club going.

- Ruth Wilkins – Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Club Activity Lead, Programme Co-ordinator
- Scarecrow Trail Leader - TBC
- Committee Support - Dawn Saunders, Les Wilkins
- Calendar Design - Ian Wallace

**Membership Fees & Benefits:** The current subscription is £7.50 per person per year and for that, members can access the following benefits:

- Monthly meetings with fantastic speakers @ the Village Hall, including Refreshments, and a Christmas Social
- Bi-monthly raffle
- Group membership to RHS with associated discount schemes
- Group membership to Gardeners World Magazine, larger distribution capability, GW Online, and Premium content
- Closed group Facebook page with updates, details of forthcoming events, meetings, gardening tips and tricks
- The Great FREE Seed Share: members share unwanted seeds for others to use.
- An Annual Garden & Produce Show where members show off their hard work and compete for cash prizes and trophies, with a fantastic produce shop at the end of the show.



- Annual Garden Visits, plus Annual Garden Party held at a member's garden.
- Plant Sales throughout the Spring/Summer
- Participation in the Kings Seed Club Scheme offering significant discounts to members.
- And of-course connecting with other members to exchange tips, tricks and have some fun.

#### Club Activity Calendar:

Our calendar is full year, with speakers for 7 months of the year, plus Christmas and Summer socials, Scarecrow Trail and the Village Flower & Produce Show. This creates a lot of work for the committee however is proving to be valuable for the members and village residents who partake in the external activities.

#### 2022/23 Calendar

DATE	SPEAKER	TALK
October	AGM	Club progress and set up for next year
November	Oak & Furrows	Their Work and Wildlife in The Garden
December	Quizmas Social	Social get together with activity
January	Nicola Hope	Happy Plants, Happy Minds
February	Marcel Floyd	Clematis
March	Barry Stagg	Hints & Tips for Showing Your Produce
April	Timothy Walker	The Shrunken Garden
May	Marcel Floyd	Climbers
May	Village Fete	Raising funds for the club
June	Garden Trail	A Trip Around Members Gardens
June/July	Plant & Bake Sales	Raising funds for the club
August	Scarecrow Trail	In aid of charity
September	Village Flower & Produce Show	Inclusion of village in activities

#### 2023/24 Calendar

DATE	SPEAKER	TALK
October	AGM	AGM – Plus speaker to be confirmed
November	Marion Stainton	The Winter Garden
December	Christmas Social	Christmas social
January	Harriet Rycroft	Potty Time - Around the Year in Pots
February	Mollie Higginson	Making Gardening & Horticulture More Accessible
March	Philip Aubery	Conservatory & House Plants
April	Nicola Hope	Tomatoes or The Potting Shed
May	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Ponds and Biodiversity
May	Village Fete	Raising funds for club
June	Member Garden Party	Ruth & Les Wilkins - Date to be confirmed
June/July	Plant & Bake Sales	Raising funds for the club
July	Garden Visit	Garden & Date to be confirmed
August	Scarecrow Trail	In aid of charity
September	Village Flower & Produce Show	Inclusion of village in activities



**Speakers:** The cost of speakers has risen significantly over the last 2 years, from circa £60-80 to £150-200+. However, with the Club Plant and Bake Sales being our biggest fundraiser, we are managing to secure some great speakers. Our speakers also travel up to 90 minutes to get to us.

**Fundraising:** The club has numerous fund-raising activities throughout the year to cover the cost of speakers. These are primarily:

- Club Plant and Bake Sales
- Raffles
- Club Calendar, photos taken by the members.
- Participation in the Village Fete.

**Financials: Current financial records as of May 2023**

CEGC ACCOUNTS 2022/2023			
16/11/2022	<b>Opening Bank Balance</b>	£	2,661.58
	<i>Speaker Budget required before closing balance 22/23</i>	-£	676.00
16/11/2022	<b>Opening Petty Cash Balance</b>	£	35.00
	Annual Income	£	1,104.75
	Annual Outgoings	-£	1,322.83
30/10/2023	<b>Closing Balance</b>	£	2,478.50
01/11/2023	Petty Cash c/f to next season	£	51.00

**h. PCC**

Unfortunately, no representatives were available.

**3. Annual Parish Council Meeting, see separate minutes - three residents left the meeting.**

