

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2024 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Fox, Kimber, Preece, Stephens, Thompson (Chair) and Young.

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk) and Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk).

Also in attendance: Councillors Gray and Hamilton.

CC/23/46) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Double, Guest, Pearce, Pears and Rowse.

CC/23/47) Declarations of Interest

None.

CC/23/48) Dispensations

None.

CC/23/49) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th November 2023

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th November 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/23/50) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that the Ethernet upgrade between St Austell and Newquay and the Bethel Park mine shaft capping works have both been completed. He added that the mine shaft capping work cost just over £12,000 and could not be re-claimed under the Town Council's insurance policy.

Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that he is in negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding the renewal of the Enabling Agreement.

CC/23/51) Public Participation

The member of public in attendance did not wish to speak.

CC/23/52) Mr Gray – A Band of Brothers

The Chair welcomed Mr Gray to the meeting.

Mr Gray explained that A Band of Brothers is a mentoring organisation that pairs trained mentors with young men (18 to 25) who are, or at risk of, being in the criminal justice system. Referrals usually come from Probation, Police Pathfinder and Exeter Prison.

Mentors are generally aged 35 years and above and need to be able to commit to 4 hours a week to mentor young people on a 10 week mentoring programme. The young people can disengage at any time. If after the 10 week programme the young person feels that they need more help, they can continue with the same mentor or change mentor.

Mr Gray advised that A Band of Brothers relies on donations to fund a co-ordinator for 2 hours a week, reimburses volunteers at 20p per mile and provide refreshments at the meetings. Mr Gray advised that to keep 1 person in prison for a year costs the taxpayer £46,000 and that for every £1 invested in preventative work it saves the taxpayer £6.

Arising from Members questions, Mr Gray confirmed that they cannot mentor men who are on scripts or are in an addictive situation and that they have a 50% to 70% success rate.

Members thanked Mr Gray for his interesting presentation.

CC/23/53) Community Network Highways Schemes

The Clerk advised that a Highways Sub Group of the Community Area Partnership (CAP) has been formed and was due to meet the next day to consider five projects that have been approved and costed up by the Highways Officers for taking forward. The Clerk further advised that the Town Council's representative, Councillor Lanxon, is unable to vote on behalf of the Town Council on CAP proposals unless approval has been given by the Town Council. He added that the Town Council's preferred scheme (pedestrian crossing between Cornwall College and Poltair School) did not get on the final short list.

Members noted the two proposals put forward for St Austell:

- A crossing on Trenowah Road for Wheal Northey surgery
- The purchase of one flashing speed camera for rotation around the Parish

The purchase of the flashing speed camera is conditional on the Town Council taking on its maintenance and figures have been obtained from Cornwall Council which suggest that they would charge between £16,000 and £19,000 for this service for 4 years. The Clerk advised that a neighbouring parish has given indicative costs based on their experience of procuring a flashing sign and the associated maintenance which is a lot cheaper than the costs quoted by Cornwall Council.

The camera would not record personal data, only average speed details and the recommendation is that a camera should only remain in situ 2-8 weeks at a time.

During discussion, Members expressed their disappointment that the pedestrian crossing between Cornwall College and Poltair School did not make the short list and expressed a view that it is more urgent than a crossing at Trenowah Road.

Broad support was given for the procurement of a speed sign, but Members were concerned at the costs suggested for the purchase of the sign and that the four year maintenance agreement offered poor value for money.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Councillor Lanxon be authorised to vote for:

- a. The purchase of one flashing speed sign for rotation around the Parish on condition that the Town Council reserves the right to procure the sign and maintenance arrangements to obtain better value for money;
- b. A crossing on Trenowah Road for the Wheal Northey surgery.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Councillor Lanxon should express the Town Council's disappointment that the Tregonissey Road crossing proposal between Cornwall College and Poltair School did not make the short list of projects to proceed.

CC/23/54) Trehiddle Pedestrian Crossing

The Town Clerk advised that following concerns expressed by the Town Council and the neighbouring Parish Councils, a slightly revised scheme has been submitted for consideration. The revision reflects an increase in the width of the build out. Due to budget constraints Cornwall Council has advised that they are unable to procure a scheme that involves a lighted crossing.

During discussion, Members reiterated their strong concern for the proposal and felt that the revision did not improve the proposal greatly. Members stressed that it would be mainly primary school children using the crossing walking to and from St Mewan School and that the proposal is not robust enough, due to its close proximity to the brow of a hill, the speed of traffic approaching and leaving the roundabout and the strong concerns expressed by the neighbouring parishes.

It was **RESOLVED** to reiterate the Town Council's strong concerns with regard to the proposal but to reluctantly accept the proposal if Cornwall Council is unable to offer a more acceptable solution.

CC/23/55) Small Grants Scheme

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the funding available for the small grants between now and the year end stands at £1,000 and suggested that the Committee reviews each grant and prioritises accordingly.

Biscovey Youth Football Club

Members noted that the Biscovey Youth Football Club is not based within the Parish and felt that at this time applications from within the Parish should take priority.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no grant to Biscovey Youth Football Club at this time and to suggest that if they have not already done so, contact Treverbyn Parish Council for funding towards a replacement generator.

Cornwall International Male Choral Festival

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £250 should be awarded towards the Cornwall International Male Choral Festival gala festival due to take place in St John's Church on Saturday 4th May 2024.

Devon & Cornwall Community Watch Association - The Feel Safe Scheme

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £250 should be awarded towards The Feel Safe Scheme.

Imerys Singers

It was **RESOLVED** to make no grant to Imerys Singers as a grant has been awarded to this organisation in the current financial year.

St Austell & District Camera Club

It was **RESOLVED** not to make a grant on this occasion and to advise the St Austell and District Camera Club accordingly suggesting that they re-apply in the new financial year.

St Austell Library Support Association (SALSA)

It was **RESOLVED** not to make a grant on this occasion and to advise SALSA accordingly suggesting that they re-apply in the new financial year.

St Austell Town and Youth Band

This application was withdrawn.

Stepping Stones Childcare

It was **RESOLVED** not to make a grant on this occasion and to advise Stepping Stones Childcare accordingly suggesting that they re-apply in the new financial year.

CC/23/56) Carlyon Bay Surf Life Saving Club

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

CC/23/57) CHAOS Radio

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update.

CC/23/58) NALC Dementia Friendly Communities

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Councillor Brown was impressed by a presentation on dementia at a recent meeting of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) and felt that it would be beneficial for the Town Council to consider the NALC publication "Dementia Friendly Communities". She advised that a while ago the library hosted a series of dementia support workshops, singing and dance sessions for memory therapy, gardening/art workshops and visits to Trevarna residents for singing and story sessions.

During discussion Members agreed that there are very few Dementia support groups in St Austell and endorsed the principles contained within the NALC paper and dementia awareness support groups at the library.

It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the principles contained within the NALC – Dementia Friendly Communities paper and work towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Council.

CC/23/59) Project Update

Town Centre Regeneration

The roof top garden stage 2 report is due to be finalised within the next few days and the outcome of the visual concrete testing site visit is awaited. The final stage 2 report is likely to reflect a scaling back of the project due to the lack of large scale funding and commercial viability.

A funding bid for feasibility work for the churchyard improvements has been approved and a funding bid for the replacement of the Poundland banners will be submitted by the end of the week. Cornwall Council has indicated support in principle for this project.

CCTV

All cameras are working across the town on winter monitoring hours. The police have identified a few gaps in the monitoring and the Town Clerk has agreed to take this to Newquay Town Council for their views. The Finance and General Purposes Committee has agreed that if the year end budget allows, up to 2 further CCTV cameras can be purchased for the town centre and a further re-deployable camera that can be used outside of the town centre.

Poltair Park

The toilet block demolition and making good of the two properties behind is almost complete. The bat house was finished a few weeks ago and located on the wall adjacent to the police station.

Bethel Park

The Bethel Park opening event was cancelled due to inclement weather and is hoped to be re-arranged in the spring.

Cornwall Councillor Community Chest Funds

The Operations Manager has submitted a grant application to Councillor Rowse's community chest fund for funding towards wildflowers at Daniels Lane, a picnic bench at The Meadows and painting of the skateboard ramp.

Poltair Park Café

The café has re-opened after a winter break with the same tenant who has agreed to take on the business rates with effect from April. It is operating under a Tenancy at Will and will be reviewed again at the end of the year.

Priory Car Park Toilets

There have been a few incidents of ASB in the priory car park toilets over recent weeks. The cleaning arrangements are excellent with no complaints from the public.

ASB

A letter has been written to Cornwall Council about the increase in ASB in the town centre following an increase in reports from partner agencies and complaints from the public. A Cornwall Council report on supported housing/temporary accommodation should be available at the end of February. The security guards continue to work well with the Police and have assisted with a number of ASB and welfare issues in the town.

Library

The Library continues to perform well and was the top performing library for issues in January. SALSA have held and continue to plan community events and baby classes, lego classes, reading/writing classes and support groups are regularly on offer.

Allotments

Following the departure of a tenant, Plot 9 has been re-let.

Young People Cornwall

Young People Cornwall have confirmed that they would be happy to be involved in any consultations that the Town Council or Regeneration Partnership may have in due course.

Grounds Maintenance

The winter maintenance jobs are nearing the end in preparation for the grass cutting season. Work completed include:

- Hedge cutting and tree management works
- Play equipment maintenance
- Shrubbery maintenance
- Winter cut of rural footpaths

Weed Spraying

The Town Council contracts three sprays a year.

CC/23/60) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 25th March 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.01pm.