

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Double, Fox, Kimber, Pearce, Preece, Thompson and Young

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

**CC/23/61) Apologies for absence**

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

*\*\*Councillor Double advised that she needed to leave the meeting by 7.30pm\*\**

*\*\*Councillor Young advised that he needed to leave the meeting at 7pm\*\**

**CC/23/62) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CC/23/63) Dispensations**

None.

**CC/23/64) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CC/23/65) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that despite concerns from the Town Council, Pentewan Valley Parish Council and St Mewan Parish Council, the Trewiddle Crossing will be built out as designed.

**CC/23/66) Public Participation**

There were no members of public present.

**CC/23/67) Grass Cutting Policy**

The Clerk outlined the grass standards currently adopted and advised that the Operations Manager has reviewed the policy and is open to moving Polmarth open space, Jubilee Meadow and Penmere Road open space to Parks and Open Spaces Standard 3 to help increase biodiversity. During discussion, the following issues/points of discussion were raised:

- The need to update the notes section of the policy
- Consideration be given to planting blackcurrant, raspberry and gooseberry bushes to encourage foraging
- The need to keep the A390 grass verge short
- The encroachment of the grass onto the pavement at Penwinnick Road
- The potential for a flower maize

Members expressed their gratitude to the Operations Manager and his team for their continued hard work across the town.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Grass Cutting Policy be updated as suggested for the Town Council's consideration and approval.

### **CC/23/68) The House – Quarterly Report October 2023 to December 2023**

The Clerk referred Members to a quarterly monitoring report and advised that Young People Cornwall (YPC) continue to provide an extremely valuable service for young people in the St Austell area. YPC employ over 40 staff and have proved very successful at raising grant funding to maintain services.

Members discussed a number of matters including:

- Services for autistic young people
- Savings generated for other agencies
- The availability of other services and activities for young people
- Services for young people with learning disabilities

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that it was hoped to have a presentation by Nick Smith, the Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall, at a future meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to note The House Quarterly Report Oct – Dec 2023

### **CC/23/69) St Austell Townscape Heritage Scheme – Final Report**

The Clerk advised that the final evaluation report for the St Austell Townscape Heritage Scheme had been published and that the project had improved a large number of properties in the town centre including:

- The Market House
- Tregonissey House
- The former Tregarne Sunday School
- 1-3 Victoria Place
- 32-32a Fore Street
- The Trinity Centre, 3 Market Street
- 2-6 Bodmin Road
- Café Tengo
- 3 Fore Street
- 1 Vicarage Hill
- 9 Church Street
- Moustache Jacks

High quality improvements have been made and the cumulative impact has been excellent.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and thank Andrew Richards for his excellent work.

## **CC/23/70) Small Grants Scheme**

Members considered a grant application from White River Community Church and Family Centre to fund part of a town centre fun day planned for 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £150 to the White River Community Church and Family Centre for the August fun day.

Councillor Fox provided some feedback on the St Piran's Day event which the Town Council had helped to fund and thanked the Council for its contribution. Music on the day was well received. The Market House experienced improved footfall, the NHS promoted free health checks, Community Energy Plus distributed grants to eligible people and good coverage was achieved in the Voice newspaper and on CHAOS radio. Councillor Kimber passed on positive comments that he had received.

The Chair thanked Councillor Fox for the update and for her hard work.

## **CC/23/71) Project Update**

The Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk provided the following updates on projects currently being managed:

### *Town Centre Regeneration*

- Town Vitality Fund – meeting tomorrow with Cornwall Council Officers – funding for various town centre projects being sought.
- £9,975 Community Capacity Grant received to design Church piazza/grounds improvement – project due to start soon.
- Rooftop garden – heritage square scaled back due to owner objection.
- Grant application submitted to GWR for station improvements
- Regeneration Officer – 2 days per week from April to support projects and a community event in August.

### *CCTV*

- Summer monitoring hours starting soon
- 1 re-deployable camera. In talks with the Police about it being moved to the Gover area.

### *Cornwall Councillor Community Chest Funds*

Application submitted for Councillor Rowse Community Chest and approved for Daniel Lane wildflowers, picnic bench at The Meadows and painting the skateboard ramp.

### *Anti-Social Behaviour*

Carole Mould, Portfolio Holder, Sophie Hosking – Strategic Director, Simon Mould (Head of Community Safety) are visiting St Austell in April to see first-hand the issues that the town faces on a daily basis. A recent report confirmed:

- 91 Emergency Accommodation/Temporary Accommodation placements

- 148 commissioned/non-commissioned bedspaces

Awaiting a response from Cornwall Council about how many of these are within half a mile of St Austell town centre. Recent measures include:

- More patrols from Harbour Housing
- Shop Watch Radio – protocols reinforced again

Members raised the issue of early morning anti-social behaviour and noted that Iceland have improved the control of alcohol within the store.

The Clerk reiterated the importance of reporting ASB to the police.

*\*\* Councillor Young left the meeting \*\**

### *Grounds Maintenance*

- In the process of recruiting an Apprentice – interviews within the next couple of weeks.
- D Day poppies – Field of Hope and Cosgarne Triangle
- Low level grass cutting commenced eg: inside of play area and front of Poltair Park.
- Problem with dogs chewing swing seats in the parks at Woodland Close, Prince Charles and Thornpark Road (the Deputy Town Clerk agreed to talk to the ASB Officer about potential culprits).

### **CC/23/72) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.08pm.