

**MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 in the Council Chamber at the St Austell One Stop Shop, Penwinnick Road, St Austell at 6.05pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Bishop, Brown, Bull, Colwill, French, Heyward, Jones, King, Lanxon, Leonard, Oxenham, Pearce, Rees, Styles and Walker (Chair).

**In attendance:** David Pooley (Town Clerk), Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk), Steve Skinner (Operations Manager).

**C/17/51) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cohen, Hanlon, Palmer and Pears.

Councillor Heyward advised that she needed to leave at 7.15pm.

**C/17/52) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality**

Councillor Oxenham declared an interest in Agenda Items 10 and 11 by virtue of being a Member of the South and East Cornwall Local Action Group who are the administrators for LEADER funding.

Councillor Heyward declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 by virtue of being a member of Restormel Arts.

The Town Clerk declared an interest in Minute Number C/17/49 on behalf of himself and the Deputy Town Clerk.

Councillor French declared an interest in Item 10 by virtue of being a Member of SABEF.

*\*\*Councillor Lanxon arrived\*\**

**C/17/53) Dispensations**

There were no requests for a dispensation.

**C/17/54) Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/17/55) Matters to Note**

The Town Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

**C/17/56) Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor outlined his recent engagements as follows:

- Hosted French and Spanish students at the Town Council offices;
- Met Will Coleman and was presented with a model metal tin mine now on display in the Town Council offices;
- Attended a production of "Lion King" at Charlestown School;

- Attended a Diamond Wedding Anniversary Celebration;
- Presented certificates to individuals following their Active Plus course.

The Mayor advised Members that the Community Committee meeting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 has been re-located to the Council Chamber at the St Austell One Stop Shop due to the public interest in the Woodland Road Park agenda item. He further advised that a petition has been received from local residents requesting that the Town Council do not dispose of the land to Mount Charles School.

The Mayor concluded that following the sad passing of Councillor Krishnan, there will be a By Election for the Gover Ward vacancy on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017, subject to Cornwall Council receiving more than one nomination for the vacancy by 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council has asked if the Town Council would like polling cards for the Gover Ward By Election.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cornwall Council should be asked to produce polling cards for the Gover Ward By Election should a contested election take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

*\*\* Councillor French abstained from voting on this item \*\**

*\*\* Councillors Brown and Bull arrived during the next item \*\**

### **C/17/57) Tribute to Councillor Sunny Krishnan**

The Mayor paid tribute to Councillor Sunny Krishnan who passed away at the beginning of August. He made reference to the celebration of his life at Holy Trinity Church, his work at the Gurkha Restaurant and his work as a Councillor in St Austell. Councillor Walker advised Members that Councillor Krishnan was a friend who had nominated him as Mayor of St Austell and that he, like many others, would miss him sorely.

Councillor Brown paid tribute to a former Mayor of Restormel, Councillor Marie Yates who passed away recently. He paid tribute to her work as a Governor at Sandy Hill School as well as her work as a Restormel Borough Councillor. Councillor Brown referred to her interest in housing, the knowledge that he had learnt from her over the years and how, like Councillor Krishnan, she would be sorely missed by those who knew her.

The Town Council reflected on the two tributes during a minute's silence.

### **C/17/58) Public Participation**

Mrs Wendy Earl expressed her support for the BID, the Restormel Arts Jazz Festival and Wheal Martyn and asked that Members look favourably at their funding requests.

### **C/17/59) Members' Questions**

There were no questions from Members.

*\*\*Councillor Oxenham reiterated her interest in the following two agenda items and left the room\*\**

**C/17/60) Len Smith, Strategic Economic Programmes Lead, Cornwall Council. Green Project – LEADER Funding**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Smith to the meeting.

Mr Smith outlined to Members the St Austell Phase 1 Greening and Ceramics Project for which he was seeking a contribution of £5,000 from St Austell Town Council. He advised that the objective is to create a budget of around £200,000, including contributions of £150,000 from the South & East Cornwall LEADER programme (not yet secured) and £40,000 from Cornwall Council (secured in principle). The project will:

1. Produce a costed curatorial design for the greening of St Austell;
2. Undertake the greening of a selected area of town, as a pilot for the broader greening project to follow as the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of delivery;
3. Create and establish a successful annual garden festival;
4. Create and establish the Cornish Ceramics Festival.

It is hoped to have all the required monies secured by the spring so that the annual garden festival element can be delivered in the spring/summer 2018. It is anticipated that the St Austell Bay Economic Forum will be both the applicant and accountable body for the funding.

The Mayor thanked Mr Smith for his interesting presentation.

Councillor Brown declared an interest in this and the next agenda item by virtue of being a SABEF Director and a Cornwall Council representative on the South and East Cornwall Local Action Group.

*\*\*Councillor Brown left the meeting and took no part in the ensuing discussions\*\**

Councillor French advised that he felt that this opportunity to support the town may only come along once and expressed his support for the project.

*\*\*Councillor French reiterated his interest and left the meeting and took no part in the ensuing discussions\*\**

Members made the following observations/raised the following issues:

- General support for a greening initiative in St Austell;
- The need for close partnership working to enable the project to work;
- The potential for Mount Charles roundabout to be a pilot area;
- The potential to provide an "in kind" contribution rather than a cash contribution.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the initiative by providing at least a £5,000 in kind contribution towards a suitable greening project in the town.

*\*\*Councillor French returned to the meeting\*\**

**C/17/61) Colin Vallance, Managing Director, Wheal Martyn Cornishware Project – LEADER Funding**

The Mayor welcomed Colin Vallance, Managing Director and Julie Orchard, Project Development Manager to the meeting.

Mr Vallance and Ms Orchard outlined the details of the Cornishware Project for which they were seeking a contribution of £5,000 from the Town Council.

Mr Vallance explained that the production of Cornishware is re-locating from China to Somerset and it was hoped that a satellite operation could be set up at Wheal Martyn. He explained that in order for the Wheal Martyn operation to come to fruition, a dedicated workspace for the project needed to be created and that they are looking to renovate a former maintenance building for this purpose. He explained that this phase is the development phase and the funding requested from the Town Council would go towards architect's fees, structural and services consultant fees, archaeological assessment, a bat report, land contamination reports, planning fees and building control fees. All of this work needs to be completed in advance of submitting an application for LEADER funding to support 80% of the building costs (delivery phase).

He explained that the Cornishware project will generate up to 6 new jobs and apprenticeship opportunities as well as providing a significant point of interest and education for visitors and the community. In addition, the presence of such a renowned brand will hopefully enhance the tourism offer, contribute to local ambitions to raise the profile of St Austell and the surrounding area and support a growing local business.

Members raised the following issues/concerns:

- The risk that the project will not come to fruition;
- Whether other potential funders have been approached eg: Treverbyn Parish Council;
- What funding Wheal Martyn will put in to the project;
- The potential to loan Wheal Martyn the requested funding;
- The boost it would give St Austell if the project did come to fruition.

Mr Vallance advised that he had approached Imerys and Eco Boss for funding towards the project and that he would be approaching Treverbyn Parish Council in due course for funding towards their clay works project. He advised Members that Wheal Martyn has relatively little reserves and could not provide all the funding required. The Clerk added that there was a potential to loan Wheal Martyn the required funding, but this might put the Charity in a position of not being able to pay the money back.

A proposal to grant Wheal Martyn funding in the sum of £3,000 was made. An amendment to increase the grant to £5,000 was proposed and approved by 7 votes to 6.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide Wheal Martyn with funding in the sum of £5,000 towards their Cornishware Project.

*\*\*Councillor Heyward left the meeting\*\**

*\*\*Councillor Brown returned to the meeting\*\**

*\*\*Councillor Oxenham returned to the meeting\*\**

### **C/17/62) St Austell BID - Renewal**

The Town Clerk referred Members to his previously circulated report detailing the levy payments due from the Town Council should the BID be re-elected.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to vote in favour of the renewal of the St Austell BID.

*\*\*Councillor Brown abstained from voting on this item\*\**

### **C/17/63) St Austell BID – Christmas Lights**

Mrs Miller advised Members that she was seeking a similar amount of funding from the Town Council as in previous years, and that a 5 year agreement was being sought to run alongside the term of the BID if re-elected. She explained that the figures quoted covered the maintenance, installation and removal of the lights and that additional lights are being organised this year in South Street to improve the appearance of the area as a gateway to the town.

Members raised the following issues/concerns:

- The amount of money and length of term requested;
- The scale of the lights proposed and whether the arrangements could be scaled back to the main shopping centre only;
- Whether the Town Council's commitment could be reduced to three years;
- Whether a local contractor could be used.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the St Austell BID being renewed, the Town Council should pay a grant in the sum of £5,276 per annum for five years to the St Austell BID by way of a contribution to the town centre Christmas lights.

### **C/17/64) Restormel Arts**

Mr Phil Webb outlined the proposed jazz programme due to take place in Charlestown between September and April next year. He explained that there has been increased competition for grant funding this year and that they were unsuccessful with a recent application to the Music Foundation. He added that any shortfall of funding would have to be taken from box office income. Mr Webb advised that some top artists are due to perform and very much hoped that the Town Council would be able to adhere to the funding request.

Members were generally supportive of the proposal but expressed disappointment that none of the events were due to take place in the town centre.

It was **RESOLVED** that the sum of £1,000 should be granted to Restormel Arts towards the 2017/18 Jazz Programme of Events.

### **C/17/65) Car Park Charges**

The Town Clerk referred Members to the seven recommendations contained within minute number **F/17/24** of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. He added that since this meeting, the Town Council has been approached by the Carnival Committee seeking free parking in Priory Car Park after 4pm on Carnival night.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations contained within minute number **F/17/24** as follows:

1. The car park charges for the 2018/19 financial year should remain unchanged;
2. The Town Council pays for free parking, after 4pm on each of the four late night shopping days leading up to Christmas 2017;
3. The Town Clerk be authorised to continue with the car park enforcement service level agreement with Cornwall Council but that he seek legal advice on the options for enforcement in future;
4. The Town Clerk be authorised to seek legal advice with regard to the car park order;
5. The Town Clerk should undertake marketing of season tickets in conjunction with the BID;
6. A Working Group be formed to review matters relating to car parking including the potential to use technology in conjunction with the parking service;
7. The use of the coach parking bays be monitored during the next 12 months and a review be undertaken in 2019.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Town Council pays for free parking after 4pm on Carnival night on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

#### **C/17/66) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports**

Councillor Brown advised that he had persuaded SABEF to write a letter of support to English Heritage about the need to retain the historic bridge at the railway station. Councillor Brown advised that SABEF has recently commissioned "Thinking Places" to carry out a review of St Austell and felt that this should be discussed at a future Town Council meeting.

#### **C/17/67) Cornwall Councillor update reports**

Councillor Brown advised that a decision on the recent boundary review was due next week and that he would be meeting CALC shortly to discuss this and associated issues further. He added that a Planning document entitled "Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places: Consultation Proposals" had been released and felt that it was something for the Town Council's Planning and Regeneration Committee to discuss in due course.

#### **C/17/68) Schedule of Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 totalling £110,690.57 be approved.

#### **C/17/69) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

### **C/17/70) Planning and Regeneration Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 and 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Councillor King advised that he was not present at the Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

### **C/17/71) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings were due to take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The meeting closed at 8pm.