

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 5th JUNE 2017 at the Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Bishop, Brown, Bull, Cohen, Colwill, Hanlon, Heyward, King, Leonard, Pearce, Rees and Styles.

Also Present: Councillor Jones.

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

CC/17/01) Election of Chairman

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Tim Styles be elected Chairman of the Community Committee for the 2017/18 Civic Year.

CC/17/02) Election of Vice-Chairman

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor John Colwill be elected Vice-Chairman of the Community Committee for the 2017/18 Civic Year.

CC/17/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pears and Walker.

Councillor Leonard arrived

CC/17/04) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CC/17/05) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/17/06) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd April 2017

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/17/07) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that the CCTV cameras in Truro Road and Priory Car Park are being installed this week and that a contract had been put in place with Biffa to empty the bin at Chandlers Walk. Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that the distribution of CCTV funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner had been delayed until after the General Election.

CC/17/08) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

In order to allow the representatives for agenda items 9 and 10 extra time to attend the meeting, the Chairman agreed to consider agenda item 11 next.

CC/17/09) The Meadows

The Clerk advised Members that the play area at the Meadows behind Bishop Bronescombe School has been a point of concern with aging play equipment and potential safety issues. Gradually, the equipment has been removed as it has become unsafe leaving very little of play value. The Operations Manager has been researching alternative providers and options for reinstating the play area with metal equipment equivalent to the original play equipment with a few modernisations and improvements including improved accessibility for the disabled. The Clerk confirmed that if approved the project is likely to cost in the region of £20,000/£25,000. It was noted that a grant application had been put in to the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme from which a minimum grant of £1,000 should be received.

Members raised the following issues/concerns:

- The requirement to take the views of the residents attending the open day held at The Meadows in April into consideration;
- The need to make the new scheme accessible for people in wheelchairs;
- The need to enhance that area of the town.

Members suggested that when considering park improvements in future years, priority should be given to the less affluent areas of the town.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

- i. A minimum of three designs with prices be obtained;
- ii. A Town Council budget of £20,000 plus any grant received from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme is allocated to the project;
- iii. The Town Clerk should undertake a low-key consultation exercise with the neighbouring properties and the local school and award a contract for appropriate works in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Bethel Ward Members.

CC/17/10) Holy Trinity Church Clock

The Town Clerk explained to Members the funding history for the maintenance of the Holy Trinity Church clock.

It was **RESOLVED** that a fixed annual grant of £275 be granted to the Holy Trinity Church, towards the servicing and repairs to the Town Clock in each of the next four years.

CC/17/11) Plant a Tree Charter Legacy Tree

The Clerk explained that NALC was encouraging Town and Parish Councils to sign up to the Tree Charter and the "Plant a Tree Charter Legacy Tree" initiative which is due to be launched in November. The scheme is free to join and would entitle the Town Council to a free tree and newsletters.

Members expressed their concern at the number trees that have been lost in St Austell over the years and expressed their support for the initiative.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign up as a Charter Branch of the Tree Charter.

CC/17/12) Woodland Road Park

The Clerk introduced a report setting out the circumstances leading to a request from Mount Charles School for the transfer of part of Woodland Road Park to the school to create a dedicated school playing field. He explained that the school had enjoyed joint use of the park for many years and that the park was the only green open space available to children attending Mount Charles School. He explained that a joint use agreement between Restormel Borough Council and Cornwall County Council in 1989 created the principle of joint use of the park and that this governed the sharing arrangements until 2009 when local government re-organisation rendered the agreement unnecessary and void. Prior to transferring the park to the Town Council, Cornwall Council agreed a lease for the school campus to Peninsular Academy Trust, committing to allow the school to have joint use of the park on terms to be agreed. Unfortunately, terms were never agreed and the park was subsequently transferred to the Town Council in November 2016. He explained that the request was for the upper half of the park to be transferred to the school so that the school could erect a fence around it and offer a safe enclosed play area for school children.

Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of transferring part of the park to the school and the potential legal vehicles which could be used such as a lease or freehold transfer. They also considered some of the legal complications attached to the proposal including the need to ensure that Cornwall Council did not invoke any overage penalties in relation to the area transferred.

Members considered:

- The importance of the park to the surrounding area
- The level of anti-social behaviour in the area
- The constrained nature of the existing school
- The shortage of green open space in St Austell
- The trading status of an Academy School
- The maintenance arrangements
- The visual impact of a fence across the park
- The adequacy of the area for existing sport and athletics activities
- The benefits to the school and school children of an enclosed play area.

Members were divided on the issue of whether part of the park should be transferred to the school and in view of the lack of agreement **RESOLVED** that the Head Teacher of Mount Charles School should be invited to the meeting of the Community Committee in September 2017 to outline the advantages to the school and school children of the proposals.

CC/17/13) Small Grants Scheme

Argyle Community Trust

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ryan Hooper to the meeting.

Mr Hooper explained that the Kicks Project is a free and inclusive football session that encourages young people aged 12-19 to become engaged in a fun, safe community venue within areas that are susceptible to crime and social exclusion. He advised that the project is primarily based in Plymouth, with two sessions running in Redruth, a new session planned for Camborne at the end of the year and, if successful in obtaining the necessary grant funding, 24 weeks of 1 hour sessions in St Austell. Mr Hooper advised that the sessions were fully inclusive, regardless of ability as long as each participant had the necessary consent forms in place.

Members expressed their full support for the project and suggested that Mr Hooper might like to link up with Charlestown Youth Football Club and The House Youth Project.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to award a grant in the sum of £400 to the Argyle Community Trust for Kicks Project sessions in St Austell.

CC/17/14) Citizens Advice Bureau

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

CC/17/15) Capt Thomas Agar-Robartes Memorial

It was **RESOLVED** to support Historic England's proposal to list the Capt Thomas Agar-Robartes Memorial.

CC/17/16) St Austell to A30 Link Road

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

CC/17/17) Joe Lewis – Golden Tree Productions

In the absence of a representative from Golden Tree Productions, it was **RESOLVED** to support the project in principle and delegate any funding considerations to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

CC/17/18) Projects update

CCTV

CCTV cameras in Truro Road and Priory Car Park are being installed this week and should be operational within a few days of installation. CCTV monitoring in Newquay and St Austell will remain at 24/7 throughout the summer season.

Crime and Disorder

Cornwall Council is holding a Safer St Austell meeting on Thursday morning to discuss the Action Plan and obtain updates from various partner agencies. The Town Council has assisted with the drafting of a communications strategy. Inspector Ed Gard has confirmed that with effect from this week, there will be a dedicated PC resource for St Austell and the Town Centre, assisted by the two existing PCSO's. Resource is however being taken from Devon & Cornwall Police to assist with the terrorism issues being experienced in London and Manchester which may have a knock on effect on the resource available in this town. The next ASB summit meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6th July 2017.

Allotments

All the allotments are let apart from one at Alexandra Road. The tenant agreements have all been drafted and the final two are awaiting a signature. Cornwall Council have advised that they would like to transfer an allotment at Elliot Road to the Town Council and may possibly pay the legal fees involved. A report will be provided to the Town Council when more details are known.

Environmental Projects

2500 bedding plants are due to be planted around the town this week on sites including Asda roundabout, Poltair Park verges and flower beds, Trinity Street mural flower beds, A39 planters, South Street flower bed, Cornwall Signs flower bed and the raised bed on Trenowah Road. Priory Car Park has been weed sprayed with the beds hopefully being weeded within the next few weeks, resources permitting. Dog fouling signs have been erected across the parks and no motorbike signs erected in Poltair Park. The third grass cut is well underway and the Cornwall Council defect list has been completed. The playground repairs and litter picking assistance is being undertaken by Andy Inglefield. The grounds maintenance team are slightly under resourced at the present time and the Town Clerk is looking at ways to increase their capacity.

It was **AGREED** that a comprehensive update report on the grounds maintenance service will be produced for the September Community Committee.

Youth Services

Cornwall Council have started to progress the transfer of The House to the Town Council and the Town Clerk is due to meet with Nick Smith, CEO of Young People Cornwall to ascertain their interest in the building.

Town Heritage Scheme

The Phase 2 bid for the Town Heritage Scheme has been submitted to HLF the outcome of which should be known in September.

Public Conveniences

The baby changing unit and disabled toilet are unfortunately the subject of ASB at the present time which has resulted in Cormac having to review the working conditions of the cleaner. Addaction and the Police have been notified. It is hoped that the new CCTV camera will quickly identify those involved and help support remedial action.

Car Park

The cash collection contract and mobile telephone payment systems in the car park are working reasonably. There are occasional problems with the ticket machines which are generally resolved by the Operations Manager. The car park income appears to be slightly down against budget at the present time which, although early days, the Town Clerk is monitoring and will report to Members in due course.

Weed Spraying

The first weed spray was carried out at the end of April with the next one due at the end of June. The third spray will be carried out in the autumn.

Footpaths

The Town Clerk has appointed the same contractor as in previous years to carry out the footpath maintenance for the 2017/18 financial year. The contractor has proved very reliable in the past and provides a good reactive service when required.

Events approved

Truro Road Park (Festival of Fun) – 16th April 2017
Poltair Park (Stepping Stones Family Day) – 13th May 2017
Priory Car Park (First Group Recruitment Drive) – 4th April
Priory Car Park (Start/Finish for Cycling Event) – 23rd July

Events awaiting to be approved

Truro Road Park (Big Lunch) – 17th June 2017

CC/17/19) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meetings of the Community Committee are scheduled for Monday 25th September 2017 and Monday 4th December 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.01pm.