

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 5th MARCH 2018 at THE STABLE BLOCK, PONDHU HOUSE, PENWINNICK ROAD, ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL, PL25 5DP at 6pm.

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

Also present: Councillor Lanxon.

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

CC/17/47) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Brown, Pearce and Walker.

CC/17/48) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

CC/17/49) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/17/50) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th December 2017

Councillor Bishop advised that minute number **CC/17/34** should read "*Councillor Bishop declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 by virtue of his ex wife being a former employee of CRUSE Counselling*"

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th December 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/17/51) Matters to note

Further to minute number **CC/17/40** Councillor King advised that despite several attempts to obtain funding from HLF the applications submitted so far had not been successful.

The Clerk referred Members to minute number **CC/17/39** and advised that the third and final parks tour was due to take place tomorrow and that the fencing referred to in minute number **CC/17/45** had been completed and was to a high standard.

CC/17/52) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

CC/17/53) Rev Howard Flint – Holy Trinity Church

The Chairman welcomed Rev Howard Flint, Rev Ian Gulland and Pam Abraham to the meeting.

Rev Flint advised that the Holy Trinity Church would like to share their vision of creating a community piazza centred on the war memorial to the west of the Holy Trinity Church. He advised that the piazza would create a flow between the church

and the Market House and create much needed space for events such as the annual Remembrance Day in November. It is hoped that permission will be obtained to remove the church railings to enable the project to go ahead and create space for chairs and tables to be installed. It is hoped to install a café and create a not for profit community hub similar to a project recently completed in Tunbridge Wells.

Rev Flint advised that the church would like to help to develop the Town's heritage and civic role within the town and would welcome the opportunity to join up with other partners to assist with regeneration and heritage projects.

Members thanked Rev Flint for his presentation and generally welcomed the church's proposals but stressed the need for advice to be taken from Cornwall Council's Conservation Officer with regard to the proposal removal of the railings. The community hub proposal was particularly welcomed and suggested that events such as flower festivals and community activities could be encouraged.

Arising from a question Mrs Abraham advised that the church is currently open 10am to 4pm every day apart from a Wednesday and that they work with various agencies across the town to help the vulnerable.

Rev Gulland concluded that the creation of the piazza was a relatively small part of the bigger picture for the church and that many more exciting plans were being discussed.

Members thanked Rev Flint, Rev Gulland and Pam Abraham for their presentation.

CC/17/54) Small Grants Scheme

Blantyre Drama Group

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £250 to Blantyre Drama Group towards the cost of their theatre production due to take place in May 2018.

St Austell Choral Society

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £250 to St Austell Choral Society to help fund their Spring concert due to be held on 5th May 2018.

Girlguiding UK

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £336 to Girlguiding UK to fully fund a first aid course for 12 members of the 2nd St Austell Senior Section.

St Austell Walking Football

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £250 to St Austell Walking Football to assist with the club's establishment and its continued growth as a community project.

Friends of Menacuddle Well

The Town Clerk advised that the Friends of Menacuddle Well are keen to organise a public walk from the churches in St Austell to Menacuddle Well on the 27th May 2018. Recent funding has been successful to assist with their restoration plans and the aim is to re-connect the people of St Austell with the area and highlight the improvement

works carried out so far. The Clerk added that the funding streams obtained are ring-fenced for the restoration works and cannot be used for the event.

During discussion, Members expressed their support for the event but felt that they could not assist with the full amount requested. Bodmin Road and the road leading down to Menacuddle Well were highlighted as dangerous and Members stressed the need for the route to be adequately marshalled to ensure public safety if the event went ahead.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £250 to Friends of Menacuddle Well to help fund their "Big Walk to Menacuddle"

Royal British Legion

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant of £250 to the Royal British Legion to help fund two representatives from the St Austell branch taking part in the "Great Pilgrimage 90".

CC/17/55) Red Pots – Fore Street

The Town Clerk advised that he had been approached by the landlords of 19-21 Fore Street requesting that the red pot immediately to the front of the building is removed as they believe it is detrimental to the letting of the vacant unit. To date, the costs involved of re-locating the pot are unknown, but due to the size and weight, it would involve hiring a forklift truck and probably the emptying and re-filling of the pots. The Town Clerk added that if Members were mindful to grant permission for the red pot to be re-located, a suitable location in Priory Car Park had been identified.

Members raised the following issues/concerns:

- The high rents in St Austell
- Whether the cycle stands had an impact on the unit
- The need to cover the costs involved

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to organise the re-location of 1 red pot, from 19-21 Fore Street to Priory Car Park on the condition that the associated costs are covered by the landlord of the vacant unit.

CC/17/56) High Cross Street Car Park – At the request of Councillors Cohen, Jones and Lanxon

The Town Clerk drew Members attention to the correspondence received from Councillors Cohen, Jones and Lanxon and suggested that in the first instance a letter should be sent to the owners of the car park requesting immediate attention to the pot holes, litter, perimeter walls and general overgrowth. He added that if a suitable response is not received from the owner, a letter could be sent to Cornwall Council requesting that they consider taking enforcement action.

Councillor Bull read out an e-mail from Councillor Brown who suggested that Cornwall Council should be asked to investigate taking enforcement action and that the Town Council should perhaps consider in due course what they would like to see on the site in the long term.

Members agreed that the car park was unsightly and not very welcoming to residents and visitors walking down from the train station. It was suggested that a good argument for enforcing the tidying up of the site is its prominent location within the Conservation Area.

Councillor Heyward advised that she was trying to obtain the contact details for the person responsible for the site and, if successful, would pass them on to the Town Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to the operator of High Cross Street Car Park, requesting that the site be tidied up and that if a suitable response is not received Cornwall Council be requested to investigate and if appropriate take enforcement action.

CC/17/57) South West in Bloom Competition

The Deputy Clerk advised that as part of the South West in Bloom competition, community groups are encouraged to enter the It's your Neighbourhood competition and over the past 3 or 4 years, a number of community groups in St Austell have entered and have done very well.

The Town Council has agreed funding in previous years in the sum of £350 for plants and compost for the community groups taking part in the competition. Last year, Lostwood Community Garden, St Austell Railway Station, Chandlers Walk and St Austell Bowling Club all entered the competition and it is hoped that they will enter again this year.

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that the Operations Manager and one of the Grounds Maintenance staff are due to attend the Pride in Parks Competition Award ceremony on Thursday 15th March and that they would find out the result of the last year's Poltair Park entry at that time. She advised that many of the suggested improvements made by the judge during his visit have been carried out and recommended that Poltair Park once again be entered in to the competition. She added that The Meadows and Truro Road Park would both hopefully be in a good position to be entered in to next year's competition following the refurbishment works this year.

The Deputy Clerk explained that she had received the 2018 criteria for the Pride in Parks Competition where it is suggested that entries in to the competition are made by community groups and not local authorities. With this in mind, she said that she would liaise with the Bowls Club and possibly other park users about the criteria requirements and, if necessary, seek their assistance in entering Poltair Park in to the competition.

Councillor Bull read out an e-mail from Councillor Brown who advised that Buckler Village Community Association has made the decision not to enter this year's Its Your Neighbourhood competition as their assessment was downgraded for reasons which they considered unfair. The reason the judges gave for their downgrade was that no one met them which they said was untrue. They also said that the judges did not get out of their car and were only on site for a few minutes. He added that pupils from Penrice School normally help out with the planting and due to this unfortunate situation, they will not be asked to help this year.

Councillor Brown requested that the problems outlined be recorded in the minutes and brought to the attention of the regional organisers of the competition.

Councillor Heyward advised that she was part of the team taking the judges around the It's Your Neighbourhood entries and recalled that when they got to Buckler Village nobody was around to meet them.

Councillor Lanxon advised that her Community Group, Lostwood Community Gardens were always presented to the judges and were very happy with the proceedings.

Councillor Lanxon left the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve maximum funding in the sum of £350 for plants and compost for the community groups taking part in the It's Your Neighbourhood Competition;
2. Approve the installation of a "supported by St Austell Town Council" sign at a suitable location where the Town Council has provided funding;
3. Authorise the Deputy Town Clerk to enter Poltair Park in to the 2018 "Pride in Parks" competition, possibly in association with the Bowls Club or other park users.

CC/17/58) Traffic Management for Community Events Training – Tuesday 20th March 2018, Notter Bridge Training Centre

It was **RESOLVED** to make the Traffic Management for Community Events Training for Councillor Palmer on Tuesday 20th March 2018 an approved duty.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that should any Member wish to attend Traffic Management Community Event training it should be considered an approved duty.

CC/17/59) Project update

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk outlined some of the projects that they are currently working on:

CCTV

The Town Clerk circulated a report from the CCTV manager and outlined the circumstances of a recent insurance claim. He advised that there was a need to start upgrading some of the existing cameras and that a suitable budget provision had been made for the 2018/19 financial year.

Safer St Austell

The next Safer St Austell meeting is on Thursday 8th March 2018 at which time the recent increase in anti-social behaviour would be raised.

Environmental Projects

- Grass cutting is due to start later this month when the weather improves.

- Weed spraying has been carried out in Truro Road Park on the embankment which has recently been cleared by the Probation Team.
- The Meadows play park improvement project has been completed, with the grand opening taking place last week with the help of Bishop Bronescombe School.
- The Operations Manager is exploring the costs for an upgrade to Bethel Park and will report his findings to Members in due course.
- Section 106 bids have been submitted to Cornwall Council for Poltair Park and Truro Road Park which will hopefully result in accessible play equipment and the refurbishment of the band stand.

Youth Services

Kier are carrying out the improvement works at The House with the ribbon cutting ceremony due to take place on the 20th March. All Councillors are welcome to attend. Young People Cornwall are hoping to move in to the premises in May.

Town Heritage Scheme

Following the success of Phase 2, a Project Officer for the scheme is being recruited. Councillor Palmer has been nominated to sit on the Strategic Partners Group and a Property Owners Forum is being set up.

Public Conveniences

There has been a slight increase in ASB at the toilets which will be discussed at the next Safer St Austell meeting. A contract has been let for the repainting of the premises which will start in April.

Car Park

A few pot holes have been noted in the car park and these will be repaired at the start of the new financial year. The latest projection indicates that the car park income might come in slightly under budget for the year, possibly due to the prolonged closure of Bodmin Road.

Weed Spraying

Quotations have been sought and the contract has once again been awarded to Complete Weed Control. Three sprays will be carried out again.

Footpaths

The Local Maintenance Partnership documentation has just come through from Cornwall Council. It is anticipated that Linear Park will be maintained in-house as it is now in the ownership of the Town Council. The Town Council's local contractor will be contacted shortly to put suitable arrangements in place for the other footpaths.

Events Approved

Poltair Park, Stepping Stones Event – 19th May 2018

CC/17/60) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 9th April 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm