

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 16th JULY 2018 in the Council Chamber at the St Austell One Stop Shop, Penwinnick Road, St Austell at 6.05pm.

Present: Councillors: Bishop, Brown, Cohen, Colwill, French, Hanlon, Heyward, Jones, King (Mayor), Lanxon, Leonard, Palmer, Pearce, Pears, Rees, Styles, Thompson and Walker.

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

C/18/24) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull and Oxenham.
Apologies for absence were also received from Steve Skinner, Operations Manager.

C/18/25) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

Councillor Jones declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 by virtue of being a Director of the new Community Interest Organisation created to manage the St Austell Arts Centre in the future.

Councillor Heyward declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 as she is on the Board of the St Austell Arts Centre and Agenda Item 12 as she is a member of the Committee and Treasurer of the St Austell Torchlight Carnival.

Councillor French declared an interest in Agenda Item 16 as he is the owner of the land at Trevarrick Woods, St Austell.

A number of Councillors advised that they assisted with the St Austell Torchlight carnival and the Clerk advised that the interest was insufficient to require recording or any special behaviour by the Members.

C/18/26) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/18/27) Minutes of Meeting held on 14th May 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/18/28) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that further to minute C/18/11 a revised Risk Register would be reported to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting and access had now been granted to the Charity Commission website to register the Town Council as Trustee for the Poltair Park Charity.

Councillor Brown arrived during the next item

C/18/29) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he had attended over 30 events since the last meeting, including a meeting with the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for

Housing, Communities and Local Government at which he had received an engraved plaque on behalf of the Town Council recognising the ground-breaking work undertaken for the devolution of services from the principal authority.

He advised that he has been to a number of Mayor Making events and was keen to introduce a system of civic awards as practised in a number of Councils. The Mayor advised that the Mayor of Bodmin had made a point of allocating research projects to individual Councillors and he wondered whether this might be a good initiative for St Austell Town Council to adopt.

Councillor Leonard arrived

C/18/30) Public Participation

Annette Miller, BID Manager, gave apologies for Richard Hurst and advised that the new BID Chairman was Richard Hurst and the Vice-Chairman was Aaron Niles, Manager of Wetherspoons. She thanked the Mayor for supporting the SWIB judging recently and thanked Councillor Palmer for his support on the BID Board.

Mrs Wendy Earl advised that she supported the Plastic Free St Austell initiative proposed by the Mayor, was wholeheartedly behind the Garden Town and roundabouts initiative and asked that her thanks be passed to the Operations Manager with regard to the recent tree planting scheme. She provided an update on the Menacuddle Well Project where the pond had been cleared, a hedge planted and consent received to undertake work on the baptistry.

She suggested that the Mayoral position might be allowed to run for two years rather than one.

Mrs Earl thanked Councillors Heyward and Bull for their assistance in lobbying for improvements to the station.

Mrs Denise Chapman advised that a number of residents living in Prince Charles House and the neighbouring bungalows were very concerned about lack of parking and the emergency access to properties in this area.

C/18/31) Members' Questions

There were no questions tabled in advance.

Members congratulated Councillor Styles, Deputy Mayor, for his recent bike ride from Falmouth to London. Councillor Palmer advised that the Poltair Residents' community garden was looking excellent at the moment.

Councillor Lanxon arrived

C/18/32) Parking at Prince Charles Park (at the request of Councillor Lanxon)

Councillor Lanxon explained the concerns with regard to parking for Prince Charles House and the adjacent bungalows. She explained that there are 9 parking places for the 31 apartments plus 1 carer's parking space but no visitor parking spaces. She explained that visitors are now expected to park in Lostwood Road which was not always possible and that often the lane in to the park was blocked by visiting cars.

She further explained that some of the planning contribution received for Prince Charles House had been used to improve the footpath in to Prince Charles Park and she wondered whether there were any funds remaining. She questioned the need for all of the garden space around Prince Charles House and whether a solution could be found by utilising some of this space for parking.

Members discussed the options and the need to engage with Ocean Housing to find a solution. Councillor Colwill advised that he was an ambassador for Ocean Housing and that he might be able to assist. He also provided the name of a contact at Ocean Housing who might be appropriate to talk to.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should formally lobby Ocean Housing to address the issues and to offer to meet with Ocean Housing to try to find a solution and report back to the September Council meeting.

C/18/33) Grounds Maintenance and related matters

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced a report on a range of grounds maintenance issues. She advised that currently the grounds maintenance team were slightly behind with grass cutting, particularly in the Poltair and Bethel areas. She outlined a number of positive achievements, some operational difficulties due to machinery breakdowns and the possibility that extra seasonal resource might be required in future years.

The Town Clerk briefly explained the SABEF Garden Town initiative and asked for Members' views on the replacement of the "Welcome to St Austell" signs. He referred Members to the report with regard to "Urban Buzz" and the sites that have been identified. He explained that the officers' view was that the majority of highways verges should not be subject to wildflower planting but kept cut as specified within the Highways Maintenance Agreement with Cornwall Council. He explained that the Operations Manager was meeting with the Urban Buzz group this week to progress matters. He also advised that the Community Committee would have a report on the parks and open spaces strategy at its next meeting and that there would be an opportunity to explore some of the issues around the garden town initiative and Urban Buzz as part of the development of that strategy.

Members raised a number of issues and made a number of comments including:

- There was general support for the planting of pollinators in the right areas – particularly natural Cornish flowers;
- There was some concern with regard to weed spraying;
- There was some support for changing the "Welcome to St Austell" highways signage and for the Garden Town initiative;
- The need for the Highways authority to be consulted on any proposed changes to the highways signs;
- There was some concern with regard to the planting of wild flowers in formal areas;
- The need to consider the future planting of Mount Charles roundabout;
- The need to find a mechanism to record how well the parks are used;
- Whether the sports clubs could be approached for help in the event of machinery breakdowns;
- Whether Jane Knight from Eden could outline the Garden Town Master Plan to Members at a future meeting;
- The success of the Garden Town Festival in June.

Members' thanked Councillor King for facilitating the planting of suitcases for the Garden Festival and asked that their thanks be recorded to the grounds maintenance staff for their continued hard work in keeping St Austell looking nice.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The contents of the report be noted;
2. Formal support be given to the Garden Town Initiative;
3. Formal support be given to the Urban Buzz initiative;
4. Jane Knight from Eden be invited to a future Town Council meeting to outline the SABEF Greening Master Plan;
5. Support be given to the changing of the highways signage to reflect the garden town initiative, and if possible, to include a Cornish translation.

C/18/34) St Austell Arts Centre

Councillor Heyward and Jones reiterated their interest and left the meeting

Councillor French advised that his wife was on the Board of the St Austell Arts Centre and left the room

The Town Clerk advised that in the last financial year, the Town Council had set aside £5,000 to support a bid by the St Austell Arts Centre for funding for a refurbishment project which had unfortunately been unsuccessful. A new funding stream has been identified for the same project, but in order to be successful, pump priming funding was required. The Clerk explained that the project included the rewiring, re-lighting and improvement to the heating in the theatre.

Members expressed their full support for the St Austell Arts Centre and praised the varied events, activities and drama groups that regularly attend the venue. They agreed that the venue was cold in the winter and would benefit greatly from a refurbishment project. During discussion, it was confirmed that the Arts Centre has a hearing loop fitted.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide funding in the sum of £5,000 to the St Austell Arts Theatre subject to the Coastal Revival Funding bid being successful.

Councillors Heyward, Jones and French returned to the meeting

C/18/35) Torchlight Carnival

Councillor Heyward referred Members to the grant application and the green papers detailing the financial information. She advised that the Carnival Committee has enough funding to put the carnival on this year, but that without a grant there would be very little funding to put towards the 2019 carnival. She stressed that the carnival is entirely volunteer led and expressed her thanks to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Councillors who all give up their time on the evening to help with the event.

In response to a question, Councillor Heyward outlined the other contributions including street collections and local sponsorship.

Councillor Heyward reiterated her interest and left the meeting

Members expressed their support for the Torchlight Carnival but concern was noted about the small number of local businesses that supported the event. Councillors advised that the carnival was the top priority identified by members of the public in 2009 when the Town Council undertook a comprehensive consultation exercise and that Town Council support should be offered to help it continue.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Council award the Torchlight Carnival committee a grant of £3,000 for the 2018 carnival;
2. The Council budgets for a grant of £3,000 to the Torchlight Carnival for the 2019 carnival;
3. A member of the carnival committee be asked to attend the Community Committee after the 2018 carnival to provide a financial report detailing how the money was spent; and
4. A condition of the grant be that the Town Council's logo and the words "proudly sponsored by St Austell Town Council" feature prominently on the front page of the carnival programme and on all press releases and fliers. In addition, the website and Facebook group must contain the same logo and wording and must hyperlink to the Town Council's website (and Facebook Group when launched).

C/18/36) Pentewan Trail extension

The Clerk advised that Pentewan Valley Parish Council are considering extending the cycle trail route and were seeking the support of the Town Council. Members reviewed the proposed route and made the following observations and concerns:

- General support for the extension;
- Road safety concerns, particularly with regard to the busy A390
- The potential to link the cycle trail with the proposed new road for the Trehiddle development

It was **RESOLVED** to support the initiative in principle.

C/18/37) Plastic Free St Austell (at the request of Councillor King, Mayor of St Austell)

Councillor King introduced a report which he had drafted on his desire to launch a plastic free St Austell initiative to reduce the use of single use plastics.

Members discussed the dangers associated with the disposal of plastics, the extent to which national chains would co-operate, the potential economic benefits and the need to encourage the use of alternatives to plastic including paper and vegetable alternatives.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. St Austell Town Council, wherever possible, will phase out the use of all single use cups, lids, plastic bottles, plastic-lined cardboard and any other single use plastics during the coming months.
2. St Austell Town Council urges all businesses with which we work, through procurement avenues and other networks, to promote the eradicating of use of similar products in their business environments.

C/18/38) Biddicks Court – Red Pots (at the request of Councillor Heyward)

Councillor Heyward explained a potential scheme for improving Biddicks Court and reducing parking in conjunction with improvements to the surface of the area. She advised that White River Place had agreed to donate four empty large red pots for this purpose. The pots would be owned by the Chamber of Commerce and the planting and upkeep of the pots would be the responsibility of the St Austell BID.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to draft a letter of support to Cornwall Council for the proposed scheme.

Councillor French left the meeting for the following item

C/18/39) Town and Country Act 1990. The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012

The Clerk advised of correspondence received from Cornwall Council with regard to the creation of a Tree Preservation Order for an area of Trevarrick Woods, St Austell.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the correspondence and to make no objection to the proposals.

Councillor French returned to the meeting

C/18/40) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Brown advised that SABEF has completed a "Thinking Places" exercise which had developed guidance on branding and key principles for future marketing campaigns. A new website has recently been launched by SABEF and they are inviting comments back on its style and content. He encouraged Councillors to try to identify projects which might qualify for LAG funding to ensure the money is spent before it is withdrawn.

Councillor Palmer advised that there had been no CALC meetings since the last Council meeting but that he had attended BID Board meetings. Richard Hurst was now elected Chairman of the BID and Aaron Niles was Vice-Chairman. The BID is continuing to fund ad hoc security patrols to compensate for their dissatisfaction with the level of Police presence in the town centre.

Councillor Lanxon advised that she had attended a Safer St Austell meeting and the Town Clerk had agreed to write to Cornwall Council to try to obtain support from mental health practitioners for the work undertaken to address anti-social behaviour.

Councillor King advised that he had stood down from the CALC executive because of his other commitments.

C/18/41) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Heyward advised that the footpath behind Moorland Road had been completed, that she was progressing the project at Biddicks Court and that she had completed a very successful fun day in Truro Road park. She advised that there had been anti-social behaviour issues in the Gover area and provided an update with

regard to the work on the railway bridge. She warned that the bridge could be removed as early as December 2018.

Councillor Brown provided an update on the old Carclaze infants school and advised that there would be a consultation process with Treverbyn Parish Council and the Town Council soon. He advised that the Adult Education Board were intending to utilise the WI building at Robartes Place for courses from autumn. At a recent Local Government Association conference, the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government had emphasised his Cornish connections and support for local government but that funding for local authorities was unlikely to be relaxed in the near future. Councillor Brown advised that he had decided to oppose a potential merger of Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police and he hoped that the Town Council would be consulted and make representations if possible.

Councillor French advised that Planning enforcement work was taking place in Charlestown.

Councillor Pears advised that Woodland Road Park was now almost complete, a dog bin has been located in Gypsy Lane and that complaints had been received about people driving the wrong way down Albert Road. He is also dealing with local concerns about a planning application in Woodland Road and potential traffic restrictions in Tregorrick Road.

C/18/42) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 5th May 2018 to 6th July 2018 totalling £181,529.54 be approved.

C/18/43) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the **RECOMMENDATION** contained in minute **CC/18/12** be approved.

It was further **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 4th June 2018.

C/18/44) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings held on the 21st May 2018 and 18th June 2018.

C/18/45) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the **RECOMMENDATION** contained in minute number **F/18/9**.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the **RECOMMENDATION** contained in minute number **F/18/10**.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the **RECOMMENDATIONS** contained in minute number **F/18/11**.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 2nd July 2018.

C/18/46) The Local Government Boundary Commission

Members considered a draft letter reflecting the views of the Finance and General Purposes Committee with regard to proposed new electoral arrangements for Cornwall Council. They discussed the extent to which they were likely to be able to influence the boundary commission and the accuracy of the paragraph within the letter quoting the number of Cornwall Councillors in St Austell.

It was **RESOLVED** that the letter be amended to reflect the comments above and sent.

Councillor Thompson voted against the proposal

Councillor Hanlon abstained from voting

C/18/47) Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the draft Standing Orders as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

C/18/48) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the future Town Council meetings were Monday 10th September 2018 and Monday 22nd October 2018.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.