

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 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, Thompson and Walker.

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

**CC/18/19) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pears and Styles. Councillor King assumed the chair in the absence of Councillor Styles.

**CC/18/20) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bishop declared an interest in agenda item 8 by virtue of being a Trustee of the Rugby Club holding company.

Councillor King declared an interest in agenda item 13 by virtue of being a member of the "Plastic Free St Austell" Committee.

**CC/18/21) Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations received.

**CC/18/22) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CC/18/23) Matters to note**

The Clerk advised that a representative of the mental health team is due to attend the next Safer St Austell meeting.

**CC/18/24) Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

*\*\*Councillor Brown arrived during the next item\*\**

**CC/18/25) St Austell CIC**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Murdin to the meeting.

Alex Murdin from St Austell CIC provided some background information to the Whitegold Festival and details of the event due to take place in St Austell town centre on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September. He advised that there are a large number of partners and artists involved in this year's event including SABEF, Eden, Cornwall College, Wheal Martyn and some clay country primary schools. The activities due to take place include cooking in a community-built clay oven, ceramic demonstrations, painting, musicians, street artists, story telling, dancers and brass bands. The festival has grown considerably over the last few years and it hoped that this trend will continue.

Funding for the project has been received from the Arts Council, St Austell BID, Cornwall Council, Feast, IMERYS and St Austell Print Company and match funding is sought from the Town Council. Mr Murdin explained the benefits of the festival to local people such as providing opportunities for young people, improving the perception of St Austell and helping to develop community engagement.

Members thanked Mr Murdin for his presentation and expressed their support for the Whitegold Festival.

*\*\*Councillor Brown declared an interest by virtue of being a SABEF Director and left the meeting\*\**

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £2,500 should be granted to St Austell CIC by way of funding towards the 2018 Whitegold Festival.

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

### **CC/18/26) St Austell Rugby Football Club Limited**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Preston and Mr Double to the meeting.

Mr Preston advised that their aging grass cutter needed replacing and that they had identified a new model that was efficient and low maintenance for the volunteer grounds maintenance team to use. He advised that they are looking for a contribution of approximately £1,000 from the Town Council, with the shortfall being made up of contributions from the Cornwall Rugby Union, private donations and club funds. Mr Preston advised that the Rugby Club plays a major part in the community and a new, fit for purpose mower would help the club considerably.

Members expressed their support for the Rugby Club and thanked them particularly for their work with the youth and senior teams. It was noted that the Rugby Club has not received funding in the past from the Town Council and that any contribution should be in line with funding provided to other sports clubs in the town.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £1,000 should be granted to St Austell Rugby Football Club by way of funding towards the purchase of a new grass cutter.

### **CC/18/27) AFC St Austell - Sponsorship**

Members considered the sponsorship options for the 2018/19 season and felt that an advertising board would be the most appropriate form of sponsorship.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should sponsor AFC St Austell in the sum of £325 for an 8ft x 2ft pitch side advertising board for the duration of the 2018/19 football season.

### **CC/18/28) Small Grants Scheme**

#### ***Rotary Club of St Austell***

The Chairman welcomed Mr Sampson to the meeting.

Mr Sampson advised that a First World War Centenary concert is due to take place at 7.30pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. He stressed that the event would be a

commemoration in music, words and song to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Participants include Restormel Concert Band, Imerys, Mid Cornwall Male Voice Choir and soloist Karen Hearn. The MP has agreed to be in attendance and provide a reading. The Rotary Club is co-ordinating the event and is looking for funding towards the cost of hiring St John's and producing promotional material, a draft of which was circulated to Members.

Members expressed their full support for the event and felt that the grant requested should be awarded.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to the Rotary Club of St Austell for funding towards their First World War Centenary Concert.

### ***St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society***

Ms Prater updated Members on their forthcoming production of Aladdin and the associated costs of putting the event on. She advised that if the Town Council were able to award a grant, it would go towards the cost of hiring Carclaze Community School for rehearsals and the Keay Theatre technical support staff. Arising from a question it was noted that the ticket price has remained the same for the last three years.

Members expressed their support for the event and felt that a grant in line with previous years should be awarded.

A proposal to award a grant in the sum of £250 did not receive a seconder.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £750 to St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society for funding towards their January 2019 production of "Aladdin".

### ***Kernow Credit Union Ltd***

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £300 to Kernow Credit Union Ltd for funding towards an advertising campaign in the Mid Cornwall Advertiser.

### ***Kernow Campaigners***

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £180 to Kernow Campaigners for funding towards rehearsal costs for their Silver Showtime.

### ***National Coastwatch Institution - Charlestown***

A proposal to award a grant in the sum of £648 did not receive a seconder.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to the National Coastwatch Institution for funding towards a replacement CCTV camera.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should refer the organisation to St Austell Bay Parish Council for any additional funding that they may require.

### **CC/18/29) Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**

The Clerk advised that he had produced a suggestion of content and introduction for the Strategy but required further guidance from Members, particularly with regard to how much input Members would like in to the drafting of the document.

During discussion Members raised the following comments:

- The need for the production of the document to be a Member led process;
- The need to be specific about the investment required in each park;
- The need for specific information about dogs;
- The need to be mindful of the shortage of green open space in St Austell as documented in Cornwall Council's Open Spaces Strategy;
- The need for the document to have "teeth" and be influential in the planning process;
- The need for the document to identify new green open space opportunities;
- The need for a 3-5 year action plan within the document;
- The need to be mindful of any boundary changes;
- The need for a Working Group to be formed to lead the process forward.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Community Committee should be on the Working Group.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that an additional 3 or 4 Councillors should be chosen from the Community Committee membership, at the next Council meeting, to sit on the Working Group.

### **CC/18/30) Linear Park – Junior Multi Play Unit**

The Clerk advised that the fireman's pole at Linear Park has now reached the end of its life and for health and safety reasons, the Operations Manager is recommending its removal. He added that due to the proximity of the new play equipment at Sandy Hill, the local residents would not be adversely affected by its removal.

### **CC/18/31) Plastic Free**

Councillor King advised Members that the launch of the St Austell Plastic Free initiative is due to take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 and that the plans for the day are going well. He advised that Plastic Free St Austell is now a constituted organisation and that the Town Clerk has agreed that the Town Council can hold their funds until such time as the Bank Account is set up. Councillor King advised that he was seeking funding for the set-up costs of the organisation as well as promotional material for future events.

*\*\*Councillor King declared an interest and left the meeting\*\**

Members expressed their support for the St Austell Plastic Free initiative, particularly with regard to education around single use plastics.

During discussion, Councillor Jones suggested that organisations seeking grants from the Town Council should be encouraged to sign up to the St Austell Plastic Free initiative and that the grant application form could be adapted to reflect this.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant £250 to Plastic Free St Austell by way of funding towards the set up costs of launching and sustaining a plastic free St Austell.

*\*\*Councillor King returned to the meeting\*\**

## **CC/18/32) Projects Update**

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk provided an update on the following projects:

*CCTV* – A £15,000 grant has been awarded to the Town Council by way of funding towards the upgrade/replacement of cameras in the Town Centre. The Clerk advised that he would bring a report to the full Council in due course. He further advised that procurement options are being explored with Newquay Town Council.

*Environment* – The grounds maintenance team have nearly finished the seventh cut of grass across the town with potentially a further two cuts being carried out before the winter schedule of works start. Poltair Park was entered into the Pride in Parks competition, the result of which should be known in the Spring. The Town Clerk and Operations Manager are due to meet with Rachel Tatlow shortly to discuss the sort of landscaping that is acceptable on Mount Charles roundabout.

*Townscape Heritage Scheme* – The newly appointed Projects Officer has started and is based at Burton House. Work is currently being carried out with the college on apprenticeship schemes for the project and new heritage style signage is due to be erected at Tengo shortly by way of a trail blazer for the rest of the town.

*Allotments* – all the allotments are let at the present time with the waiting list trimmed down significantly following a GDPR exercise. There are however vacancies at Sawles Road for which the owner is happy to receive referrals.

*Linear Park Leat* – The piping of the leat at Linear Park has so far proved successful with Cornwall Council due to re-surface the path in the vicinity when funds permit – hopefully in the new financial year.

*Public Conveniences* – There has been a slight increase in ASB at the toilets over recent weeks and fairly regular call outs to the contractor to deal with blockages. CORMAC is still contracted to clean the toilets and is working fairly well.

*Car Park* – The car park income is slightly under budget at the present time. The Working Group are due to discuss the 2019/2020 car park charges next week and then an opportunity will be given to the BID and Chamber of Commerce to meet the group and provide their comments. Patching tarmacking work will be carried out in the winter months and quotations are being sought for the repair of the collapsed wall.

*Footpaths* – The footpath cutting contract is working well with no issues or concerns.

*Youth Services* – Cornwall Council has let a contract for the roof to be replaced at The House during October, with a completion date of 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Young People Cornwall are hoping to re-locate to Carlyon House whilst the works are taking place.

*Sandy Hill/Woodland Road Park* – Both parks are now open and are well used.

*Poltair Park Café* – The Town Clerk has met with Cornwall Council Officers, CORMAC and Councillor Bull to try to progress the project. A new modular building has now been proposed and is due to be considered by the Planning Officer shortly. The

drainage works are a major part of the project and will probably take longer than the completion of the café itself.

*Anti-Social Behaviour* – The Safer St Austell group are meeting on a regular basis and have recently carried out a walkabout in St Blazey. A sleep out is being arranged for November to raise awareness of homelessness and better communication is being treated as a priority following recent negative comments in the press and social media about St Austell's crime statistics.

*Projects Officer* – A Community Project Officer has recently been recruited for two days a week and is due to start work on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. She has good community experience and it is hoped will be a valuable resource for the Town Council.

### **CC/18/33) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next meetings of the Community Committee are scheduled for Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.49pm.