

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2018 in the Council Chamber at the St Austell Information Service, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell at 6.05pm.

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

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

C/18/75) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull, French and Oxenham.

C/18/76) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

Councillor Brown asked the Town Clerk for advice with regard to the interest that he and Councillors Pears, French, King and Walker had to declare as Members of SABEF in respect of agenda item 9. The Clerk advised that there were no pecuniary interests and as the matter was only for information, there was no need for any Member to leave the room for this item.

C/18/77) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/18/78) Minutes of Meeting held on 15th October 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th October 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/18/79) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that a letter would be sent to The Peninsula Learning Trust with regard to Woodland Road Park within the next few days formally offering Option 2 as a suitable solution. In answer to a question, the Clerk confirmed that the offer letter would stress that all associated costs of implementing Option 2 would be at the expense of the Peninsula Learning Trust.

Councillor Leonard arrived during the next item

C/18/80) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that, despite the adverse weather, his plastic free launch went well on the 22nd September 2018.

C/18/81) Public Participation

Mr Richard Hurst, Chairman of St Austell BID advised that he had been to Belfast with the BID Manager to collect a Silver Gilt Award for this year's BID "In Bloom" competition which they were very pleased with. He advised that they hoped to meet with all parties involved in horticultural activities in due course to build on the success achieved so far.

The Mayor congratulated the BID on this year's result and advised that other Mayors had commented favourably on St Austell's horticultural achievements.

C/18/82) Members' questions

None.

Councillor Pears arrived during the next item

C/18/83) St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF)

The Mayor welcomed James Staughton, SABEF Chair, to the meeting.

Mr Staughton thanked the Town Council for inviting him and introduced Peter Moody (SABEF Vice-Chair), Dan James (SABEF Project Team) and Nikki Hotchin (SABEF Project Manager – Interim).

Mr Staughton advised that these were very exciting times for St Austell and that the Vision published in 2014 could now become reality with funding of just over £1M to invest in St Austell and the surrounding area. He advised that SABEF had already achieved a lot over the past four years including:

- Merchandise/branding
- Brand new Website
- Whitegold Festival (Years 1 & 2)
- Garden Festival (Year 1)

He explained that the Whitegold Festival was even bigger and better this year and included live dance performances and ceramic demonstrations using a clay oven now installed at Wheal Martyn and plans for a Cornish black bee installation at Biddicks Court. He advised that the Garden Festival launched earlier in the summer had received very positive feedback from visitors and retail outlets had reported strong sales figures throughout the day.

Mr Staughton explained the Green Masterplan to Members which includes the creation of spectacular entrances to St Austell and the development of green quarters across the town through green infrastructure which would include high impact planting, ceramics and wildflowers. It is hoped that the new A30 link road would become a wildflower corridor with the assistance of Cornwall Council which has offered match funding to help deliver the project.

Dan James thanked St Austell Town Council for their support with the Whitegold Festival and explained that the aim was to build on the recent success with a view to encouraging internationally renowned artists to the event each year with perhaps an international ceramics prize initiative (eg. prizes for Best International Artist, Best UK Artist, etc.).

The importance of partnership working was stressed.

Mr Staughton outlined a draft budget for the project as follows:

Ceramics Project	£ 320,412
Garden Project	£ 687,126
Other costs	£ 285,262
Total	£1,292,800

Mr Staughton advised that the governance arrangements for the project are being reviewed and that a Tourism BID was being explored to help sustain the project. He advised that sustainability was an integral part of the planning process and that SABEF would be seeking sponsorship of garden gateways and ceramic installations as well as trying to leverage additional grant funding.

Mr Staughton advised that the next steps were to recruit a Project Manager and finalise the Master Plan.

Members raised the following issues/comments:

- The need to “think big”;
- The need to involve schools;
- The potential to name the new A30 link road “Garden Road to St Austell Garden Town”;
- The positives and negatives of sowing wildflowers;
- The need for signage at the gateways;
- The need to engage community groups and volunteers, particularly with regard to the “In Bloom” initiatives to compliment the greening theme;
- The need to encourage the college to offer ceramic courses;
- Inspiration to be taken from Nantes.

The Mayor thanked the SABEF project team for their interesting and exciting presentation.

Councillors Heyward and Lanxon left during the next item

C/18/84) Work Plan 2018

The Clerk updated Members on progress with the 2018 Work Plan. Projects completed or almost completed were noted as follows:

- Play area at the Meadows (completed)
- Transfer of The House to the Town Council (completion due Spring 2019)
- Recruitment of extra resource (completed)
- Review and implementation of governance arrangements with regard to GDPR (substantially completed)
- Library Garden door (completion due end October/early November)
- Linear Park (piping of leat completed)
- Foundation Quality Status (completed)

Projects which had slipped, but which were still progressing, were noted as follows:

- Poltair Park Café
- Truro Road Band Stand

Members raised the following comments:

- The timescales for improving Mount Charles Roundabout
- The next stage after "Foundation" Quality Status
- The Library staff assimilation
- The need to upgrade gardens not just play equipment
- The need to re-surface the approach road to the Stable Block
- Whether the report could be "traffic lighted" in future

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

C/18/85) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor King advised that if the re-roofing works go to plan, Young People Cornwall should be able to move in to The House in January.

C/18/86) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Brown advised that Cornwall Council has received a commendation for their Cornwall Homes Solution Service which helps elderly people to stay in their own homes and that they are due to consider shortly whether or not to support a bid to host a leg of the Tour of Britain cycling race in Cornwall. If this bid is successful it could lead to bidding for a stage of the Tour De France to be hosted in Cornwall.

He advised that the Committee on Standards in Public Life was undertaking a review of the standards regime which would involve input from representations of Town and Parish Councils and that following support from Cornwall Council, the Cornish identity might be recognised on the 2021 census.

Councillor Brown confirmed that Cornwall Council did not support the proposed merger of Devon and Cornwall Police with Dorset Police and that following widespread concern, the proposal did not receive the support of the local Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor Brown advised that pressure would continue to be exerted by the Government on local councils to increase house building.

Arising from a question the Town Clerk confirmed that the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on Housing would be considered by the next Town Council Planning and Regeneration Committee.

Councillor Pears outlined some statistical information on young people and praised the work of Cornwall Council's contact centre and everyone involved in the Cornwall Mini Deaffest.

C/18/87) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st September 2018 to 15th October 2018 totalling £107,504.21 be approved.

C/18/88) Community Committee

Councillor Jones asked that it be noted that he was present at the Community Committee meeting dated 17th September 2018.

The Clerk advised that further to minute number **CC/18/29** (Parks and Open Spaces Strategy) he had been considering how best to involve members in the creation of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and suggested that the work could be broken down in to three sections and that three small working groups could be created to consider a section each. The three suggested sections are:

1. Dogs/Litter
2. Green Space/Green Audit/Wildflowers
3. Play equipment

Members expressed their support for helping to draft the strategy and suggested that officers would only need to attend the working groups when technical input was needed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Member composition of the three suggested working groups should be agreed at the next Community Committee meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Committee meeting dated 17th September 2018 be noted.

C/18/89) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting dated 8th October 2018 be noted.

C/18/90) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting dated 24th September 2018 be noted.

C/18/91) Staffing Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting dated 5th October 2018 be noted.

C/18/92) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the next Town Council meetings are 17th December 2018 and 4th February 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.