

MINUTES of a REMOTE MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2020 at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Bull, Cohen, Colwill, Hanlon, Heyward, Leonard, Pearce (Chair), Pears, Rees, Styles and Thompson.

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Oxenham

CC/19/64) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones.

Councillor Oxenham advised that she would leave the meeting after Agenda Item 10

CC/19/65) Declarations of Interest

None.

CC/19/66) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/19/67) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd March 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/19/68) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that due to the Town Council's uncertain budget position and the general lack of suitable grant funding, plans to refurbish Bethel Park have been put on hold. SABEF has however approached the Town Council about designing and funding a small scale planting scheme at the top end of the park to include trees and wildflowers.

The Landrew Road allotments are due to be cleared during the autumn to assist with the creation of a Community Garden which Duana Pearson from SABEF is leading on and has advised that a good level of interest has been shown.

The Tour of Britain has been deferred for 12 months.

CC/19/69) Public Participation

None.

CC/19/70) Cornwall Council – Climate Emergency Development Plan Document

The Clerk advised that the Climate Emergency Development Plan Document had been drafted and was open to consultation until 25th September 2020. He felt that the document had been well drafted and covered a number of technical issues. He suggested to Councillors that some improvements could be made under Policy C1 with regard to public transport, G1 – tree planting, TC2 – complex needs accommodation in the town centre and SC1 – construction standards.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues/concerns:

- No need for this document to specify the types of housing put in town centres and the impact of new permitted development rights;
- The need to make it easy for people to be able to plant trees;
- The need for the document to align with the local plan

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Members individually comment on the points of detail;
2. The Town Clerk respond to the consultation paper reflecting the points made in the report and the comments of Members.

CC/19/71) St Austell Town Council - Climate Change Action Plan

The Clerk advised that despite the pandemic, the Town Council had achieved a number of actions identified within the Climate Change Action Plan and explained the progress so far, including:

- Weed treatment – foam spray trial
- The need to look at composting – possibly in Orchard Car Park
- An expression of interest lodged with Cornwall Council for funding towards an express electric charging point in Priory Car Park
- Eden/Heligan – trail improvements
- Community gardens
- Green energy contracts
- Tree planting
- Wildflower planting

During discussion, the following concerns/issues were raised:

- Consideration needed with regard to any improvements to Orchard Car Park due to the shared use with the school;

- The need to talk to Cornwall Council about the renewal of the lease for the Stable Block before any improvements are made to Orchard Car Park
- Concern with regard to the weeds in Truro Road Park, compared to other parks;
- The need to recognise the contributions made by residents cutting verges and tending to hedges during lock down when the grounds maintenance staff were not working;
- The need to review the Climate and Environment Committee during these difficult times.

Members expressed their appreciation to the Town Council staff for all that they have delivered over the last few months and suggested that in order to reduce the workloads, the Climate and Environment Committee and Community Committee be amalgamated for the time being.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the updated Action Plan and **RECOMMENDED** that the Climate Change Committee and Community Committee be amalgamated for the time being.

CC/19/72) Anti-Social Behaviour

The Deputy Town Clerk outlined the measures taken to deal with anti social behaviour following the lifting of the Covid19 lockdown. She explained that 8 weeks ago a six week action plan was drawn up and delivered successfully. She expressed a view that it had worked very well. Daily patrols had been undertaken by Harbour Housing, SAHA, We Are With You and Housing Officers. Cornwall Council appointed an additional outreach worker, created a needle exchange at the One Stop Shop and commenced a review of the complex needs accommodation in the town. The Police have made extra resource available, the ASB officer has undertaken extra patrols and both Cornwall Council and Town Council have undertaken more frequent cleansing in the town centre.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that linked to the needle exchange in the One Stop Shop a triage service has been formed for people with most serious needs and that this model has been replicated in other towns as a result of its success.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the next stage was a "System Change Recovery Plan" which was a longer term plan including the review of Cornwall Council's commissioning arrangements and the accommodation provided for individuals with complex needs and emergency homelessness cases. She explained that a briefing paper had been drafted and that this demonstrated that St Austell had a high base position for accommodation for people with complex needs and on top of this had a very high level of temporary emergency accommodation provision. She explained that there is an issue with regard to the analysis of the figures and the population used in this report and clarification was awaited from Cornwall Council. She explained it was

important to keep the pressure on Cornwall Council to produce the long term plan and to campaign for:

- A better spread of supported accommodation across Cornwall
- More provision in key towns and east of Bodmin
- A reduction in the emergency accommodation provided in St Austell
- A need to understand the proposals for cold weather provision for 2020.

Arising from the above, Members made the following comments:

- Everyone should keep up the good work going forward;
- The responsibilities of the various authorities and agencies should be explained from time to time;
- The impact of Cornwall Council's new housing on Bodmin Road and West Hill;
- The lack of suitability of some emergency accommodation;
- The need to clarify the population figures used in the review of complex needs accommodation;
- The need to ensure that Police patrols are maintained in and around the town centre;
- Clarification is required on this year's cold weather provision arrangements.

CC/19/73) St Austell and Mevagissey Community Network Panel Year 2 – Traffic Orders

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council were consulting on the final proposals for the year 2 Traffic Order amendments. He advised that it would be sensible to support these arrangements as resource is limited and any objections or amendments might delay the schemes.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposals as outlined.

CC/19/74) Cornwall Council – Removal of Recycling banks

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that during the Coronavirus lockdown, Cornwall Council consulted on the removal of the re-cycling banks at Priory Car Park. Under delegated powers, the Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Councillor Heyward advised Cornwall Council that the Town Council did not wish to manage and maintain the re-cycling banks. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the re-cycling banks were removed from the car park on the 26th August 2020.

Members noted the update provided.

Councillor Oxenham thanked the Chair for allowing her to speak and left the meeting

CC/19/75) Footpath Improvements

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that due to a backlog of commitments, Cormac have advised that the footpath improvement works would now commence on 24th October 2020. Members noted the update.

CC/19/76) Small Grants Scheme

St Austell Revival Together

Councillors expressed their support for the work of St Austell Revival Together during these very difficult times and a suggestion was put forward to consider an increase in the grant requested.

Following a debate, it was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 to St Austell Revival Together, by 7 votes to 4, for funding towards the purchase of new clothes to help alleviate clothing poverty.

Semal House

Members considered the grant application and the Deputy Town Clerk clarified that in the event of the Christmas Party being cancelled, clients would be sent a festive food parcel and a small gift.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Semal House for funding towards a Christmas party or, in the event that this is cancelled, a festive food parcel and gift for each client.

CC/19/77) Projects Update

The Town Clerk provided an update on the following:

CCTV

All 20 cameras are working and are still proving to be a valuable resource and appreciated by stakeholders. A grant application has been submitted to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding towards a redeployable CCTV camera which can be used in crime hotspots across the town.

Grass Cutting

The grounds maintenance staff are on the 4th cut with one final cut anticipated before autumn/winter – weather permitting.

Wildflower planting

GI4G wildflower planting on the A391 starts again this week, Cemetery Park in January and land south of The Meadows during November. The wildflower

areas in Daniels Lane, Trenowah Road and Penwinnick Road will be cut back within the next six weeks and sites at Woodland Close, outside of Farm Fresh and The Meadows have been identified for planting next year.

Tree Planting

The Town Council has planted 194 trees this year and have 400 bulbs on order to plant up in the autumn. 7,500 bulbs were planted around the town last year.

Demolition of Green Bus Shelter on Carlyon Road

Unfortunately, due to the costs involved to repair/reinstate the bus shelter on Carlyon Road, Cornwall Council decided that it was more cost effective to demolish it.

Sponsorship

Small scale sponsorship for various flower beds and planters have been renewed again with Cornwall Signs and the Rotary Club.

Pocket Parks

Both Lostwood Park and Thornpark Road Park have been completed.

Poltair Park/Café

The first phase of safety surfacing has been completed with further phases on hold for the time being. An accessible wheelchair roundabout has been installed, the bridge finished and a lease drafted for the Bowls Club.

Unfortunately, Covid19 has had a severe effect on the café and it is going to have to close during the winter months. The current tenants have indicated that they will try again in the spring. The Clerk advised that the Town Council are likely to incur some overheads eg: business rates and utility bills which will be discussed during the budget setting round.

Shop Mobility

The Town Clerk advised that the lease between the Town Council and White River Developments and a sub-lease between the Town Council and Go St Austell! are both due for renewal for a further five years.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to instruct Solicitors to draft a lease between the Town Council and White River Developments and a sub-lease between the Town Council and Go St Austell! for a further five years and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be authorised to sign the final lease agreements.

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members on the following:

Pride in Parks/It's Your Neighbourhood

Due to Covid19, all the 2020 South West in Bloom competitions were cancelled but the St Austell Its Your Neighbourhood entries (Chandlers Walk, Library, Poltair Residents, Station, Menacuddle and ABC Residents Association) were still provided with flowers as agreed.

We're Watching You Initiative

Due to the success of the trial in Lostwood Road Community Garden, the Operations Manager has ordered more signage from Cornwall Council which will be erected in other dog fouling hot spot areas.

Waste Management

The post of Grounds Maintenance (Waste) has been frozen for the time being with waste management being undertaken by a mixture of employees and a contractor.

Allotments

The Landrew Road Community Garden initiative is progressing and following notice being given for 4 plots at Alexandra Road (same tenant), new tenants will be sought utilising the waiting list.

Public Conveniences

Following the fitting of ultraviolet lights in the toilets, the anti social behaviour has reduced. The baby change unit and accessible toilets have been painted and the cleaning contract with Cormac is working reasonably well following a dip in standard just after lockdown.

Car Park

The takings are still well down on budget and will be discussed in detail at the informal budget meeting in October. Wetherspoons have approached the Town Council for the use of 4 or 5 parking bays at Priory whilst they carry out refurbishment works. The Clerk has agreed terms including a fee of £500.

Weed spraying

Due to Covid19 the foam spray trial did not proceed which resulted in the Town Council having to spray the areas due to be trialled. Contact is still awaited from the contractor regarding future trials.

Cycling

The Tour of Britain has been postponed until September 2021 and a project group has been created to look at improvements to the Eden/Heligan cycle trail.

Park Use

A number of fitness groups have been given permission to use the parks over recent months. The clubs involved are yoga, St Austell wheelers, mums and toddler groups and walking football.

CC/19/78) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 30th November 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.