

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2021 (Remote Meeting) at 6pm.

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

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

C/19/271) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C/19/272) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

None.

C/19/273) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/19/274) Minutes of Meeting held on 18th January 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Oxenham abstained from voting on this item

C/19/275) Matters to Note

The Clerk had nothing to add.

C/19/276) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that since the last Council meeting, a joint letter from himself, Steve Double MP, Richard Hurst (Centre Manager, White River Place) and Annette Miller (BID Manager) had been sent to Kate Kennally on Thursday 21st January 2021 expressing concerns with regard to the increase in anti-social behaviour in the town and the quantity and quality of temporary accommodation in the town centre. He added that Chief Superintendent Jim Pearce had also expressed concerns at a recent Cornwall Council meeting about the number of premises and suitability of some of them. A response to the letter was received from Louise Wood, Service Director for Planning and Sustainable Development on Friday 29th January 2021 advising that a plan is going to be produced detailing how the complex needs accommodation will be reduced in the town. A meeting has been set up by Jon Lloyd-Owen, Head of Housing on the 18th February 2021 to speak to the Town Council about the concerns and he urged all Councillors to attend to express their views. The Mayor advised that extra patrols by the various support agencies including car park enforcement officers have been put in place. He advised that the camera at Chapel Field has been the subject of a further attack but had not been stolen. The Clerk is liaising with Cornwall Council and the Police about additional resource for the area and the re-siting of the camera.

The Clerk **AGREED** to circulate the letter to Kate Kennally and the reply from Louise Wood to all Members.

C/19/277) Public Participation

Mrs Earl advised that the Friends of St Austell Station have obtained a grant to renew the planters at the Station and that she will be liaising with the BID about planting schemes and the Town Clerk who has agreed that the Town Council can act as the accountable body for the grant funding on behalf of the Friends Group.

Mrs Earl expressed disappointment with regard to the Town Council's climate change activity and the personal commitment to the Climate Emergency from both officers and members who she felt should be setting an example.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has adopted a Climate Emergency Action Plan and that he would make arrangements for it to be updated and made more visible to the public in due course.

The Mayor expressed the opinion that the 10 pledges are a personal choice for Councillors/officers and that it was inappropriate for the Town Council to pursue further.

Anthony Hereward offered to come to speak to the Council at a future meeting.

C/19/278) Members' questions

None.

C/19/279) St Austell Revitalisation Partnership

The Clerk explained that the first meeting of the St Austell Revitalisation Partnership took place on the 27th January 2021 and James Staughton was elected chair. The representation of the group is as follows:

- 6 – private sector representatives
- 6 – voluntary sector representatives
- 7 – public sector representatives (5 x Cornwall Councillors, MP and Mayor)

After the May election the representation for the public sector will be:

- 3 – Cornwall Council representatives
- 2 – Town Council representatives
- 1 – MP

He advised that the first meeting was taken up with the governance arrangements for the partnership which included the election of a Chair and a review of the draft Terms of Reference. It is expected that the focus will start on the town centre initially, possibly looking at Cornwall Council owned land. The next meeting is in one month's time when it is expected that the various funding streams and potential projects will start to be identified.

The Clerk advised that the meetings will be a mixture of open and private sessions but the minutes will be publicly available. At the present time Cornwall Council is the Lead Body for the Partnership but in due course, the Town Council might be asked to be the accountable body for some projects and their associated funding streams.

C/19/280) Small Grants Scheme - Criteria

The Clerk advised that the criteria for the small grants scheme had not been reviewed for a number of years and suggested some changes for Members to consider including a clause that indicated that climate emergency initiatives would be looked upon favourably.

During discussion, Members raised the following suggestions:

- Whether there is a need for all successful applicants to publicise the Town Council's support;
- The need to include reference to welcoming climate emergency initiatives;
- The need to recognise that some community projects will have huge benefits to the wellbeing and quality of life for people without any environmental benefits.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Small Grants Scheme criteria should be amended to include the following clauses:

- The Town Council welcomes applications for projects which will make a positive contribution to the climate emergency.
- The Town Council recognises the impact of Covid on local communities and welcomes projects which seek to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of local residents.
- Organisations may be asked as a condition of the grant to complete a feedback form demonstrating how the Council's funding was used and the benefits derived.

C/19/281) Climate Emergency Development Plan Document – Renewable Energy & Sustainable Construction policies and evidence

Members reviewed the draft policies and made the following comments:

- Disappointment that there is no mention of hydrogen
- Disappointment that Cornwall Council has chosen diesel for the majority of its public transport
- No mention of the need to re-cycle batteries
- A desire to see a lower threshold for residential dwellings as outlined in 2b
- A desire that the policies should specify high sustainability building standards and go as high as permitted by legislation

It was **RESOLVED** to thank Cornwall Council for the opportunity to comment on the document and outline the suggestions made with regard to hydrogen, public transport, re-cycling of batteries and a lower threshold for residential dwellings as outline in Policy SEC1 2b.

Councillors Jones and Thompson abstained from voting on this item

C/19/282) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Brown advised that SABEF received a presentation from Cornwall Council on the Revitalisation Partnership and Heidi Clemo regarding the forthcoming census.

Councillor Palmer advised that he had nothing to add since the last meeting as the next BID meeting is due to be held in the week and the CALC Larger Council's Group have not met since the start of the pandemic.

Councillor Oxenham advised that SELAG are looking for volunteers to join them and outlined her involvement including the Chairing of a meeting.

Councillor French left the meeting

C/19/283) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Members praised the health services for the roll out of the vaccination for Covid19 and Councillor Pears highlighted the need for plasma from people who have recovered from Covid19.

Councillor Pearce left the meeting

C/19/284) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period from 9th January 2021 to 25th January 2021 totalling £49,688.92 be approved.

C/19/285) Staffing Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on the 22nd January 2021.

C/19/286) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Council is Monday 22nd March 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.