

MINUTES of a REMOTE MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 1st MARCH 2021 at 6pm.

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

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk), Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk) and Steve Skinner (Operations Manager).

Also present: Councillor Colwill.

CC/19/95) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones.

CC/19/96) Declarations of Interest

None.

CC/19/97) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/19/98) Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th November 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th November 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/19/99) Matters to note

Further to minute number **CC/19/87** the Clerk advised that the seesaw at Chapel Field has been replaced, the slide at Thornpark Road is awaiting repair, the giro spiral seesaw at Truro Road Park has been repaired and the replacement of the safety surfacing at Poltair Park has commenced. The Clerk added that under minute number **CC/19/88** he had been successful in obtaining a further £9,000 for town centre Information Officers from the Re-opening High Street Safety Fund for the period April to June and £2,000 to refresh the signage.

CC/19/100) Public Participation

None.

Due to technical difficulties, the Chairman deferred the Making Spaces for Nature agenda item until Ms Ralph could join the meeting.

CC/19/101) Small Grants Scheme

The Clerk advised that the criteria for the Small Grants Scheme was reviewed at the Council meeting on the 1st February 2021 and improvements to the

wording had been suggested which recognised applications for climate change initiatives and the health and wellbeing of local residents.

It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the suggested changes.

CC/19/102) Melissa Ralph – Making Spaces for Nature, Project Lead

Ms Ralph thanked the Town Council for inviting her to the meeting and provided a brief background to how the project sites were chosen and their progress to date. She advised that the wildflower verges on the A391 are complete and The Meadows and Cemetery Park projects are both nearly finished with only signage left to do at both sites. It is hoped that some engagement activities will take place with Bishop Bronscombe School towards the end of the summer and opportunities for volunteering promoted.

Arising from a question, Ms Ralph advised that the picnic tables are described by the supplier as accessible but unfortunately due to the gradient, the main tarmac path running through The Meadows is not suitable for wheelchair users.

Members thanked Ms Ralph for her presentation and congratulated her in particular for the wildflower areas on the A391 and the new wetland area at The Meadows.

CC/19/103) Small Grants Scheme

4FS Youth Dance

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards Zoom lessons/activities to help keep young people active, connected and motivated during the lockdown.

C4 Studios CIC

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £295 towards the cost of equipment for children's multi skills clubs.

Gover Green Space CIC

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of creating a dementia garden.

***Councillor Rees abstained from voting on this item due to his connection with the Social Prescribing Project at St Austell Healthcare ***

CC/19/104) Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

The Clerk advised that the document has been updated with Members comments from the previous drafts and that the strategy is now ready for public consultation. He suggested that the document should be placed on the Town Council's website with a link from the Town Council's Facebook page for

a period of three weeks and comments from this consultation considered at the next Council meeting.

Members broadly agreed that the document should be put out for consideration by the public but suggested that if the comments are not favourable from the consultation, the document should be deferred for further consideration by the new Council after the May election.

It was **RESOLVED** to put the Draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy out for consultation on the Town Council's website page for a period of 3 weeks and, if overall viewed favourably by the public, place it to the next Council meeting for approval.

Councillor Hanlon abstained from voting on this item

CC/19/105) Climate Emergency Action Plan – 2020/22

The Clerk advised that he had updated the Climate Emergency Action Plan which clearly demonstrates that the Town Council is progressing well with carbon reduction initiatives within the resources available to it.

Arising from the above, Councillor Brown drew Members attention to the film "Cornwall's Climate Stories" which he felt the Town Council could promote.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan.

CC/19/106) Projects Update

The Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the projects that are currently being worked on:

CCTV

The CCTV Manager is now on maternity leave and suitable cover has been put in place whilst she is absent. All 20 cameras across the town centre are working and discussions are ongoing with the Police with regard to the re-deployable camera at Bethel.

Grounds Maintenance

An internal recruitment process has taken place which has resulted in the appointment of Tim Wilson as Foreman to help the Operations Manager manage the day to day operation of the grounds maintenance team. The two Apprentices have now started following a short delay due to Covid and the grass cutting is due to start at the end of March/beginning of April weather depending.

Poltair Park

The previous tenants have been invited to commence trading again at the café with effect from April. A reply is awaited.

Allotments

The Landrew Road community garden is progressing well, led by Edible St Austell. Following the success of the water butt at Lostwood Gardens, a water harvesting pergola has been installed at the Alexandra Road allotments which has been welcomed by the residents.

Public Conveniences

The ASB at the toilets has significantly reduced since the installation of blue lights and the procurement of needle bins for the town centre by Safer St Austell. The ladies and gents are still closed but will be reviewed in due course when the high street re-opens in April.

Priory Car Park

The Clerk has agreed in consultation with the Mayor that the car park charges will re-commence on the 1st April 2021.

Youth Services

Nick Smith, CEO of Young People Cornwall is due to attend the next Community Committee to provide Members with an update on their activities and the outcome of a recent tender exercise with Cornwall Council.

Eden to Heligan Recreational Trail

Work is still progressing with regard to the improvement of the recreational trails between Heligan and Eden. A large piece of work has just been carried out by Cornwall Council on the trails to the north of St Austell and it is hoped that a further piece of work will start soon looking at the routes through the town centre.

Anti-social behaviour

Jon Lloyd-Owen invited the Town Council to a meeting on the 18th February at which time he committed to reducing the number of people in emergency accommodation within the next six months. The Eastbourne Road emergency accommodation has been extended until September and a cross service Action Plan is to be produced by Cornwall Council to address Housing, ASB and Regeneration in the town.

Safe Work Stream

The Clerk advised that at the invitation of Cornwall Council, he sits on a Covid19 Safe Work Stream. The latest work of this group involves the extension of the employment of security guards to check up on Covid19 compliance within businesses and a further tranche of funding for Information Officers for the town centre until June. The Information Officers are co-ordinated by St Austell BID and the Security Guards are co-ordinated by Cornwall Council. Some funding has also been secured for the re-refresh of town centre signage ready for the re-opening in April.

Tour of Britain

Talks have re-commenced with Sweet Spot (organisers) and other towns with regard to the Tour of Britain due to pass through Cornwall on 5th September 2021. When the Covid restrictions have been lifted and the event has been given the green light to proceed, the Deputy Town Clerk will contact the organisations who previously indicated that they would be willing to put on activities within the Town Council's parks to celebrate the event passing through St Austell. A regular agenda item will be placed on the Community Committee/full Council to keep Members updated on progress.

CC/19/107) Dates of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 29th March 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.12pm.