

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 12th APRIL 2021 (Remote Meeting) at 6pm.

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

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

A minute's silence was held in memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

C/19/306) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors: Hanlon, Jones and Rees.

C/19/307) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Thompson declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 (ix and xii) by virtue of having already discussed these items at Carlyon Parish Council.

C/19/308) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/19/309) Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd March 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/19/310) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

C/19/311) Mayor's announcements

None.

C/19/312) Public Participation

Mrs Sharon Bray advised that she lives directly behind 20 Clarence Road and expressed concern with regard to the over-bearing nature and loss of privacy that the proposal could have on the neighbouring properties, poor access down a narrow lane, existing drainage issues in the area and the potential for anti-social behaviour.

Mrs Anne Double asked if Pivotal Homes had been in contact with Cornwall Council regarding the proposed facility and who would be responsible for the placement of individuals into the housing. She also expressed an opinion that another supported accommodation facility in the town would go directly against a recent pledge by Cornwall Council to cut down the number of supported accommodation placements in the town. She added that if the proposal does come forward, she would like the Cornwall Councillor for the Gover area to take it to Cornwall Council's Planning Committee for consideration and not be left to officers to decide.

Mr John Keast expressed concern with regard to the impact on St Johns Methodist Church of the proposed development of an hotel at the Sedgemoor site and advised that he would be interested in the Town Council's views.

C/19/313) Pivotal Homes - Pre-Application 20 Clarence Road, St Austell, PL25 5NL

The Mayor advised that representatives from Pivotal Homes were expected at the meeting but unfortunately they were not in attendance. The Clerk added that Cornwall Council encourage potential developers to speak to Town and Parish Councils during the pre-application stage and that Members should keep an open mind during these discussions.

Members during discussion expressed a view that the proposal is over development and overbearing with unsuitable access by means of a poorly maintained narrow lane. Concern was also expressed with regard to the design of the proposals and the impact it would have on the neighbouring properties in the high density residential area. Members also expressed concern that the building is described as derelict in the pre application advice when somebody is known to be living there.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to Pivotal Homes expressing the Town Council's concerns with regard to this pre-application proposal.

C/19/314) St Austell Revitalisation Partnership

The Clerk referred Members to a draft bid for funding from Cornwall Council's Town Revitalisation Fund. He explained that the bid reflected the priorities and projects identified previously and requested £150,000 to fund various works. He explained the various projects in more detail and re-assured Members that the bid was not cast in stone and that there would be opportunities to vire funds between projects.

The Clerk asked Members to approve the draft submission and authorise him to submit the bid subject to any minor wording changes agreed. He suggested that Members should seek to influence the specifications and contracts let in due course and feed into the processes that follow if the bid should be successful.

Members raised a number of issues including:

- The importance of public transport including busses and rail;
- The potential of electric bikes and scooters;
- The need to embrace a circular economy and encourage the use of local contractors where possible;
- The explanation of some of the projects was not clear;
- Smarter targets could be incorporated ;
- The bid needed to be uplifting;
- The potential to increase the Town Council's representation on the St Austell Revitalisation Partnership.

Councillor Brown advised that he is the Chair of the Adult Education Committee and declared an interest in any projects that might involve Adult Education.

The Mayor thanked Helen Nicholson for her work in drafting the bid.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to:

1. Approve the draft bid to Cornwall Council's Town Revitalization Fund and authorise the Clerk to submit the bid subject to any wording adjustments required to reflect the comments made at the meeting.
2. Receive progress reports at future Planning & Regeneration Committee meetings.

C/19/315) Town Council Meetings

The Clerk advised that the Government has not renewed the regulations permitting virtual meetings beyond 7th May 2021 but that a legal challenge to the Government's withdrawal of permission for formal virtual meetings is due to be heard on the 21st April 2021.

He explained that it is currently illegal to hold face to face meetings for more than 6 people under the coronavirus legislation but this changes on the 17th May 2021 when meetings will be permitted, up to a maximum of 30 people, subject to appropriate Covid19 safety measures. The Clerk advised that the Town Council has its Annual Town Council Meeting on Monday 17th May 2021, which to be legal within the current legislation, may have to take place face to face to elect a Mayor, Deputy Mayor and approve the Accounts.

The Clerk asked Members if they would be comfortable in approximately 5 weeks' time (17th May 2021) to meet in person in either Cornwall Council's Chamber/Committee Room at Penwinnick Road, a church building or, weather depending, in the car park.

Overall, Members advised that they would be comfortable meeting face to face if the room is large enough to accommodate all Members, officers and the public in a Covid19 safe way but the preference would be to continue meeting virtually for the time being as long as it is legally permitted to do so.

Members expressed a preference not to grant further delegated powers to the Town Clerk at the present time although this could be reviewed in the future.

It was **RESOLVED** to continue with virtual meetings for the time being if legislation permits after 7th May 2021 but if legislation does not permit, re-commence face to face meetings provided the meeting space is large enough and Covid19 recommended safeguards are in place.

C/19/316) Planning Applications

- i. **PA21/01006:** Car Park Sedgemoor Centre Priory Road St Austell.
Proposed 60 Bed Hotel with associated car parking and servicing.

Members considered the proposals and welcomed the economic benefit that a hotel in the centre of town could bring. They however expressed concern with regard to the modern design of the building and its proximity to the Conservation Area and St John's Church. Concern was also expressed with regard to potential drainage issues and the impact on the existing residential properties at the site.

It was **RESOLVED** to support this application subject to the design of the proposal being referred to Cornwall Council's Design Panel to consider improvements to mitigate against any harm to the setting of St Johns Methodist Church.

Councillors Brown, Bull and Lanxon abstained from voting on this item

- ii. **PA21/01438:** 34 Growan Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 3JP. Works to a tree subject to a TPO to trim overhanging branches of Oak (T5).

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application subject to the Tree Officer being satisfied with the proposals.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

- iii. **PA21/01559:** 1 Cannis Road St Austell PL25 4EB. Removal of existing detached garage to create new side extension incorporating integral garage and additional room.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillors Bull and Heyward abstained from voting on this item

- iv. **PA21/01847:** 96 Eastbourne Road St Austell PL25 4ST. Proposed extension and conversion of attached kitchen/dining room and garage to provide a living/kitchen/dining room and replacement of flat roof with pitched roof.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

- v. **PA21/01950:** 31 And 33 Dennison Avenue St Austell PL25 3HD. Works to trees namely - Oak (G8), crown reduction, reduction of 25%, cut epicormic growth - Hawthorn (G8), reduction of 30% - Oak (T9), crown reduction - subject to a Tree Preservation Order(TPO) applicant is the owner of G8 trees. Neighbour is the owner of T9 tree.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application subject to the Tree Officer being satisfied with the proposals.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

- vi. **PA21/02028:** 21 Porthmeor Road St Austell PL25 3LT. Non-material amendment to PA20/09124 to change roof tiles to Brazilian slate graphite and amendment to dormer on north elevation.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

- vii. **PA21/02282:** 52 Retallick Meadows St Austell Cornwall PL25 3BY. Proposed integral garage conversion to form a study.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

- viii. **PA21/02380:** 52 Tregonissey Road St Austell PL25 4DH. Reserved Matters application following Outline approval PA20/06386 dated 27th October 2020 (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale).

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

Councillor Thompson reiterated his interest in the next two items and left the meeting

- ix. **PA21/02467:** Land Adjacent To A390 Holmbush Road. Non Material Amendment in respect of PA17/07933, to alter the Natural Stone product specified to the type previously approved under PA19/07587 for plots 1,4,35,85,86,97,98,100,101,103,104,114,123,124,125,126,132,153,158,168,173,174,175,176,177,178,179,180,181,190.

The Clerk advised that this application had already been approved.

It was **RESOLVED** to note this application.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

- xii. **PA21/02844:** Land Adjacent To A390 Holmbush Road St Austell. Non Material Amendment in respect of PA18/10255 to adjust the as built position change of plot 9 and proximity to existing boundary.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

Councillor Thompson returned to the meeting

- x. **PA21/02543:** 104 Holmbush Road St Austell PL25 3LP. Outline application for up to two dwellings and formation of parking including two existing cottages.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to this application on the grounds of inadequate access arrangements.

Councillors Bull and French abstained from voting on this item

- xi. **PA21/02597:** 8 Cromwell Road St Austell PL25 4PS. Proposed two storey extension, covered parking area and garage.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Bull abstained from voting on this item

C/19/317) Premises Licence Applications

None.

C/19/318) Planning Decisions

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

C/19/319) Cornwall Council – Urgent Delegated Planning Decisions

None.

C/19/320) Appeal Decision - PA20/03743 Land at Holmbush Road, St Austell PL25 3HQ

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Appeal decision.

C/19/321) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period from 13th March 2021 to 6th April 2021 totalling £65,257.19 be approved.

C/19/322) Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Clerk advised that Councillor Rees' name is missing from the list of attendees and would be amended accordingly.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th April 2021.

C/19/323) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 29th March 2021 and approve the **RECOMMENDATION** contained therein.

C/19/324) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the next meetings of the Council are 19th April 2021 (Annual Parish Meeting) and 17th May 2021 (Annual Town Council Meeting).

The meeting closed at 7.53pm.