

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 in the Council Chamber, Cornwall Council Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Double, Fox, George, Guest, Pearce, Pears, Rowse, Thompson and Young.

**Also Present:** Councillor Hamilton

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

**CC/21/01) Election of Chair**

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Thompson be elected Chair of the Community Committee for the 2021/22 Civic Year.

**CC/21/02) Election of Vice-Chair**

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Cohen be elected Vice-Chair of the Community Committee for the 2021/22 Civic Year.

**CC/21/03) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nott.

**CC/21/04) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CC/21/05) Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations received.

**CC/21/06) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CC/21/07) Matters to note**

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

**CC/21/08) Public Participation**

Mrs Prater advised that she would be happy to answer any questions relating to the St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society grant application.

**CC/21/09) Anti-Social Behaviour Case Worker**

The Clerk advised that following an expression of interest from the Town Council to Cornwall Council to help fund a dedicated ASB Caseworker, Cornwall Council has offered the Town Council a Service Level Agreement for an additional ASB caseworker in return for a financial contribution from the Town Council.

The offer is based on the Penzance model and the contribution sought from St Austell Town Council for the additional resource is £10,000 in the first year rising to approximately £32,000 in the second year. The ASB caseworker would be based at home or at St Austell Police station and would focus on the St Austell Police Sector ie wider than the Town Council's boundaries. The service level agreement would require the officer to patrol the town centre for 10 hours per week and a report would be produced every six weeks for the Town Council's consideration outlining the work of the ASB worker and their achievements.

The Clerk expressed reservations with the proposal and suggested an alternative arrangement where the Town Council could pay for security guards, in partnership with St Austell BID which would guarantee a focus on the town centre and patrols in other areas of the town where appropriate. He added that it might be possible to get some extra training and powers from the Police, which, overall would provide much better value for the town.

The Clerk advised that the existing Cornwall Council ASB Caseworker resource for St Austell would be safeguarded if the Town Council felt unable to support this additional resource.

During discussion Members raised the following issues/concerns:

- The need for anti-social prevention measures to be put in place in other areas of the town, not just the town centre;
- Concern that £42,000 was being asked of the Town Council in the first 2 years, when much of that time the officer would be training;
- Concern that the majority of the geographical area proposed for the caseworker would be outside of the Town Council's area;
- The need to carry out more work with young people, particularly with regard to their ambition and job prospects;
- The need to keep campaigning for a reduction in temporary accommodation places in the town centre.

The Town Clerk added that Young People Cornwall maintained contact through virtual platforms with young people during the pandemic and carried out outreach work in known problem areas. He stressed that at the present time, the majority of issues in the town related to adults rather than young people.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to:

- (i) Decline the offer from Cornwall Council of a Service Level Agreement in the sum of approximately £42,000 over a two year period for extra ASB resource covering the St Austell Police Sector;
- (ii) Liaise with St Austell BID to consider pooling resources with a view to putting in place sustainable security patrols for the town centre and outlying areas of the town;
- (iii) Produce a report to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee setting out the proposals in more detail;
- (iv) Liaise with the Police to train security personnel and if possible, obtain local enhanced powers through the Chief Constable.

## **CC/21/10) British Telecom – Payphone Removal Consultation**

The Clerk explained that from time to time, BT review the usage of public payphones with a view to removing those which have little use. As a result of a recent review, BT have identified four public payphones within the Town Council's area that they would like to remove:

Carclaze Road/Agar Road – PL25 3AD  
Polkyth/Slades Road – PL25 4HQ  
Holmbush Shopping Centre – PL25 3HT  
Daniels Lane/Bucklers Lane – PL25 3JN

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to the removal of the four telephone boxes identified.

## **CC/21/11) Small Grants Scheme**

### *Cornwall Pride*

Although supportive of the event, Members felt unable to offer the full amount requested.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of the "Come out for Cornwall Pride" event due to arrive in St Austell on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

*\*\*Noting that St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society are due to hold their pantomime at the Keay Theatre, Cornwall College, Councillor Double advised that her son works for Cornwall College and left the meeting\*\**

*\*\* Noting that St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society are due to hold their pantomime at the Keay Theatre, Cornwall College, Councillor Fox advised that she works for Cornwall College and left the meeting\*\**

### *St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society*

Members expressed their support for the St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society and for the superb productions that they have put on in the past.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £750 towards the cost of putting on their pantomime production "Cinderella" in January 2022.

*\*\*Councillors Double and Fox returned to the meeting\*\**

### *Go! St Austell Shop Mobility*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of servicing and maintaining their mobility equipment.

## **CC/21/12) Tour of Britain**

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that she is awaiting the announcement as to whether or not the June 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 Covid19 restrictions will be lifted and if they are not lifted, she would speak to the organisers to ascertain what the implications are for the Tour

of Britain. Assuming that the restriction will be lifted, she advised that she would resurrect talks with Stepping Stones, Mrs Heyward, Churches Together and Young People Cornwall about the potential to put events on in the Town Council's parks and open spaces. She outlined the route of the race through St Austell and the events and activities that the library is planning to hold before and during the event.

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

## **CC/21/13) Projects Update**

### *CCTV*

The Town Clerk advised that all 20 cameras are working across the town and that after the G7 summit, he will talk to the Police about the best location for the mobile CCTV camera. Newquay Town Council has drawn down some extra funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for extra monitoring hours.

### *Grounds Maintenance*

The two apprentices have been formally trained in the use of strimmers, push mowers and ride on mowers and are now able to go out with the rest of the team grass cutting. The flower beds were planted up last week which took most of the staff off grass cutting, but this will resume again this week. Cornwall Council has taken back the maintenance of Cemetery Park as part of their Making Spaces for Nature Project which means that the grass will probably not be cut so frequently. The Clerk asked if Members could look at the site when passing and advise him whether or not they are happy for the park grass to be left longer or if they would like the grass cut more frequently.

### *Bethel Park*

Lottery funders have expressed an interest in funding a project for Bethel Park. Meetings are being held next week and an update will be provided to Members in due course. The swings and safety surfacing are in need of repair and could become part of a wider refurbishment project.

### *Boat – Edgcumbe Road*

The Town Council was gifted a boat a few months ago and was placed on the grass at Edgcumbe Road ready for planting up with flowers. Unfortunately, following a few complaints from residents and a visit from the Highways Officer, it will be moved to a new location within the next few weeks. The location is yet to be determined.

### *Public conveniences*

A new contract has been let for the cleaning of the public conveniences at Priory Car Park which will take effect from Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### *Car Park*

Car Park charges were reinstated in April 2021 and income is down slightly on budget, more details of which will be considered at the Finance & General Purposes Committee in June. The G4S cash collection has been sporadic which has caused some issues.

A working group will be set up later in the year to discuss how the car park is operating and any changes that may be required. Western Power is digging up the car park shortly to lay cabling for a property nearby and there might be an opportunity to put in the infrastructure for electric charging points.

#### *Youth Services*

The organisation is still not totally operating back from The House but outreach work is taking place as well as urgent 1 to 1 interviews.

#### *Tregonissey Lane End Car Park*

The Town Council has been approached by a lady who lives in a property backing on to the Tregonissey Lane End Car Park who would like to re-open an access gate from her garden to the car park to assist a family member exiting the house. Cornwall Council's social services and property teams are supportive of the proposal and grant funding opportunities are being explored by the parties involved. If it went ahead, it would be at no cost to the Town Council.

#### **CC/21/14) To consider excluding the press and public**

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (ii) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business of the meeting in view of the commercially sensitive of the business to be transacted.

#### **CC/21/15) Former Toilets at Poltair Park**

The Deputy Town Clerk explained the background to the former toilets at Poltair Park, the health and safety implications of the building, the conversations with the neighbouring properties and the quotation received from a local building company. She outlined the urgency of the work and recommended to Members that the quote be accepted.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

- (i) Standing Orders 11 Contracts (b) is waived due to the reasonableness of the quote received and the urgency of the works on health and safety grounds.
- (ii) The Town Clerk is authorised to accept the quotation from APS Construction for the demolition of the old toilet block at Poltair Park and to proceed with the works.

#### **CC/21/16) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next meetings of the Community Committee are scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.19pm.