

MINUTES of a meeting of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 12th JULY 2021 in the Council Chamber, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR (Cornwall Council Offices) at 6.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Bull, Cohen, Double, Fox, French, George, Guest, Hamilton, Lanxon, McDonagh, Nott, Pearce, Pears, Rowse, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

Also present: Annie Etheridge, Communication Support Services (accompanying Councillor Nott).

C/21/20) Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C/21/21) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received

There were no declarations of interest.

C/21/22) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/21/23) Minutes of meeting held on 17th May 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/21/24) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that due to the requirement to attend daytime meetings Councillor Young had unfortunately had to decline the appointment to the South East Cornwall Local Action Group (SELAG).

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Thompson should be appointed to South East Cornwall Local Action Group for the 2021/22 civic year.

C/21/25) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he opened the Green and Whitegold Festival at the end of June which was well attended and appreciated by the local shop keepers who reported good takings on the day. He attended the Tregonissey War Memorial centenary celebrations with the Deputy Mayor and waved off the cyclists participating in the Cornish Alpine Challenge which started and finished in Priory Car Park. He expressed his delight at being invited to meet the Queen, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and the Duke of Cambridge at St Austell station in June who were on their way to the Eden Project as part of a G7 summit event.

C/21/26) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

C/21/27) Members' questions

Councillor Brown had asked the following question and requested a written response.

"The Town Council and myself, as then Cornwall Councillor, invested a significant amount of public money to obtain a CCTV camera to be placed initially at Chapel Field. Unfortunately there have been incidents of vandalism and attempted theft.

As a result the camera has not been in position for several months. This is an unfortunate situation but dealing with it needs greater priority. When will the camera be in position again and how will that fit into a more comprehensive strategy to address the problems in that part of the town and give reassurance to residents?"

The Clerk advised that he is waiting for information from the Police and Safer St Austell and undertook to provide Councillor Brown with a written response once this had been received. He added that a potential location for the mobile camera was discussed at the Safer St Austell Partnership meeting earlier in the day and that recent informal conversations within the partnership indicated that the anti-social behaviour issues that had blighted Bethel last year had died down considerably.

Councillor Brown reiterated his frustrations and asked for the Town Council's commitment to reinstate the camera. He expressed concern with regard to the effectiveness of the investment in the mobile camera and asked that an item be placed on a future Town Council agenda to discuss the matter in more detail.

The Mayor acknowledged Councillor Brown's concerns and undertook to discuss the matter as a separate agenda item at the Town Council's Community Committee in September.

C/21/28) St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF)

The Mayor welcomed Peter Moody, Alex Murdin, Mike Hawes and Nikki Hotchin of St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF).

Peter Moody, the Deputy Chair of SABEF explained that James Staughton the Chair of SABEF and Darren Hawkes the Green Curator could not attend the meeting. He explained his business background and outlined the Austell Project, its Directors, curators and its various strands including:

Austell Green
Austell Ceramic
Austell Active
Austell Innovative

He explained that the Austell Project was widely supported by local organisations and that project supporters included Emma Bridgewater, Tim Smit and Geraint Richards. He gave an overview of the work undertaken over the last few years and explained the strategic context and links to strategic policies and plans produced by other bodies.

Alex Murdin, Ceramics Curator for SABEF, outlined some of the work completed to date including the creation of an art trail and links with the Discover St Austell app. He explained that the next pieces of work were likely to be the earth goddess which

would be the tallest ceramics sculpture in the UK, hopefully to be erected in White River Place and an art work by David Monk which was planned for East Hill. He explained that there are also proposals for five new benches, two of which in Duke Street and Carlyon Road, SABEF would like the Town Council to maintain. He went on to explain the links between the ceramic theme and the green theme and highlighted the work undertaken with the National Wildflower Centre and the artworks on Mount Charles roundabout. He explained that plans were in place to include ceramics and planting at the Café Tengo and to provide a green corridor along the new A30 link road.

Mike Hawes, master planning curator for SABEF, outlined the strategic masterplan for the Austell project and explained that the project was coming to the end of the first phase of funding and that funding was being sought for further phases. He talked about the changing face of retail and the need to revitalise the town centre with greater emphasis on leisure and talked about the work of Bill Grimsey and the High Street Task Force.

Nikki Hotchin provided a demonstration of the SABEF website and explained that it was a content rich website which would be made more sustainable by charging for advertising space. She explained that SABEF could be contacted at hello@staustell.co.uk

Members thanked SABEF for their in-depth presentation and arising from a questions and answers session, the following points were made:

- Art workshops and displays were being created at The Market House, St Blazey Engine House and Wheal Martyn.
- A community centre and facility is being created at the West Carclaze development.
- It is hoped that the sculpture in White River Place will be completed by October.
- The intensive community involvement and consultation undertaken as part of the bee mural project
- The change of plans at Pinetum Lodge Gardens
- The role of art in terms of generating debate and interest

The Clerk added that SABEF is sponsoring one of the Grounds Maintenance apprentices for which the Town Council is very grateful.

The Mayor thanked the SABEF representatives and congratulated them on the work undertaken to date.

Arising from discussions Members agreed that they would be happy for the Town Council to maintain the two benches proposed for Duke Street and Carlyon Road.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should maintain the two benches proposed to be installed at Duke Street and Carlyon Road.

Councillors Bull and Double abstained from voting on this item

C/21/29) Bethel and Holmbush Ward – Co-option

The Clerk advised that for various reasons, four out of the seven candidates had withdrawn from the process but the remaining three candidates, Mr Hanlan, Mr Moulton

and Mr Mozer were in attendance to provide a short presentation outlining why they would like to become a Councillor.

The Clerk advised that at the conclusion of their presentation Members would be asked to vote for their preferred candidate and the voting would be undertaken in line with the Town Council's Standing Orders which required each candidate to receive a majority of votes to be elected.

Councillor Brown expressed his dissatisfaction with the proposed process and suggested that a written statement from the candidates who were unable to attend should have been obtained. He added that in order to provide a wider choice of candidates the co-option should be deferred until the September meeting in the hope that the candidates unable to attend this meeting will be able to attend in September.

The Clerk advised that the reasons for non-attendance of the four candidates was due to a mixture of work commitments, personal commitments and Covid19 self-isolation and suggested that in order to be fair on the potential candidates who were in attendance the co-option should go ahead.

Mr Moulton expressed his displeasure with regard to the revised co-option process suggested by Members and advised that he would not attend the meeting in September.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the co-option process until the 6th September 2021 Council meeting and for the Town Clerk to amend the Town Council's co-option procedures to allow written statements to be considered in a co-option process if a candidate cannot attend the meeting.

C/21/30) Small Grants Scheme

St Austell Amateur Boxing Club

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of providing a summer training club for young people in St Austell and the surrounding areas.

C/21/31) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor French advised that he is the new Town Council's representative on the St Austell BID and outlined the new BID leaflet which had been distributed promoting St Austell to the businesses of Cornwall.

Councillor Brown advised that he is the Town Council's representative on SABEF and at the last meeting on the 26th May a presentation was received from CEG who advised that they are preparing an application to the Levelling Up Fund. The Levelling Up Fund currently permits 1 bid per MP constituency, with up to 3 projects and a total grant available of £20 million. Councillor Brown added that the housing units proposed at Carlyon Bay count towards the housing numbers in the local plan and that if the development does not go ahead, other sites will need to be identified.

Councillor Styles advised that the St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce is being revitalised and that Clive Acraman has been appointed Chair and he has been appointed Vice Chair. There is plenty of enthusiasm amongst the Members and there are plans for a Crunchy Breakfast to take place in September with guest speakers to include the Mayor and Town Clerk.

Councillor Bull advised that at a recent meeting of the St Austell Healthcare Patient Participation Group Meeting it was advised that due to the difficulty in recruiting GP's 2 Assistant GP's and additional nurses have been recruited to the team at St Austell Healthcare. Normal working has now resumed and eye clinics, cancer treatment and dialysis will all be available locally soon.

Councillor Thompson advised that he had attended a Planning Partnership Meeting where it was advised that the October conference will not be recorded.

Councillor Lanxon advised that the last Community Network Meeting received a presentation on highways works and she had received a complaint, as had a number of other Councillors, about recently installed yellow lines at Rashleigh Place.

C/21/32) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Double advised that she has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Customer and Support Services Committee (Overview and Scrutiny), Chair of Cornwall Airport Newquay Consultative Forum and Chair of the St Austell and Mevagissey Community Network Panel and has attended meetings recently to discuss the location of the needle bins in the town centre, the lowering of the road under the Holmbush Bridge, the A30 link Road and a meeting with the Police/Probation Service to better understand the issues in St Austell. She advised that she has helped numerous constituents with a wide range of issues and is privileged to be able to get things done for them.

Councillor Rowse advised that he had spent a lot of time meeting with residents about local issues and gave two examples of achievements: the installation of a handrail at Roslyn Close/Longpark Way and the cutting back of an overgrown footpath at Linear Park. He expressed his gratitude to the Town Council for assisting with these. He advised that funding has been found to improve the drainage near Brockstone Road bridge and outlined his work with Cornwall Council officers to instal a pedestrian crossing outside of Bethel Methodist Chapel. He advised that following concerns raised by local residents, he had liaised with the ASB caseworker and Tesco which resulted in speed bumps being installed at the far end of Tesco car park and other security measures to deter further ASB. He expressed his gratitude to Tesco and the ASB caseworker for their speedy resolution to the concerns raised.

Councillor Guest advised that his Cornwall Council work is mainly within the Roche and Bugle area and that he had been appointed to SABEF as the Clay Country representative. He advised that he is on the SELAG executive and that some positive work with regard to the Minorca Lane site at Bugle has been achieved.

Councillor Pears advised that he has been dealing with many local issues for residents and has ascertained, following residents' concerns that the hydrotherapy pool at the Leisure Centre will re-open when economically viable to do so. He added that the community highways schemes have been delivered on mass recently and although many residents are happy with the schemes, there are currently two areas of concern at Rashleigh Place and Slades Road, both of which he has referred back to the Highways Officers.

C/21/33) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 11th May 2021 to 2nd July 2021 totalling £181,753.59 be approved.

C/21/34) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Committee meeting dated 7th June 2021 be noted and the **RECOMMENDATION** contained therein be approved.

C/21/35) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings dated 24th May 2021 and 14th June 2021 be noted.

C/21/36) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting dated 28th June 2021 be noted and the **RECOMMENDATION** contained therein be approved.

Councillor Thompson abstained from voting on this item

The Clerk advised that the Climate and Environment Committee minutes were e-mailed to all Councillors on Thursday 8th July 2021.

C/21/37) Climate and Environment Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting dated 5th July 2021 be noted.

C/21/38) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings were due to take place on Monday 6th September and 18th October 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm.