

MINUTES of a meeting of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 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, George, Guest, Hamilton, Lanxon, McDonagh, Nott, Pearce, Pears, Rowse, Styles and Thompson.

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

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

C/21/39) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors French and Young.

C/21/40) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received

There were no declarations of interest.

C/21/41) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/21/42) Minutes of meeting held on 12th July 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th July 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/21/43) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

C/21/44) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he had carried out a number of engagements since the last meeting which included a visit to the Keay Theatre to watch Studio 4 Dance Group perform, met the South West in Bloom judges with the BID Manager and visited Bodmin Town Council for a civic awards ceremony and an event to celebrate the Tour of Britain. He added that he had attended the Tour of Britain events in St Austell with the Deputy Mayor on Sunday and had been very impressed with the number of people lining the streets to watch the quick, but impressive tour pass through the town.

C/21/45) Public Participation

Nicky Oxenham referred to Agenda Item 9 and asked if the Town Council had received £140,000 Town Vitality Funding from Cornwall Council previously referred to. She also expressed her disappointment with regard to the lack of knowledge that she felt Members have relating to the activities of SELAG and made reference to an inaccuracy in the minutes with regard to the name of the organisation. She welcomed Councillor Thompson's appointment to SELAG and advised that she continues to be involved with SELAG in a voluntary capacity.

C/21/46) Members' questions

None.

C/21/47) Cornwall Council – Louise Wood, Service Director for Planning & Sustainable Development and Mark Ellis, Strategic Planning Manager

The Mayor welcomed Mr Mark Ellis to the meeting.

Mr Ellis, Strategic Planning Manager at Cornwall Council thanked Members for inviting him to the meeting and passed on apologies from Louise Wood who at the last minute could not attend the meeting due to transport difficulties. He however took the opportunity to introduce Rachel Galbraith, a new colleague within his team, who will assist with the St Austell Project.

Mr Ellis referred Members to the previously circulated briefing note and confirmed that the £140,000 has been agreed by the Portfolio Holder but the contract for this funding is still with the legal team.

Mr Ellis advised that the initial project work for St Austell started with consultants (Arcadis, Inner Circle and JDP Architects) talking to stakeholders last year about the important areas in the town, the results of which were reported to the Town Council in December 2020 and focussed on five key sites in the town:

- Cornwall College
- Carlyon Road Triangle
- Town Centre
- Penwinnick Road
- Blantyre/Karensa Site

He added that Cornwall Council's Senior Leadership Team is committed to St Austell and have developed a St Austell Place Programme which is the only one in Cornwall which, if successful, could be a model for future programmes. He advised that 11 workstreams have been set up and explained the work carried out to date with each stream:

- Town Revitalisation
- Housing Strategy
- Key Sites concepts
- Health and Wellbeing Hub
- Cornwall College
- Integrated Service Hub
- St Austell AFC
- Library and Information Services
- Safe and Well Hub
- Engagement and Communications
- Communities

Mr Ellis advised that Cornwall Council acknowledges the lack of resource to administer the Town Revitalisation project within the Town Council and have identified funding in the sum of £25,000 from another funding pot which could go towards capacity building. In total the Town Council could be awarded £165,000 in response to the Town Vitality Fund bid.

Mr Ellis outlined the Levelling Up Funding which is determined on constituency boundaries and stressed the need to have “shovel ready” projects available for when funding becomes available.

Mr Ellis concluded his presentation by outlining the five strategic themes that are being worked on:

1. Progress proposals for establishing basis of public services closer to the Town Centre;
2. Looking at development and alternative use options on Cornwall Council owned sites;
3. Develop a business case for a Health and Wellbeing Hub for St Austell
4. Performing Arts Strategy
5. Transforming Town Centre townscape and public realm

The Mayor thanked Mr Ellis for his interesting presentation.

During discussion, Members raised the following questions/issues/discussion points:

- The need to ensure that all the health projects are linked together
- The lack of social housing in the town
- The advantages and disadvantages of re-locating the library
- The potential to locate an Arts Centre into the town centre
- The need to progress a cycling hub in the town centre
- The need to avoid silo working

C/21/48) Co-option - Bethel and Holmbush Ward

The Town Clerk advised that four candidates had put themselves forward for the 2 vacancies in the Bethel and Holmbush Ward, 3 of which were present at the meeting. He explained that Members would be given a voting form and asked to vote for 2 candidates out of the four. He advised that in line with the Town Council’s standing orders 9 votes or more (a majority) would be needed to be successfully elected. Councillor Brown added that a situation could potentially arise where a majority of votes might not be reached.

Mr Richard Clemo, Mr Jamie Hanlon and Mr Ethan Stephens each outlined to Members why they would like to be elected as a Councillor for Bethel and Holmbush Ward and the Mayor read out Mr Kevin Mozer’s application as he was unable to attend the meeting.

Members voted for their two preferred candidates and the Town Clerk announced the votes received as follows:

Mr Richard Clemo – 12 votes
Mr Jamie Hanlon – 4 votes
Mr Kevin Mozer – 7 votes
Mr Ethan Stephens – 9 votes

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr Richard Clemo and Mr Ethan Stephens be elected as Councillors for the Bethel and Holmbush Ward.

C/21/49) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Brown outlined the last SABEF meeting where the new owner of White River Place was in attendance. He advised that the group was due to receive a presentation in respect of the West Carclaze development but due to unforeseen circumstances this has been delayed until the September meeting. He added that it might be useful for the Town Council to have a presentation in due course. Kate O'Mara from the college advised that the college is hoping to have a public programme of events at the Keay Theatre and that a SABEF/St Austell Revitalisation Partnership joint meeting has been scheduled for the 6th October to discuss how the two organisations could work together in the future whilst remaining independent from each other. The Coastal Community Funding awarded to SABEF has now largely been spent.

Councillor Fox advised that she had attended her first Steering Group Meeting at The House and outlined to Members some of the work that Young People Cornwall are doing which includes working closely with BF Adventure and running the Hear our Voice mental health project for 11-19 year olds. The House is receiving 50 plus referrals each week and they have a young person keen to resurrect a Youth Council for the town. They have a good following on Facebook and have carried out some patrols in the Carlyon Bay area over the summer months following reports of ASB. Deprivation in the town is still an issue with food packages, computers and bike donations all having been distributed over recent months. Their ambition is to create a Mental Health Hub and they would like to have CCTV covering the Polkyth area.

Councillor Thompson advised that he also attended The House meeting with Councillor Fox and is now a representative on the Safer St Austell Group who are currently working on a Safer St Austell Project Plan. He added that he is due to attend a SELAG meeting shortly.

Councillor Hamilton advised that as Chair of the Town Council's Climate and Environment Committee, he would like to be considered as an official Town Council representative to sit on the Climate Action St Austell (CASA) Group.

The Clerk advised that he would put this as an agenda item on a future committee or Council meeting.

C/21/50) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Double advised that she had been busy attending many formal meetings and meetings with officers. She outlined her recent attendance at the Licensing meeting and her objection to an alcohol licence for new premises in Trinity Street. She thanked Members for their input into the town centre discussions with Mr Ellis and referred to a recent meeting with the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Works Team who might be able to help with some casework.

Councillor Rowse outlined the Covid challenges he had faced in the Bethel and Holmbush Ward including a fallen tree on the Holmbush Road which had resulted in a number of tree inspections and tree works in the area and a visit to Chapel Field with the ASB Caseworker to talk to residents about the issues in the area. He praised the Town Council's maintenance team for their work at Shelley Road and the Police for the arrest of a person who had carried out 16 offences in the area. Councillor Rowse advised that a public consultation will be launched shortly on improvements to the Bethel roundabout which, all being well, will be carried out next year. Councillor Rowse concluded by welcoming the two new Councillors to the Bethel and Holmbush Ward.

Councillor Guest advised that he is the Cornwall Councillor for the Roche and Bugle Division and that his recent activities include attendance at a SELAG meeting, a school bus appeals committee, a licensing committee and watching the Tour of Britain pass through Bugle.

C/21/51) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 3rd July 2021 to 27th August 2021 totalling £277,953.37 be approved.

C/21/52) Planning and Regeneration Committee

Councillor Brown praised Councillor French for representing the views of the Town Council at Cornwall Council's Licencing Sub Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings dated 19th July 2021 and 23rd August 2021 be noted.

C/21/53) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings were due to take place on Monday 18th October 2021 and Monday 13th December 2021.

The meeting closed at 19.34.