

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 at the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, George, Guest, Hamilton, Lanxon, McDonagh, Nott, Styles, Thompson and Young

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

**CE/21/14) Apologies for absence**

Councillors Double and Pears.

**CE/21/15) Declarations of interest**

None.

**CE/21/16) Dispensations**

None

**CE/21/17) Public Participation**

Mrs Earl thanked the Clerks for putting the Action Plan together and expressed CASA's support for the proposed climate awareness week at the library early next year. She applauded the tree planting and expressed a wish for a community tree planting project, possibly involving the schools. She advised that CASA is working hard to engage with the community to encourage everyone to do their bit.

**CE/21/18) Minutes of Meeting held of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CE/21/19) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

**CE/21/20) Climate Change Festival – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Councillor Hamilton outlined the proposed event at Cornwall College on the 27<sup>th</sup> November and asked if the Town Council wanted to be involved. During discussion Members agreed that they would like to organise a stand and display boards depicting the climate initiatives that the Town Council has achieved so far and its future plans. Councillors Hamilton, Guest, George, Young, Nott and Styles volunteered to help on the day on a rotational basis. It was suggested that in the spirit of reducing the use of plastic, the displays would not be laminated.

The Deputy Clerk referred Members to a grant application from Cornwall Council seeking a contribution towards the event in the sum of £250. It was noted that the total cost of the event is projected to be in the region of £1600 with a contribution of £1,000 from Cornwall Council's Carbon Neutral Team. Other Town and Parish Councils within the Local Community Network areas have been asked to contribute.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Town Council should be represented at the Climate Change Festival at Cornwall College on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the format of which to be agreed by Councillors Hamilton, Guest, George, Young, Nott and Styles in consultation with the Town Clerk;
2. A sum of £250 be granted to Cornwall Council towards the costs involved.

### **CE/21/21) Climate Emergency Work Plan**

The Deputy Clerk advised that she had updated the Climate Emergency Work Plan and drew attention to the Town Council's key achievements, current projects and future initiatives. During discussion, Members raised a question on the number of trees that have been planted, the potential for a community orchard at the Stable Block and the status of the repairs to the water fountain at the Holy Trinity Church.

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

### **CE/21/22) Priory Car Park – Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

The Clerk explained that Cornwall Council has received significant funding to instal rapid charging points in their car parks, but they are reluctant to include Priory Car Park in the project because it is leased to the Town Council. He explained that he has approached 2 other potential providers, Instavolt and Pod Point to see what they could provide but only Pod Point has come back with an offer to instal Fast Charging Points. He added that he has been in contact with Jeremy Roberts from Mevagissey who has fast charging points in his car park and is currently exploring rapid charging. Western Power has indicated informally that they believe that there is a sufficient supply on the edge of Priory Car Park to power rapid charging points.

During discussion, Members expressed their disappointment that Cornwall Council, despite being the owner of the freehold, is reluctant to include Priory Car Park in their project and asked that a letter be written to the project lead at Cornwall Council explaining that the town has been identified as a priority for regeneration and that they should resolve the legal issues to allow Priory Car Park to be included in the project.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to Cornwall Council requesting that as freeholders of the car park, they should resolve the anticipated legal issues and include Priory Car Park within the project.

### **CE/21/23) Cornwall Council – E-Bike Trial**

The Clerk advised that following an early pilot in Falmouth, Cornwall Council is intending to undertake further e-bike hire pilot schemes in Truro, Penzance and St Austell. At a recent working group, it was suggested that potential locations for e-bike stations could be at Wheal Martyn, Eden, Heligan, Railway Station, Priory Car Park, Cornwall College, Polkyth Leisure Centre, Charlestown and the library. The tender process is due to start in November with a contract awarded after Christmas and a start date in the summer of 2022.

Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that there was expected to be 8 e-bike stations and 20 e-bikes.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the initiative.

### **CE/21/24) Cornwall Council – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

The Clerk advised that the LCWIP being developed by Cornwall Council will cover a 10 year period and is needed to apply for funding from the Department of Transport Active Travel Fund. He added that Section 106 funding will pay for the cost of production of the plan and that bids had been received and are being evaluated to complete the work. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in November, commence early in 2022 and have a delivery timescale of approximately six months.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the initiative.

### **CE/21/25) Ocean Housing Plans for more efficient homes**

Councillor Hamilton advised that following concern amongst Members regarding the selling of Ocean property, the Clerk had arranged for Mr David Hooper, Head of Neighbourhood Services from Ocean Housing, to an informal Zoom meeting to which all Members had been invited.

Mr Hooper advised at the meeting that Ocean needed to raise £40M to bring their housing stock up to Government energy efficient set standards and that as far as possible, the houses sold will not be occupied. Each house that becomes vacant will be assessed as to how much work is required to bring it up to standard and if deemed too expensive will be put on the open market.

During discussion Members raised the following issues:

- The loss of social house
- The apparent lack of replacement housing
- The potential for Cornwall Council to buy the properties
- The use of unsuitable temporary accommodation for homeless people
- The number of empty properties in the town

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to Ocean Housing copying in the portfolio holder at Cornwall Council expressing the Town Council's concerns and suggesting that Cornwall Housing should investigate the purchase of Ocean Housing properties that come onto the market.

### **CE/21/26) Dates of Meetings**

It was suggested that the next meeting should be held in three months' time.

The meeting closed at 7.16pm.