

**MINUTES of a meeting of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2022 in the Council Chamber, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR (Cornwall Council Offices) at 6.00pm.**

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

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

**Also present:** Samantha Brock, Communication Support Services (accompanying Councillor Nott).

**C/21/98) Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Bull who advised that she would have to leave early.

**C/21/99) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received**

There were no declarations made.

**C/21/100) Dispensations**

There were no requests for a dispensation.

*\*\* Councillor Anita Cohen arrived \*\**  
*\*\* Councillor Patrick McDonagh arrived\*\**

**C/21/101) Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Councillor Brown raised a point of accuracy in the minutes under Standing Order 12b. He advised that the final sentence in the third paragraph of minute C/21/87 should read:

*"She added that she was disappointed with the political nature of a mis-leading article on the subject that a Councillor had written for a local newspaper. Another Councillor interrupted her before she could conclude her remarks and the Mayor moved straight away to the vote on the recommendation"*

Councillor Bull seconded this motion. The motion was approved by 14 votes in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions.

Councillor Double advised that further to minute C/21/91 she had not met with the new ASB caseworker or Police Inspector but had welcomed them to their new appointments.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be approved subject to the above amendments and signed as a correct record.

**C/21/102) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that, further to minute C/21/83, although the Mayor had attended the annual Christmas lights switch on a number of upgrades to the infrastructure for

the lights was required and the BID was expected to request financial assistance for this work.

### **C/21/103) Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor advised that he had attended a gathering of the Friends of Menacuddle Well and assisted with the clearance and laying of paths. He encouraged Councillors to join in with the work of the Friends Group.

He had also attended a promotional event for the security personnel employed by St Austell BID and part funded by the Town Council who have undertaken some excellent work around the town.

### **C/21/104) Public Participation**

Mrs Earl thanked the Mayor for his support at the Menacuddle Well Friends Group meeting. She advised that the Friends Group meet on the second Sunday of each month from 2pm to 4pm and invited Councillors to attend.

Mrs Earl advised that Climate Action St Austell (CASA) were delighted with the Town Council's Climate Action Plan and the excellent work that is being done in line with the plan.

Mr John Keast asked if he might be permitted to speak on the subject of Woodland Road Park when that matter was considered. The Mayor agreed to this.

### **C/21/105) Members' questions**

The Clerk advised that Councillor Rowse had asked that he be permitted to raise three questions and Councillor Rowse read out the following questions:

- 1. Remind us what steps St Austell Town Council are taking to encourage dog owners in the town to pick up their dog's faeces?*
- 2. Remind us what steps St Austell Town Council are taking to encourage members of the public to report owners who do not pick up their dog's faeces?*
- 3. Tell us how many dog poo bins the town council own in the town and explain if there any plans to increase the amount of dog poo bins?*

The Clerk advised that he had received a comprehensive reply from the Operations Manager and read the following:

- 1. In 2020 the Town Council took part in a Cornwall Council initiative in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy. Glow-in-the-dark dog fouling signs reading "We Are Watching You" were erected at one of our sites and dog fouling was monitored 6 weeks before and 6 weeks after the signs were installed. The results showed that the number of incidents of dog fouling had been considerably reduced in the 6 weeks after the signs had been installed. As a result of this, in 2021 the Town Council added further glow-in-the-dark signs in 3 more parks with known dog fouling issues (Bethel, Penmere Road and The Meadows). A further 12 signs have been delivered and will be placed across the remaining parks and open spaces in the coming months.*

2. *Our signs are geared towards dog owners picking up after their own dog. Town Council staff have attended a course on how to use Cornwall Council's Report Cards, which they carry a supply on their vehicles. In the event that staff witness any offences, they can fill out the cards. Completed cards are sent to the enforcement team at Cornwall Council.*

3. *The Town Council is currently responsible for servicing around 47 bins, 22 of which are solely dog waste. Poltair, Truro Road, Bethel Park, Prince Charles, Lostwood Garden, Penmere Road, Woodland Road, Sandy Hill, Chapel Field and The Meadows all have dog waste bins. It is worth noting that nationwide, ALL bins are now classed as mixed-waste and can be used to dispose of dog waste. 2 new mixed-waste bins are currently on order for Linear Park and The Meadows. All of the TC's parks and open spaces are in fact covered by Cornwall Council's Public Space Protection Order 2020 (Dogs on Leads), with Poltair Park and Woodland Road Park having a complete ban on dogs under the same order.*

### **C/21/106) Woodland Road Park – Working Group**

The Clerk advised that there had been long running issues with Mount Charles School regarding the joint use of Woodland Road Park. He explained that Cornwall Council transferred the park to the Town Council at the end of 2016 shortly after the school had become an Academy. At that time, Cornwall Council were negotiating a Joint Use Agreement with the Academy but had not completed those negotiations and the negotiations between the Town Council and the Academy since that time have not reached agreement.

The Academy has however approached the Town Council with a new proposal which it would like to discuss informally initially. The Clerk suggested that a Working Group of approximately six Councillors should be formed based primarily on the Poltair and Mount Charles Ward Members.

The Mayor invited Mr Keast to speak. Mr Keast explained that the school now had approximately 400 children and that the Woodland Road Park was no longer suitable for use as a school playing field. He expressed concern that there is a deficiency in the education provision for local children. He asked the Town Council to help to ensure that proper facilities were provided for school children, and he spoke in support of creating a Working Group, with representatives from the Academy to explore the options and formulate an acceptable solution for both parties without the need to get lawyers involved. He advised that three representatives from the Academy would like to be involved in the discussions as follows:

Clare Ridehalgh (Deputy CEO)  
Katie Chandler (Chair of Governors)  
John Keast (Governor)

During discussion, Councillor Bull advised that she planned to become a Trustee of the Academy and would therefore not be a Member of the Working Group and nominated Councillor Young to take her place. Members expressed a preference for evening meetings for the Working Group.

It was **RESOLVED** to form a Working Group to meet with the representatives of the Academy comprising of Councillors: Fox, Lanxon, Pears, Stephens, Thompson and Young.

### **C/21/107) Town Centre Revitalisation Project**

The Clerk advised that the Partnership last met on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and elected Sandra Heyward as the Chair for the next 12 months. He advised that Vice-Chairs would be elected at the next meeting which was due to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at Cornwall College and that the Town Council had taken over the administration of the meetings. The Clerk introduced Bill McCardle the Council's Regeneration Officer who proceeded to outline his background and qualifications for the role of Regeneration Officer and provided an update on the work undertaken to date. He explained that he had spoken and met with over 60 people representing 45 organisations to gather the views of stakeholders about the town centre. He explained that he is always willing to engage with Councillors and constituents and always pleased to hear the views of others in relation to how the town centre could be improved. He expressed the view that the town had a major opportunity to improve coming out of Covid and on the back of the master planning work proposed.

The Mayor thanked Mr McCardle for his update.

Councillor Brown advised that he was on the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership and that the first stage of the project would last approximately 12 months but the delivery of improvements and the proposals coming out of the planning work would take longer to deliver.

Members noted the update.

### **C/21/108) Community Governance Review – Working Group**

The Clerk reminded Members that in October 2021 the Town Council created a Working Group to consider the two boundary change proposals submitted by the Town Council previously which had been deferred by Cornwall Council until the current administration. He advised that the group had met and elected Councillor French as Chair and Councillor Brown as Vice Chair. The Chair had agreed to draft the case in relation to land at Higher Trehiddle Farm and the Vice-Chair would draft a response in relation to Boscoppa/Carclaze. The group is due to meet next on the 8<sup>th</sup> February to further progress matters and to review guidance and consultation recently published by Cornwall Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Clerk in consultation with the Working Group authority to submit further evidence in relation to the two outstanding areas for consideration if necessary.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that a budget of £5,000 be allocated and the Clerk be authorised to incur expenditure up to a maximum of £5,000 should any expenditure be necessary in relation to this exercise.

*\*\*Councillor Pearce left the meeting during the next item\*\**

### **C/21/109) Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Working Group**

Councillor Lanxon as Chair of the Council's Working Group provided an update on the thought processes of the group and the options available to the Town Council. Members discussed the relevant merits of the Town Council organising events and providing support for community groups who wished to organise events. After considerable debate and concern with regard to the lack of staff resource, it was

agreed that it would be most appropriate for the Town Council to facilitate events in its parks and to offer assistance to community groups who wish to arrange events.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should publicise that it was prepared to allow community groups to hold events in the Council's parks and to offer financial assistance from the budget set aside for community events celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

*\*\*Councillor Bull left the meeting\*\**

### **C/21/110) Scheme of Delegation**

Members noted the decisions made under the Scheme of Delegations.

### **C/21/111) Highways Schemes**

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council had invited suggestions for Highways Schemes to be considered under the Community Network Highways Scheme which had an annual budget of £57,000.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors should make suggestions to their local Cornwall Councillor for collation and reporting back to the Community Link Officer.

### **C/21/112) Climate and Environment Activities**

Councillor Hamilton provided an update on the Town Council's Climate and Environment activities which covered:

- The Town Council's Action Plan
- The People's Climate Festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- The Council's tree planting record and plans to plant a further 100 trees
- Ocean Housing's proposals to improve the energy efficiency of its dwellings linked to the sale of properties
- Progress with bidding for electrical charging points in Priory Car Park
- E-Bike pilot scheme and the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Councillor Hamilton commended the work of the Operations Manager and his team and highlighted the Town Council's record of sowing wildflower seeds, planting trees and bulbs. Councillor Hamilton advised that it was hoped to have another meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee when progress was made with the EV charging points, E-Bike pilot and LCWIP.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Hamilton for his update.

### **C/21/113) Poltair Café**

The Clerk advised that an approach had been received from a potential operator for Poltair Café who had suggestions for improving the layout of the building and was interested in operating it as a simple café subject to improvements being made to the layout of the café. The Clerk advised that there was still approximately £4,000 available from the original budget and asked permission to negotiate with the potential operator and grant a tenancy for a trial period.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be granted authority to negotiate a tenancy and trial period with the operator proposed and to undertake works necessary to accommodate this operator.

#### **C/21/114) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports**

Councillor French advised that the BID had undertaken a survey of vacant premises which demonstrated that St Austell had fewer vacant premises than the national average. He advised that the Welcome Back Fund had allocated £17,000 for events to be managed by the Hall for Cornwall in St Austell before the end of March. He advised that the BID was pleased with the range of events being planned.

Councillor Styles advised that he is no longer on the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce but that a meeting was planned for 5.45pm on Thursday at the Gurkha Restaurant. The Mayor, Councillor Double and Councillors Styles would all be speaking at this event. A further event is planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> February at Moustache Jacks at which Annette Miller (St Austell BID Manager) and Bill Holland (White River Place) would be speakers.

Councillor Hamilton advised that CASA would be undertaking a litter pick in Linear Park at 9.30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

Councillor Thompson advised that he had attended meetings with the Planning Partnership and received reports on flooding and enforcement. He added that he had attended a Safer St Austell meeting and the key message was to report all crimes and anti-social behaviour. He further advised that SELAG are preparing for the end of the programme and absorption back into Cornwall Council.

#### **C/21/115) Cornwall Councillor update reports**

Councillor Pears advised that work was still ongoing with regard to the future of the hydrotherapy pool in St Austell although increasing energy costs would not help. Cornwall Council was working with the NHS to look at alternative funding sources. He advised that the traffic lights at Porthpean Road are now operational and that the Slades Road parking space had been removed.

Councillor Double read her Cornwall Councillor report out as follows:

*"Quick run through of the meetings I have attended since the last Town Council meeting:*

- *Penwinnick Road workshop*
- *Trompe L'Oeil meeting – plans to put the original artwork in the Market House*
- *Community Network Monthly Members meeting*
- *The House Steering Group*
- *Town Revitalisation Partnership*
- *Meeting re an update on A30 Link Road*
- *Planning Meeting to discuss a new application for 20 Clarence Road*
- *Meeting with the new MD of Cornwall Airport Newquay*
- *Meeting with Bill McCardle – Regeneration Officer*
- *Meeting with new chair of Chamber of Commerce – I am due to speak at their meeting this coming Thursday.*
- *Usual meetings with Rachel Galbraith and Mark Ellis re St Austell*

- My usual Council Committee commitments with Airport and Customer Committee
- Telephone meeting with White River Cinema
- Meeting with Adam Birchall and Neal Read regarding Bodmin Road traffic lights – going to court 15<sup>th</sup> February.
- Meeting of Safer St Austell – raised the Trinity Street licencing application

*So, the last few weeks have been busy.*

*Just to highlight a few things:*

*Disappointed (but not surprised) re the Trinity Street "off licence" that was supposed to be a small convenience shop with a licence to sell alcohol. With the signage reading like it does – it is more like an off licence. Not open yet but I have had a guarantee from the Police that as soon as it is open they will go down and "have a look".*

*Good to meet Bill – and get his thoughts on the town and how this can feed into the wider piece of work being done with the Revitalisation Partnership.*

*Apart from the bits above I have also undertaken a great deal of casework, helping residents and ensuring their voice is heard and their concerns taken seriously."*

Councillor Rowse read his Cornwall Councillor report out as follows:

*"Good evening all*

*I want to thank the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their persistence in getting the mobile CCTV camera back up in Bethel. I was persistent with them, but credit where credit is due. Before Christmas, the camera went back up and the residents of Chapel Field are incredibly grateful and have already noticed the dramatic change in behaviour on the estate since the camera went back up.*

*The camera is now placed in a strategic location – a crime hot-spot and is mounted by an anti-climb frame with anti-climb paint. We need to ensure our communities feel safe and I remain committed to doing everything it takes to ensure that we can all feel safe in our own town.*

*Figures released in January show that St Austell was second on the list for 'dog poo hotspots' in Cornwall. Dog poo in and around St Austell is an issue. On the grass verges, on the pavements and in the parks. It's not on.*

*While St Austell is second on the list, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. This means that St Austell has the second highest amount of reports of dog poo. That's a good thing. By reporting it, this means the dog warden will visit the area so we can try and catch dog owners in the act. Like anything, resources go where reports are.*

*Having already asked the clerk what this town council is doing to tackle the issue, I will take this up with Cornwall Council and the Dog Warden to ensure we get the patrols we need and that intelligence is acted on.*

*In January I was pleased to see the Porthpean Road junction improvements have also been completed. I must say, it really is an improvement and I know it's appreciated*

*by parents doing the school pick-up and drop offs, and businesses on Porthpean Road.*

*The project included the relocation of the existing Toucan crossing, traffic signals and central islands on the eastern arm, to a newly formed signalised junction and right turn in to Porthpean Road one-way system. A new footpath has been created in the existing verge, including new paving, and wildflowers and bulbs planted in the grass verges.*

*I was also pleased to see the new football goals being put up across the town council parks in the town, and I look forward to seeing new ones erected at Bethel Park in the very near future. As Chairman of a local football team, this is something that is important to me and we should be doing everything we can to encourage our kids to play sports in the town.*

*Over the Christmas period I saw some young lads playing football in Bethel Park. Must've been no more than 11/12 years old in their football kits having a great time. That's exactly what we want to see in the town.*

*We must remember that England's first million pound goalkeeper, and former England goalkeeper Nigel Martyn trained on Bethel Park in those football goals. Something small like getting new goal posts goes a long way. It's the little things. Great work by the Town Council's operations team.*

*At Christmas it was a pleasure to have Christmas lunch with the Tuesday Bethel Luncheon Club at Bethel Chapel - a luncheon club that's being going on for over 15 years for those in the area over the age of 70 - and they meet every Tuesday for lunch for company! For many of them, it's the only time of the week when they leave the house. Delighted to have paid for the Christmas lunch for the 30 of them out of my community chest, with the lunch provided by the White Hart in St Austell. A great afternoon with some festive singers!*

*We've also had some roads resurfaced in January which has gone down well including Meadway. In October I raised with Highways the state of the road in Meadway and am delighted that in less than two months, the whole road has been resurfaced. Since then I have bene up to Glendale Crescent and the bird sanctuary, and have requested that they also be resurfaced.*

*Talking of highway matters, today I submitted my asks for the Network Highways Scheme. As per the scheme, it is our job to present problems to Highways, and it is their job as the experts to come up with the solution. There are clearly a number of highways issues in my Division so I have included the following on my submission:*

- Parking on Brockstone Road*
- Parking on the junction of Boldventure Road*
- Parking on junction of Whieldon Road from Daniels Lane*
- Parking in Shelley Road*
- Parking on Trenowah Road*
- Speed of traffic on Daniels Lane*
- Traffic at school pick up time / dangerous parking Bishop Bronescombe and Sandy Hill Academy*
- Parking on junctions in Retallick Meadows*
- Adoption of private road - Manfield Way*
- Change of waiting restrictions - Daniels Lane Car Park*



- *Repainting of disabled bays - Daniels Lane Car Park*
- *Issues with parking in Mayfield Close*
- *Official parking bays for Linear Park - Penhaligon Way*
- *Official parking bays for Bethel Park - Bucklers Lane (across from social club)*
- *Parking in the bird sanctuary*
- *Tesco roundabout - Daniels Lane*

*I'm looking forward to another busy month in February."*

Councillor Guest, Cornwall Councillor for Bugle and Roche advised that he had been involved in the making of "The Annual Conversation" film at Cornwall Council and that he would send a link to the film to the Clerk for circulation to all Councillors.

### **C/21/116) Schedule of Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 totalling £110,525.55 be approved.

### **C/21/117) Schedule of Meetings – 2022/23**

Members noted a draft Schedule of Meetings for the 2022/23 civic year. The Clerk reported that the Chair of the Planning and Regeneration Committee had asked that the proposed planning meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be moved to the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Schedule of meetings for the 2022/23 civic year, subject to the above amendment.

Councillor Brown asked that it be minuted that if additional staff resource can be found the planning meetings be arranged at regular four weekly intervals in the future.

### **C/21/118) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next Town Council meeting is due to take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.11pm.