

MINUTES of a meeting of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 21st MARCH 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, Lanxon, Nott, Pearce, Pears (Mayor), Rowse, Stephens, Styles, Thompson and Young.

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk), Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk), Bill McCardle (Regeneration Officer).

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

C/21/119) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hamilton and McDonagh. Councillors Double, Styles and Young advised that they would have to leave early due to other commitments.

C/21/120) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received

There were no declarations made.

C/21/121) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/21/122) Minutes of meeting held on 31st January 2022

Councillor Thompson advised that on Page 8 of the minutes "Sand Hill Academy" should read "Sandy Hill Academy".

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st January 2022 be approved subject to the above amendment and signed as a correct record.

C/21/123) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that, further to minute C/21/106, the Woodland Road Park Working Group had met once and were awaiting more information relating to the School proposals and would meet again when the details were available. He explained that the Community Governance Review Working Group had not yet incurred any expenditure against the budget approved in minute C/21/108 and that further meetings with prospective tenants of Poltair Café and builders were due to take place on Friday (Minute C/21/113).

*** Councillor Guest arrived ***

C/21/124) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he had attended a ceremony at the Library to present South West in Bloom "It's Your Neighbourhood" competition certificates to community groups with refreshments kindly provided by SALSA. The groups receiving certificates were:

- Friends of St Austell station
- Lostwood Community Garden
- ABC Residents Association
- Chandlers Walk.

He had also met a Young at Heart group at the Gospel Hall, chaired a Woodland Road Park Working Group meeting with Cornwall Education Learning Trust and helped to judge the World Pasty Championships at the Eden Project.

C/21/125) Public Participation

Mrs Earl thanked Councillor Fox for organising the St Piran's Day event in St Austell which CASA had supported. She encouraged all that had not already done so to sign up to the GIKI app.

C/21/126) Members' questions

There were no Member's questions.

C/21/127) Nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2022/23

The Clerk explained that, although legally the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected at the Town Council's Annual Meeting in May each year, it was the Council's usual practice to choose a Mayor elect and a Deputy Mayor elect in March to ensure continuity.

Members considered the nominations received for Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2022/23 Civic Year.

There was one nomination for Mayor. Councillor Lanxon was proposed by Councillor Cohen and seconded by Councillor Stephens.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Lanxon as Mayor elect for the 2022/23 civic year.

There were two nominations for Deputy Mayor elect.

- Councillor Double was proposed by Councillor Rowse and seconded by Councillor Pears.
- Councillor Pearce was proposed by Councillor Styles and seconded by Councillor Bull.

It was **RESOLVED** to vote on this matter by way of a secret ballot.

Councillor Pearce was elected by 12 votes to 5.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Pearce as Deputy Mayor elect for the 2022/23 civic year.

Councillor Styles left the meeting
Councillor Young left the meeting

C/21/128) Town Centre Revitalisation Project

The Town Clerk advised that the report circulated previously provided an update on the Town Centre Revitalisation Project and explained that in accordance with the agreed procurement processes a tender invitation document has been drafted to reflect the contract required to deliver a number of outputs specified by Cornwall Council. These include a strategy and masterplan for the town centre, an inclusivity and accessibility review, identification of potential leisure provision opportunities in the town and town centre properties which can be re-purposed to better effect.

He outlined the approach and process taken to the development of the four invitation to tender documents (previously circulated by e-mail) and the identification of potential project/issues.

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the previously circulated "Tender Evaluation Criteria" and the need to form a panel to evaluate the tenders received and appoint suitable consultants. He acknowledged that the proposed timescales are tight but stressed the need for the project to be driven on to hit the December deadline imposed by Cornwall Council. The Clerk confirmed that the tenders would be assessed on price and quality with an emphasis on quality.

The Regeneration Officer outlined the workstreams which were being undertaken in parallel with the consultant's work. These included an Education Workstream, an Events and Engagement Workstream and an Active Transport Workstream.

In response to questions, it was advised that it was hoped that consultants would liaise with the Shop Mobility Team and other appropriate organisations with regard to accessibility and inclusivity.

Issues raised by Members included:

- The potential to disaggregate the contract
- The need to drive the project on
- The need to manage consultants
- The membership of the two groups overseeing outputs 3 & 4
- The need to put a mechanism in place should the partnership at their meeting on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 not agree with the documentation and procedures recommended by the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Note the progress outlined in the report;
- ii. Approve the draft tender specification and invitation documents circulated previously;
- iii. Approve the Tender Evaluation document and delegate responsibility for advertising the tender and appointing the consultants who provide the most economically advantageous tender to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Panel;
- iv. Approve the draft timetable.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to make any reasonable amendments required to the documentation following the Partnership meeting on Tuesday 22nd March 2022.

Mr Bill McCardle, Regeneration Officer left the meeting

C/21/129) Community Governance Review – Working Group

The Clerk advised that the Working Group had met and agreed a submission to Cornwall Council which Councillors Brown and French had drafted. He thanked the Working Group members for undertaking this work. Councillor Brown explained that further work may be required when Cornwall Council officers and members consider the representations received. Councillors thanked the Working Group members for their work on this matter.

C/21/130) Premises Licence Applications

1. Premier Express, 10 Alexandra Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4QP.

Application Type: Variation. **Licensable Activities:** Amend plan, remove existing conditions and replace them with new ones, extend the hours for the sale and supply of alcohol.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

2. The Stag Inn, 5-7 Victoria Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5PE.

Application Type: Grant of a Premises Licence. **Licensable Activities:** Supply of Alcohol Live and Recorded Music.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Anne Double left the meeting

C/21/131) 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

The Clerk advised that a number of representations were being made to include Roche/Bugle in the suggested constituency for Newquay and St Austell as this area related closely to the clay villages. In order to balance the various proposed constituencies there was a need to transfer either St Mawgan/St Columb/St Wenn to North Cornwall or Fowey/St Blazey/Par to South-East Cornwall.

It was **RESOLVED** to strongly support the inclusion of Roche/Bugle in the Newquay and St Austell constituency.

C/21/132) Rural Services Network

It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Councillor Stephens as the Town Council's representative on the Rural Services Network Young People's Panel and Councillor Guest on the Older People's Panel.

C/21/133) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Brown advised that St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) had not met but was focussing on the completion of artworks planned in the town centre.

Councillor French advised that the BID was planning a window display competition for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to donate a trophy for this competition.

Councillor Guest left the meeting during the next item

C/21/134) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Rowse provided an update on his latest Cornwall Councillor activities as follows:

- The felling and reduction of diseased trees on Holmbush Road;
- Securing a provisional Tree Preservation Order for a variety of trees on land close to Aspen Drive and Boscoppa Road;
- Meeting with Cormac to address drainage issues on Brockstone Road and Boldventure Road;
- A drive around the Bethel area with the Highways Manager to discuss highways issues and concerns;
- Working with Ocean on issues in Chapel Field and Boldventure Road;
- Tackling noise pollution issue in Holmbush;
- Securing an additional 11 visits from the parking enforcement team to Bethel and Holmbush in the month of February.

In addition, Councillor Rowse thanked the Town Council for the installation of football goals in Bethel Park and the installation and maintenance of four new dog waste bins that he had purchased utilising some of his community chest monies for Town Council sites in Bethel.

Arising from the above, it was suggested that although updates on constituency work were welcome, Members felt that it would be helpful if the Town Council could also have an overview of the strategic issues that the Cornwall Councillors are dealing with and particularly issues that might affect the Town Council.

Councillor Pears advised that following the mothballing of the hydrotherapy pool Cornwall Council are in talks with the NHS and Merlin to try to secure some public access to their facilities. He added that a speed sensor has been installed on Porthpean Road and that the drainage in the Asda underpass has been improved. Councillor Pears concluded by thanking the Town Council for installing football goals at Poltair Park.

In Councillor Double's absence, the Deputy Clerk highlighted some of the strategic work being undertaken by Councillor Double:

- Her work with Cornwall Council officers with regard to the regeneration of the Penwinnick Road site;
- A meeting with a senior Library Officer to discuss the future operation of the library;
- Her work as Chair of the Airport Consultative Forum.

A discussion ensued with regard to the informal library discussions that have taken place so far and the potential need to progress the discussions to a point where the public are consulted.

C/21/135) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings held on 7th February 2022 and 7th March 2022.

C/21/136) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st February 2022.

C/21/137) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 28th February 2022.

C/21/138) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 22nd January 2022 to 11th March 2022 totalling £130,367.32 be approved.

C/21/139) Schedule of Meetings – 2022/23

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Schedule of meetings for the 2022/23 civic year.

C/21/140) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on Monday 25th April 2022 (Annual Parish Meeting) and Monday 9th May 2022 (Annual Town Council Meeting).

The meeting closed at 7.51pm.