

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 28th MARCH 2022 in the Council Chamber, Cornwall Council Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR.

Present: Councillors: Clemo, Cohen, Double, Fox, Guest, Pearce, Pears, Rowse, Stephens, Thompson and Young.

Also Present: Councillor Styles.

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

CC/21/58) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George and Nott.

CC/21/59) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fox declared an interest in the grant application for a St Piran's Day Event as one of the organisers of the event.

CC/21/60) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

*** Councillor Clemo arrived ***

CC/21/61) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th February 2022

It was noted that the word "Week" on page 6 of the minutes should read "Weed".

It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th February 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/21/62) Matters to note

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that further to minute CC/21/54 the residents of Brookside/Parkway had provided more details and a grant of £100 had been awarded under the delegated procedure approved.

CC/21/63) Public Participation

None.

*** Councillor Pearce arrived ***

CC/21/64) Small Grants Scheme

Cornwall Pride

It was **RESOLVED** to award Cornwall Pride £250 towards their St Austell Pride celebrations.

Daisy Dukes

Members felt that the grant application lacked sufficient detail to support a grant of the scale requested and suggested that more detail and representation from the applicant at a future meeting would help Members to make a decision.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer a decision on this application and to request that the applicant provides more details to support the application and attends a future meeting to answer any questions that Members have.

St Austell Running Club

It was **RESOLVED** to award St Austell Running Club £250 towards their Imerys Trail Marathon.

St Austell St Piran's Day Event

Councillor Fox explained the plans to make the St Austell St Piran's Day Event a sustainable annual event and left the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to award the organisers of the St Austell St Piran's Day Event £500 towards the 2023 St Piran's Day event in St Austell town centre.

*** Councillor Fox returned to the meeting ***

CC/21/65) Grounds Maintenance update

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Operations Manager could not attend this evening and introduced his report setting out a summary of the winter maintenance undertaken this year. She explained that grass cutting would start this week but that the Council had two vacancies following an unsuccessful recruitment process and that temporary arrangements were being put in place to cover some of the shortfall of resource while remuneration and recruitment issues were being addressed.

She explained that the Enabling Agreement with Cornwall Council for highways verge, flower bed and roundabout maintenance etc is due to be renegotiated later this week.

Councillor Double thanked the grounds maintenance team for the prompt erection of barriers at Poltair Park.

In response to questions the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the grounds maintenance team had been affected by Covid and that she would provide Councillor Fox with the contact details for Edible St Austell.

CC/21/66) Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Bench

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that a suitable bench made from recycled plastic had been identified by the Operations Manager which could be purchased with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 emblem at a cost of £700-800. It was suggested that one could be acquired for each of the three wards.

A debate took place and a suggestion was put forward to invest in trees for the jubilee rather than purchase benches. The Clerk confirmed that the purchase of 3 benches could be funded from the grounds maintenance budget.

A proposal to order 3 benches and ask the Operations Manager to determine the appropriate location for each received 5 votes for and 5 votes against. The motion was passed on the casting vote of the Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Operations Manager should acquire 3 benches for the Platinum Jubilee and determine suitable locations for each.

CC/21/67) Projects Update

The Deputy Town Clerk provided the following update:

CCTV

An alternative location is being explored for one of the town centre cameras due to a change of ownership of the building that it is attached to and a further camera has recently been obscured due to building works in the vicinity. Both issues will hopefully be resolved shortly. The cameras are being monitored very comprehensively on their winter hours and will revert to almost 24/7 monitoring during the summer months.

Mount Charles Park

The Woodland Road Park Working Group met on the 1st March and it was agreed to meet again in April at which time it is hoped that the Community Education Learning Trust (CELT) will have some further information to enable the Working Group to make a recommendation to full Council.

Poltair Park/Poltair Cafe

The safety surfacing has been renewed in the small children's area at Poltair Park and building works are due to take place at the café shortly to make it a more usable space. It is hoped that the interested tenants will open it in May on a trial basis.

Priory Car Park

The surface repairs to the area next to St John's have been done with further sections of the car park due to take place next year. On the whole, the car park is in good repair. The G4S contract is working reasonably well, but one cash collection was missed recently. The car park income is slightly better than budget but significantly down on previous years. The season tickets sales are steady and the Falmouth University mobile phone payment system trial (Pay 2 Park) is still going well.

Youth Services

Young People Cornwall are continuing to provide outreach work in the town with Lostwood Gardens recently added to the areas currently being targeted due to complaints about youths gathering in the area. Poltair Park, Thornpark Road and Linear Park are also on their patrol list.

Anti Social Behaviour

A potential funding stream for security personnel has been identified through the Safer Streets Fund, which if successful, would provide more funding to add to the

hours currently funded by the BID and the Town Council. The finer weather has brought out some street drinkers which the Police and Security Guards are aware of. The Deputy Clerk clarified that the Public Spaces Protection Order in the town centre does not ban drinking but enables a Police Officer to confiscate alcohol.

Library Statistics

The Deputy Clerk advised that a full report with regard to the Library will go to the Finance and General Purposes Committee next week.

Agency Agreement

The Clerk and Operations Manager are due to meet with Cornwall Council later in the week to agree the terms of a new Agency Agreement as the current one is due to expire at the end of the month. She explained that the agreement is between Cornwall Council and the Town Council and outlines the responsibilities and standards for grass cutting, maintenance of roundabouts, shrubberies, floral displays and benches.

Bethel Park improvements

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Operations Manager is engaged with the National Lottery with regard to an improvement scheme for Bethel Park but is finding it difficult to evidence engagement with a variety of minority groups and asked the Councillors for their thoughts.

Arising from the above, Councillor Rowse advised that the Leader at Cornwall Council has been in talks with the National Lottery about the demographic of Cornwall compared to major cities and the need to tailor demographic evidence accordingly. Councillor Rowse will update the Clerk on any developments. Praise was expressed for the Town Council's CCTV partnership with Newquay Town Council and reference was made to the Tolvaddon Partnership which does not have the comprehensive hours of monitoring that the towns Newquay and St Austell enjoy.

CC/21/68) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 6th June 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.