

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2022 in the Council Chamber, Cornwall Council Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Fox, Pearce, Rowse, Thompson and Young.

Also Present: Councillors Lanxon and Styles.

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

CC/22/16) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clemo, Double, George, Guest, Nott and Stephens.

CC/22/17) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fox advised that she worked for Cornwall College which is the site for the St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society production. The Clerk confirmed that she did not have a direct pecuniary interest.

Councillors Lanxon and Rowse arrived during the next item

CC/22/18) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/22/19) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th June 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/22/20) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

CC/22/21) Public Participation

Mrs Heyward thanked the Council for the grant towards the fun day in Truro Road Park and advised that the day had gone well. She congratulated the Mayor on the proclamation event earlier in the day.

CC/22/22) St Austell Sea Cadets

Sally Truscott from the St Austell Sea Cadets provided a presentation on the activities of St Austell Sea Cadets and outlined proposals to improve their premises for which a funding request will be made in due course.

Mrs Truscott explained that they have a waiting list of 25 young people and are in the top 75 of the cadet units in the country. The Sea Cadets are taught leadership and life skills as well as enjoying activities such as boating, cycling, catering and working in the community. Members expressed their full support for the Sea Cadets and Councillor Fox added that the Cornwall College construction apprentices might be able to help the Cadets with community projects.

CC/22/23) Small Grants Scheme

St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £750 towards the cost of their 2023 production of "Cinderella".

Woodland House

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of their "Mad Hatters Tea Party" fundraising event.

CC/22/24) St Austell Station

The Clerk introduced correspondence from the Friends of St Austell Station requesting support from the Town Council with regard to the station planting schemes.

Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that a budget of approximately £1,000 would be needed to take on the planting at the station but voluntary support from the Friends of St Austell Station would still be required. During discussion, Members felt that more sustainable planting at the station should be explored to cut down the maintenance required.

It was **RESOLVED** to take on the annual planting schemes for the planters at St Austell station on the understanding that the Friends of St Austell Station will assist with the maintenance and watering.

CC/22/25) There's No Place Like Home – Artwork (East Hill)

The Clerk provided an update on the investigations and negotiations for the adoption of the St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) artwork on the private property in East Hill. He highlighted the risks and legal measures required to secure the adoption. Members expressed concern that the ongoing maintenance of the artwork had not been determined before its creation.

A proposal not to accept liability for the artwork was lost 2 votes for, 3 votes against.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the adoption of the artwork as outlined in the correspondence circulated.

CC/22/26) Grass Cutting Policy

Members considered the Grass Cutting Policy and praised the quality of the document. It was suggested that if the wildflower areas are extended, consideration should be given to providing signage to explain the approach being taken and to make the areas look more cared for. It was also suggested that publicity with regard to the excellent work undertaken by the grounds maintenance service could be improved, more fruit trees should be planted and the document needed to be updated to reflect the current wards.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Grass Cutting Policy should be updated to reflect the current wards, the actions completed, the identification of areas where more fruit trees or a community orchard could be planted, signage for wildflower areas and more publicity for the grounds maintenance service.

CC/22/27) A391 roundabouts

The Clerk advised that a number of complaints have been received about the roundabouts and verges on the A391 and the roundabout outside the Britannia Inn which were all replanted by St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) utilising Coastal Communities funds. Members expressed concern about the lack of a proper maintenance regime in place and the neglect of the features created. It was noted that despite road closures for surfacing works recently the roundabouts were not weeded or tidied up.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should engage with neighbouring parish councils to co-ordinate complaints to Cornwall Council and Cormac about the poor state of the verges and A391 roundabouts (including the Britannia Inn roundabout) and the need for a proper maintenance regime to be put in place.

CC/22/28) St Austell Football

Councillor Rowse and Councillor Lanxon both put their name forward to represent the Town Council on the newly formed St Austell Football Working Group, led by Cornwall Council to explore the potential for a new 3G pitch in St Austell. Councillor Rowse subsequently withdrew his name and suggested that the Mayor of St Austell should be put forward to represent the Town Council on the St Austell Football Group.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor should be nominated to represent the Town Council on the working group investigating the provision of a new artificial football pitch in St Austell.

Councillor Rowse left the meeting

CC/22/29) Projects Update

Town Centre Regeneration

The Clerk advised that work was progressing well on the revitalisation plan, but it was a large commitment absorbing a lot of resource. The project is in a consultation phase and engagement events are planned over the next few weeks. He added that an expression of interest has been submitted for the first phase of the Shared Prosperity Fund which, if successful, would assist with funding for the detailed working up of projects identified.

CCTV

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that 20 permanent and 1 temporary CCTV cameras were in operation. Summer monitoring hours still apply, the shopwatch radios and the security personnel employed by the BID are working well in partnership with the Police and other agencies. As a result, ASB levels are down.

Members discussed the gatherings around the Holy Trinity Church and the state of the closed churchyard. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that she was aware of the issues and that the CCTV operatives and security guards regularly call in incidents relating to gatherings at the church grounds if matters get out of hand but stressed that under the Public Spaces Protection Order, it is not an offence for groups to quietly sit in the church grounds drinking.

She acknowledged the poor state of the paths at the Holy Trinity Church and advised that the grounds had unfortunately been used for storage of building material whilst the building opposite was being refurbished which had exacerbated the decline. She added that as a closed churchyard, the maintenance is the responsibility of Cornwall Council with the Town Council cutting the grass under a service level agreement.

During the debate it was also suggested that there is not enough for young people to do in St Austell and this was possibly causing ASB in some areas of the town.

The Deputy Town Clerk suggested that the Council should invite Nick Smith, Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall (YPC), to a future meeting to provide an update on the services and activities offered to young people by YPC.

Woodland Road Park

The Clerk advised that he was aware of a second letter from the Chair of CELT that he believed had been sent to all Councillors. He thanked Councillor Styles for his legal note and advised that he awaited a letter from Cornwall Council confirming that the park is not education land.

Poltair Park

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that a further bat survey had nearly been completed at the old toilet block and demolition should be permitted soon. She added that a new sign for the park was being procured to replace the very old arched sign.

She advised that the redesign of the café and the new operational arrangements have been a success and that new tables, chairs and umbrellas have been provided for the new operator. An official opening event is taking place in October at which the Mayor will be present.

Car Park

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the car park is trading slightly better than budget and that G4S were performing reasonably. The new Pay 2 Park payment system is still proving popular and season tickets are steady with many regular customers.

Youth Services

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that the House Youth Centre is open again and outreach work is taking place at a number of sites including Poltair Park, Lostwood Gardens, Thornpark Road Park and Linear Park.

Library Statistics

The Town Clerk expressed his delight with regard to the August statistics which shows St Austell Library as the top performing library in Cornwall for this month. He added that the Summer Reading Challenge is on target with over 700 children signing up to the challenge. A new staff member has been recruited and more classes and activities are planned for the autumn.

Agency Agreement – 31st March 2022 Renewal

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the agency agreement had been received from Cornwall Council and that some amendments had been suggested which are back with Cornwall Council for consideration.

Bethel Park Improvement

With the full support of Councillor Rowse, a CIL funding expression of interest has been submitted to Cornwall Council for Bethel Park. A first stage approval has been received and a detailed application is due to be worked up later this month.

CC/22/30) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 28th November 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm.