

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2023 in the Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Clemo, Cohen, Double, Fox, George, Nott, Pearce, Stephens and Thompson (Chair).

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk).

CC/22/46) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guest, Pears, Rowse and Young and Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk).

CC/22/47) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fox declared an interest in the Cornwall College grant application (Agenda Item 8(vi)) by virtue of being employed by the College.

CC/22/48) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/22/49) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th November 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/22/50) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that further to minute CC/22/35 representations for better maintenance of the roundabouts on the A391 had so far proved unsuccessful. With regard to minute CC/22/44 he advised that the planned works at Truro Road Park would be completed in April/May in conjunction with Bethel Park.

CC/22/51) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

CC/22/52) Nick Smith, Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall

The Chairman welcomed Nick Smith to the meeting and invited him to give an insight into the work of Young People Cornwall (YPC). Nick Smith outlined the vision and mission statement of YPC and provided a brief history of the Charity which would celebrate its 50th year in 2024. He listed some of the projects undertaken this year which included:

- Open access youth centres
- Mental Health Work
- Outreach Work
- Victims of Crime
- Participation and Youth Voice
- National Citizen Service
- Mental Health Support Hubs

- Work with unemployed young people
- Parish youth project

Nick Smith outlined how economic and social changes had impacted on the work of YPC and the increasing numbers of safeguarding and mental health issues experienced. He provided statistics to explain the scale of the service provided and the growing demand for support services for young people. He explained how the effectiveness of youth services is measured through an outcome star system which assesses progress for individuals in six areas:

- Making a difference
- Hopes and dreams
- Well-being
- Education & work
- Communicating
- Choices & behaviour

Scores suggest that young people in the St Austell area often start from a relatively low base position when compared with other areas but with support make good progress. He explained that the outcomes that his team work towards are:

- Increasing confidence and self esteem
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Increasing community engagement
- Raising aspirations and realising potential
- Developing relationship skills
- Improving mental health and physical well-being
- Enabling young people to have their voice heard.

In response to questions Nick Smith advised Members to report consistent anti-social behaviour involving youths through the Police or Safer St Austell routes and his team would then undertake outreach work as appropriate. Members discussed the impact of the increasing cost of living, the Action for Children contract, recent vandalism in Poltair Park and the importance of youth services and the good work undertaken by YPC. Nick Smith confirmed that the turnover of YPC was now over £2m per annum and that over 70 staff were employed.

The Chair thanked Nick Smith for his informative presentation and expressed the gratitude of councillors for the work undertaken by YPC.

CC/22/53) Small Grants Scheme

Choose Nature CIC

It was **RESOLVED** to award Choose Nature CIC a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of their outdoor kitchen.

Friends of Cornwall Youth Choirs

It was **RESOLVED** to award Friends of Cornwall Youth Choirs a grant in the sum of £500 for funding towards taking 50 singers, four of which are from St Austell, to participate in the Interkultur Hull International Choir Competition.

It was suggested that the group should be encouraged to approach Cornwall Councillors for donations from their Community Chest funds.

Friends of Robert Eliot Court

It was **RESOLVED** to award Friends of Robert Eliot Court a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of installing a defibrillator at Robert Eliot Court. It was suggested that the Friends group should be encouraged to become constituted and to contact Cornwall Councillors for donations from their Community Chest funds.

Poltair Residents Association

It was **RESOLVED** to award Poltair Residents Association a grant in the sum of £200 for funding towards an afternoon social gathering and disco to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on Monday 8th May 2023.

St Austell Amateur Operatic Society

It was **RESOLVED** to award St Austell Amateur Operatic Society a grant in the sum of £750 for funding towards the cost of hiring a hall for rehearsals for their April 2023 production of Young Frankenstein.

*** Councillor Fox reiterated her interest in the following item and took no part in the debate or voting on it. ***

St Austell College

It was **RESOLVED** to award St Austell College a grant in the sum of £250 for funding towards a Female Empowerment Festival on Wednesday 8th March 2023.

CC/22/54) Trough and Sun Dial

The Clerk reported that Cornwall Council had asked what the Town Council wished to happen to the trough and sun dial outside the Penwinnick Road offices.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask Cornwall Council to relocate the listed trough from Penwinnick Road to Truro Road Park and noted that the sun dial had been stolen several years ago.

CC/22/55) King Charles III Coronation – Saturday 6th May 2023 (At the request of Councillor Lanxon)

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this matter pending receipt of costings and more detail.

CC/22/56) E-Bike Scheme

The Clerk advised that it was hoped that the e-bike scheme would be rolled out in St Austell in the next two months and that a small area of Priory Car Park would be used as a bike docking station.

It was **RESOLVED** to welcome the e-bike trial and to authorise the Town Clerk to enter into a short-term licence with Beryl Bikes for space in Priory Car Park to facilitate the scheme.

CC/22/57) Townscape Heritage Scheme

The Clerk referred Members to the report which had been circulated separately by email and advised that the project was drawing to a close. He praised the work completed and agreed to circulate a survey relating to the project for Members to complete.

Members expressed their gratitude for the project and discussed the number and condition of empty shops in Fore Street. The Clerk advised that the Regeneration Officer was exploring the potential to utilise one or more empty shops through an empty shop/training project subject to obtaining funding and a willing landlord with a suitable property. Councillors Double and Fox undertook to provide the Clerk with details of empty shops initiatives in other towns which they were aware of.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and to formally thank Andrew Richards, Cornwall Council's Heritage Officer, for the excellent work completed.

CC/22/58) Projects Update

The Town Clerk provided an update on the projects being worked on as follows:

Town Centre Regeneration

The Clerk advised that the Masterplan had now been published and that a number of grant applications have been prepared for Shared Prosperity funding and discussions are taking place with Senior Economic Development Officers at Cornwall Council about Levelling Up Fund opportunities.

CCTV

All 20 cameras are operational in the town centre and consideration is being given to moving the mobile camera from Chapel Field to Cedar Woods.

Climate Emergency

A Climate Emergency DPD has been approved by Cornwall Council. The Local Cycling and Walking Strategy for St Austell has been completed but Cornwall Council are unable to share it for the moment. The E-bikes scheme should start in St Austell in the next 2-3 months. The EV charging project is progressing and chargers in Priory Car Park should be installed by the end of May 2023.

Town Council activities include 14 semi mature trees planted at Jubilee Meadows, 1 tree at the Library, plants have been purchased for a sensory garden at Bethel Park and a running trail has been created at Linnear Park with signs to encourage use.

Poltair Park

The Town Clerk advised that planning permission for a bat roost would be submitted shortly to Cornwall Council.

Toilets

The toilet cleaning contract is working extremely well with the contractors going the extra mile to keep the toilets up and running, particularly with regard to keeping the coin machines in working order. There may be a need to replace door locks and payment machines before long.

Anti-social behaviour

The Town Clerk advised that ASB levels had been low but there were signs that issues might be increasing slightly again. The Security Guards funded by the BID and Town Council are playing an integral part in keeping the ASB levels low and are valued by the Police. Other towns are looking at the model in St Austell.

Councillor Fox advised of recent ASB in Lostwood Park and Dobell Road. The Clerk stressed the need to report concerns to the Police.

Library

The Library is still performing very well and a number of significant events are being planned including a Literary Festival and events to commemorate the King's coronation.

The library lease has been renewed. The whole school visits to the library are proving very popular with a class of approximately 30 children attending the library 2-3 times a week from different schools. An additional part-time member of staff has been recruited.

Bethel Park – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Clerk advised that a funding application for CIL monies had been successful and a grant of £78,000 offered by Cornwall Council. The Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee has approved match funding, mining surveys were being undertaken and a planning application has been submitted.

Grounds Maintenance

A new member of staff has been recruited to replace an employee due to retire at the end of March. A replacement tipper truck and ride-on mower have been acquired in preparation for the new season. Good progress has been made with the winter maintenance schedule which includes play equipment repairs, winter planting, repair of benches and tree and hedge works. The jubilee benches have been installed and flower beds across the town are full of colour and in excellent condition currently. The Clerk in particular highlighted the Trewhiddle roundabout and flower beds and the Trinity Street, South Street and Poltair Park flowers which were very attractive at the moment.

CC/22/59) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 27th March 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.