

MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 20th MARCH 2023 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6.05pm.

Present: Councillors Brown, Bull, Clemo, Fox, French, Guest, Hamilton, Lanxon, Nott, Pearce, Rowse, Stephens, Styles and Thompson.

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

C/22/129) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Cohen, Double, George, Pears and Young.

Councillor Stephens advised that he would be late arriving to the meeting

C/22/130) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

None.

C/22/131) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/22/132) Minutes of Meeting held on 30th January 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th January 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/22/133) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that he and Councillor French had a meeting with Cornwall Council and Newquay Town Council the following day to discuss Levelling Up Funding Round 3 potential projects and would provide an update on discussions at a future meeting.

C/22/134) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor referred Councillors to her previously circulated engagements list and added that she had also attended a fundraising concert at St Johns Methodist Church in aid of the Turkey Earthquake appeal.

C/22/135) Public Participation

None.

C/22/136) Members' Questions

The Clerk read out a question from Councillor Mike Thompson as follows:

It is now less than 2 years before the Committee on Cornwall's Local Governance can meet again to consider changing the Parish Boundaries.

- 1. What consideration has the Town Clerk given to this matter, and what actions have been brought forward?*

- 2. How closely is the Clerk monitoring the surrounding parishes activities?*
- 3. Has a working group been established to report back to the Council on any firm plans?*
- 4. Is a budget available to enable fully documented consultations to take place for those areas and residents who might consider themselves to be a part of St Austell?*

The Clerk answered each question as follows:

1. The Larger Town Council Clerks share their frustration with regard to the Community Governance Review as the rural Cornwall Councillors outnumber the Town Cornwall Councillors and remain strongly against any boundary changes that might affect their rural parishes. This united front has resulted in very few changes taking place.
2. Town and Parish Clerks meet regularly to keep up to date on projects and activities.
3. No Working Group has been set up and it is probably too soon to do so.
4. The Town Council has no budget for a Community Governance Review consultation. Cornwall Council are unlikely to re-visit this matter particularly quickly once the two years are up so any consultation undertaken now will be out of date and a waste of resource.

The Clerk expressed a recommendation that the Town Council should not re-visit this matter for at least 12 months.

During discussion, Members generally agreed that the Community Governance Review should not be re-visited in the short term and expressed frustration with regard to some of the decisions made.

C/22/137) Nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor

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 2023/24 Civic Year.

There was one nomination for Mayor. Councillor Pearce was proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Young.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Pearce as Mayor elect for the 2023/24 civic year.

There was one nomination for Deputy Mayor. Councillor Young was proposed by Councillor Pearce and seconded by Councillor French.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Young as Deputy Mayor elect for the 2023/24 civic year.

Councillor Thompson abstained from voting on this item

Councillor Stephens arrived during the next item

C/22/138) Town Centre Revitalisation Project

The Clerk introduced Mr Chris Sampson, the lead for the St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation (Education Work Stream).

Mr Sampson expressed his disappointment that due to technical and privacy difficulties Councillors were unable to view the short film produced by the students but praised their maturity throughout the project which had been an ambitious undertaking. He added that the cost of producing the report and video had been minimal, with all time on the project given freely.

Mr Sampson advised that there had been a wide range of contributors and outlined the three areas and activities which the work stream focussed on:

1. The opportunities for delivery of educational activities in the town centre
2. Action projects and engagement with young people
3. Engagement with young people below 18 to talk about the future of the town

During discussion, Members thanked Mr Sampson for the detailed report and agreed that it is important to ensure that the actions/recommendations contained within the report are taken forward, particularly with regard to the creation of a young persons forum. Concern was expressed with regard to the lack of A level provision in St Austell and the need for this to be reviewed at the earliest opportunity.

Mr Sampson thanked Mr McCardle for co-ordinating the project and final report.

Members' thanked Mr Sampson for his interesting presentation.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Thank the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership (Education Work Stream) for the report and research carried out;
2. Broadly welcome the recommendations from the report;
3. Ask the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership to consider the recommendations and agree who should be responsible for taking the recommendations forward.

C/22/139) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Thompson advised that he had attended a recent Safer St Austell meeting where it was reported that ASB incidents have increased slightly and the key message remains to report incidents of ASB through 101 or 999 in an emergency.

C/22/140) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Guest – update report

Councillor Thompson advised that the reliability of the number 27 bus between Truro and St Austell is variable and asked when the results of the Mayor for Cornwall consultation will be made public.

Councillor Rowse – update report

Members congratulated Councillor Rowse on his recent marriage.

Following a query with regard to the Aspen Drive planning application, Councillor Rowse advised that the Central Sub-Area Planning Committee is likely to consider this application at their June meeting. He added that the Voice has a new journalist and that the Cornwall Councillor columns are likely to return as a regular feature.

He advised that an announcement on the new Community Area Partnerships (CAP's) will be made soon and Cornwall Council is looking at years 3 & 4 of the Highways Scheme which should result in more money for St Austell. He added that traffic and travel continue to be an issue for local residents and that 20mph speed limits (20 is plenty) are due to be introduced in St Austell during 2024. Following a query with regard to the negative impact that large scale developments generally have on infrastructure and the environment, he advised that Section 106 funding contributions are obtained from developers to help mitigate impacts and are closely monitored by Cornwall Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Cornwall Councillor reports.

C/22/141) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was noted that on page 2 of the Planning and Regeneration Minutes for the meeting dated Monday 6th February 2023 (page 54 of the agenda), under minute number P/22/120 the voting for Planning Application number PA21/12757 should read as follows:

The following proposal to make no objection to the application subject to a condition was carried 7 votes for, 2 votes against.

It was noted that on page 4 of the Planning and Regeneration Minutes for the meeting dated Monday 6th February 2023 (page 56 of the agenda), under minute number P/22/124 the word "**of**" should be inserted after the word "development"

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendments the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings held on Monday 6th February 2023 and Monday 6th March 2023 should be noted.

C/22/142) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 27th February 2023.

C/22/143) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 20th February 2023 and the **RECOMMENDATION** relating to Risk Management contained therein.

C/22/144) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 23rd January 2023 to 13th March 2023 totalling £183,112.97 be approved.

C/22/145) To consider excluding the press and public.

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (ii) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business of the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

C/22/146) Good Growth Funding

The Clerk provided an update on the status of the bids submitted to the Good Growth Fund. He advised that they all require further work, but one bid in particular is nearing success and now requires the Town Council to demonstrate its commitment to financial support. He outlined the details of the project, the work being undertaken with regard to pre-planning advice and the support sought from Cornwall Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to contribute up to £25,000 by way of match funding for Good Growth Funding application number BUS006-0012 in respect of a feasibility and planning project for a rooftop garden scheme at Old Vicarage Place.

C/22/147) Staffing Matters

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the contract of postholder TC23 on the existing terms and conditions for a further 6 month period.

C/22/148) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on 24th April 2023 (Annual Parish Meeting) and 10th May 2023 (Annual Town Council Meeting).

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.