

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 27th MARCH 2023 at Studio 4 Dance, 4FS Youth Dance, 12a – 14 Old Vicarage Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5YY at 6pm.

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

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

CC/22/60) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clemo, Guest and Pears.

CC/22/61) Declarations of Interest

None.

CC/22/62) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/22/63) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th February 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th February 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/22/64) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that further to minute CC/22/53 (Friends of Robert Eliot Court) the friends group have obtained a defibrillator free of charge and would like to re-purpose the £250 grant for outdoor signage (depicting the location of the defibrillator) and replacement pads.

It was **RESOLVED** that the £250 assigned for the purchase of a defibrillator should be repurposed for outdoor signage and replacement pads.

CC/22/65) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

CC/22/66) The Coronation Champions Awards

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Councillor French has asked the Town Council to consider The Coronation Champions Awards initiative and agree a process for nominations as they see fit. The Deputy Clerk outlined the criteria and volunteering categories and advised Members that the deadline for nominations is 2nd April 2023.

During discussion, Members felt that on balance it would be appropriate for Councillors to make nominations on an individual basis.

It was **RESOLVED** that individual Councillors should nominate a volunteer for a Coronation Champions Award if they wished to do so.

Councillor George abstained from voting on this item

CC/22/67) Grounds Maintenance

The Town Clerk expressed his delight with regard to the maintenance work carried out over the winter months and the comprehensive spring floral displays around the town. He advised that the Bethel Park refurbishment project utilising CIL monies is due to commence in May/June and explained that due to height limits, a planning application has had to be submitted for one piece of play equipment. He advised that planning permission has been sought for a bat house at Poltair Park and, with permission from Cornwall Council, 10,000 snowdrops have been removed from the Penwinnick Road offices and re-planted around the town. The Clerk advised that the Polytunnel is well used with a number of plants and trees being grown on. A new member of staff has just started to replace a member of staff due to retire at the end of the week and the grass cutting rounds will start in April.

During discussion, Members expressed their grateful thanks to the grounds maintenance team and their support for the purchase of a second polytunnel if required.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update and thank the Grounds Maintenance Team for their hard work.

CC/22/68) Small Grants Scheme

Climate Action St Austell

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 towards the purchase of a gazebo to provide better publicity and weather protection at events.

St Austell BID

Members expressed their support for the security guards and felt that the full cost of the body camera docking station should be agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £285 towards the purchase of a body camera docking station.

Cornwall Care

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of hosting an indoor street party to celebrate the Coronation for the residents and families of Woodland House, St Austell.

CC/22/69) Project Update

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the following projects:

Town Centre Regeneration

The Town Council has approved an extension of the contract for the Regeneration Officer and grant applications have been submitted to the Shared Prosperity Fund, one of which is looking particularly hopeful.

CCTV

All cameras are working across the town and the monitoring will soon switch to summer monitoring hours which is almost 24/7. The mobile CCTV has been re-located to a road near the urban village on the recommendation of the Police, Housing Association and ASB caseworker.

Climate Emergency

The Beryl Bikes scheme is due to be rolled out across St Austell during the week commencing 3rd April and EV charging points should be in Priory Car Park by the end of May.

Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that he hoped that the e-bikes project would in due course extend to Wheal Martyn and Heligan. He added that users will be fined if the bikes are not returned to docking stations which should discourage vandalism and/or abandonment.

Bus Stop at Holmbush

A £3,000 grant has been awarded to the Town Council from Cornwall Council for the erection of a bus shelter over the bench on the A390 outside of Tesco at Holmbush.

Poltair Park and Cafe

A planning application has been submitted for the bat roost at Poltair Park which has to be in situ before the demolition of the old toilet block. The café has a tenant operating under a Tenancy at Will and appears to have a reasonable trade at the present time. A review of the arrangements will take place later in the year.

Priory Car Park and toilets

Following a proposal from St Austell BID, the Car Park Working Group has met to review the recommendations. The proposal was not well received, particularly as one of the recommendations was to charge on a Sunday. An update will be provided to the Finance Committee next week. Car park income is better than budget but still below pre-pandemic levels. The season tickets are still steady with regular users and the Pay 2 Park App has proved a success. There have been no issues with the toilets of late apart from the ladies door sticking occasionally. This might need replacing soon.

Anti social behaviour

Inspector Joliffe has moved on to another role and the Inspector for the St Austell Sector is now Inspector Matt Trevivian. There has been an increase in ASB amongst teenagers which is being dealt with by a special task group. The security guards are still working well with the Police along with the comprehensive CCTV monitoring, Shop Watch Radio and DISC system. The Penwinnick Road offices have now been boarded up with no security presence. Cornwall Council is keeping an eye on the homeless situation in that location.

St Austell Library

The library is performing well with lots of community events planned, including the Mayor/Coronation Cream Team Event on 5th June 2023. The whole school visits are proving very popular as well as the usual rhyme time for young children, reading, writing and support groups.

Agency Agreement for grass cutting – 31st March 2022 renewal

A copy of the final sealed document is still awaited from Cornwall Council.

Truro Road Park – Safety Surfacing

The safety surfacing at Truro Road park is due to commence in May 2023.

Allotments/Footpaths and weed control

A couple of the allotments are not being tended to regularly. The Operations Manager will review shortly. The Town Council is under contract to cut a number of footpaths across the town under a maintenance agreement with Cornwall Council. This work was previously contracted out but is now in-house. The Town Council still uses a foam stream contractor for weed clearance of the play surfaces and paths at Poltair Park. Unfortunately, it is not robust enough to treat the weeds on the highways, so a separate contractor is used for this.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the projects update.

CC/22/70) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 5th June 2023.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm