

**MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Brown, Clemo, Cohen, Fox, French, George, Lanxon, Pearce, Pears, Stephens, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

**C/23/25) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull, Double, Guest, Hamilton, Nott and Rowse

*\*\*Councillor Pears advised that he needed to leave the meeting by 7.30pm\*\**

**C/23/26) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received**

None.

**C/23/27) Dispensations**

There were no requests for a dispensation.

**C/23/28) Minutes of Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/23/29) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

**C/23/30) Mayor's announcements**

Members noted the Mayor's report and raised no questions.

**C/23/31) Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**C/23/32) Members' questions**

There were no questions from Members.

**C/23/33) Annual Report – 2022/23**

Members reviewed the draft words for the 2022/23 Annual Report and the Clerk advised that pictures would be added and the report printed up as an A5 booklet. Previous examples of the Town Council's Annual Report were circulated to Members for information.

It was suggested that the Town Council's priorities could be included in future Annual Reports and that the Finance Committee should be asked to consider a process for doing this.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the wording for the 2022/23 Annual Report and authorise the Town Clerk to finalise and publish the document.

*\*\*Councillor Ethan Stephens arrived to the meeting during the next item\*\**

#### **C/23/34) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports**

Councillor Brown advised that he had attended a CALC Larger Councils meeting in Bodmin recently where a number of Councillors and Town Clerks were present. There were also two Cornwall Council officers in attendance. The main topics for discussion related Cornwall Council's asset release processes and procedures and anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Thompson advised that SELAG had now been wound up and the officers absorbed back into Cornwall Council, largely within the Good Growth Team. He outlined the work of SELAG and mentioned some successful grant awards despite a very complicated process and large grant application forms.

Councillor French advised that St Austell BID is very appreciative of the increase in funding from the Town Council for the security guards particularly as they have seen a significant drop in levy income over recent years following the closure of town centre businesses and the Cornwall Council offices. He added that the BID events budget is tight and additional grant funding is being sought to supplement the scaled back events programme. He added that he had attended the recent town centre community safety day and had passed on some concerns from Councillor Thompson to Helen Toms.

A discussion ensued about the reporting of crime and the difficulties with the 101 telephone number. The Clerk advised that the 101 e-mail has been de-commissioned and replaced with a reporting form on the Devon and Cornwall Police website.

Councillors Pears added that crimes can be reported through the Crimestoppers telephone number: 0800 555 111.

#### **C/23/35) Cornwall Councillor update reports**

Members noted the written reports received from Councillors Double, Guest and Rowse.

Councillor Pears advised that he has been involved in local litter picks and liaising with Highways regarding speed visors at Porthpean Road and Slades Road and locations for double yellow lines. He added that he has been spending a lot of time on the "Digital Inclusion" project which enables the public to log onto Cornwall Council's website and view information personally relevant to them in one place. He added that he has also been in discussions about offshore wind turbines, build out projects by Treveth and the re-structuring of Corserv.

During discussion, Councillor Pears agreed to speak to Cormac about their policy on closing service requests and to provide the Slades Road speed visor data to Councillor Fox.

Arising from a question, Councillor Pears clarified the current position with regard to the Mayor for Cornwall debate and confirmed that discussions are taking place with Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State, regarding alternative devolution proposals for Cornwall.

Traffic congestion at Clifton Road was raised as an issue.

The Town Clerk advised that the inaugural meeting of the Community Area Partnership for St Austell, Mevagissey, Fowey and Lostwithiel is due to take place tomorrow at Studio 4. He added that this meeting would probably focus on the governance arrangements, but future meetings would involve discussions and focus groups on Highways issues and urged Councillors who are interested in highways matters to attend the meetings.

### **C/23/36) Planning and Regeneration Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Councillor Brown asked for an amendment to the Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 as follows:

Minute Number P/23/25) Planning Decisions. After "5 year housing supply" it should read:

*"A resident of Killyvarder Way had spoken effectively as a public speaker."*

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be noted.

### **C/23/37) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **C/23/38) Community Committee**

The Clerk advised that further to minute number CC/23/13 Councillor Mike Thompson had volunteered to be the Town Council's representative for volunteering activities at the station and that this should be reflected in the minute.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the Community Committee meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be noted.

### **C/23/39) Climate and Environment Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

### **C/23/40) Schedule of Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 totalling £219,034.74 be approved.

### **C/23/41) Exclusion of public and press**

Under Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it is proposed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the business specified for the following item:

### **C/23/42) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Project**

The Town Clerk advised that 10 tenders were received and were evaluated by Councillor Brown (Town Council representative), Peter Moody (Business representative) and Chris Sampson (Community representative) over two days at the end of last week with the assistance from a procurement specialist to ensure that due process was followed. The Clerk confirmed that a preferred contractor has been identified and that all tenderers will be written to within the next few days setting out the evaluation findings. A ten day challenge period will then follow, after which the contract will be finalised with the successful tenderer. The Clerk advised that once the ten day challenge period had passed without any issues, he will advise the Town Council, Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership and the press of the successful tenderer.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update and authorise the Town Clerk to proceed with the appointment of the panel's preferred contractor subject to a satisfactory outcome of the challenge period.

### **C/23/43) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.22pm.