

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2024 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Fox, Guest, Kimber, Preece, Stephens, Thompson and Young.

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

**CC/24/01) Election of Chair**

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair.

A nomination was proposed and seconded for Councillor Thompson.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Thompson be elected Chair of the Community Committee for the 2024/25 Civic Year.

**CC/24/02) Election of Vice-Chair**

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

A nomination was proposed and seconded for Councillor Stephens

A nomination was proposed and seconded for Councillor Cohen

Councillor Cohen withdrew her nomination to allow Councillor Stephens the opportunity of being elected Vice-Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Stephens be elected Vice-Chair of the Community Committee for the 2024/25 Civic Year.

**CC/24/03) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Double, Guest, Pearce, Pears and Rowse.

**CC/24/04) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CC/24/05) Dispensations**

None

**CC/24/06) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **CC/24/07) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that the Grass Cutting Policy was approved at the Council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and encouraged Members to attend and/or volunteer at the town centre Fun Day planned for the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### **CC/24/08) Public Participation**

The two members of the public present who were not presenting grant applications, did not wish to speak.

### **CC/24/09) Simon Pollard, Festival Director – St Austell Festival of Children’s Literature**

Mr Pollard advised that a study has shown that reading is important for children’s educational success and that children who read are more likely to overcome disadvantage. Mr Pollard outlined statistics pertinent to St Austell and a shocking statistic that although 95% of parents know that reading is important only 42% of children have a regular bed time story. The aim of the festival, now in its second year is to make a difference to young lives through the power of reading. Mr Pollard thanked the library for their support, particularly SALSA who hosted a quiz evening to raise funds for the festival. He outlined the positive impact that last year’s event had on children, schools, the authors in attendance and the community as a whole. Mr Pollard advised that he is in the process of obtaining charity status for the festival which should give greater opportunities for grant funding in the future.

During discussion, Mr Pollard confirmed that the festival is open to home educated children as well as school educated children and that the college’s photography department is engaged to decorate the Peacock’s building in preparation for the event. Members were unanimous that the event should be supported.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £1,000 should be awarded to the St Austell Festival of Children’s Literature 2024.

### **CC/24/10) Small Grants Scheme**

#### *St Austell Table Tennis Club*

Mr Craig Mehew advised that St Austell Table Tennis Club operates out of the Cornwall County Table Tennis Centre at Tregorrick and has 26 members. He advised that all ages and abilities are welcome with fees ranging from £2.50 for a junior and £5 for an adult. The fees help cover the cost of the hire of the premises which run at £20 per hour. Mr Mehew advised that in June there will be a table tennis festival in partnership with Poltair School the club and would like to encourage further participation in the sport by purchasing more equipment and coaching. Arising from a question, Mr Mehew advised that other schools have been invited to the festival.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to St Austell Table Tennis Club for funding towards the purchase of more equipment and coaching.

## **CC/24/11) Projects update**

### *Town Centre Regeneration*

The Town Clerk advised that structural testing for the roof top garden is likely to be taken forward over the summer months subject to landlord and engineer availability. The banner and Holy Trinity piazza projects are also being progressed following recent funding success. The student and highways improvements projects are awaiting input from Cornwall Council. Grant conditions are awaited for funding that has been obtained from GWR in the sum of £5,000 for planting at the station. A funding bid has been submitted for public realm improvements at Duke Street and an informal meeting has been arranged on the 9<sup>th</sup> July for the Town Council to discuss the High Street Task Force report.

### *CCTV*

The CCTV monitoring is on summer hours which means that the cameras are monitored almost 24/7. The re-deployable camera is likely to be located in the Bethel area within the next few weeks following a request from the Police.

### *Young People Cornwall*

Nick Smith, CEO of Young People Cornwall has agreed to attend the Council meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to update members on The House and Young People Cornwall.

### *Priory Car Park*

Priory Car Park income ended up slightly above budget at the year end and the batteries have been replaced in all four machines. The contactless payment system is very popular and the season tickets are steady with regular users.

### *Allotments*

The allotments are all let with the exception of Plot 10. The letting of this plot will be pursued shortly.

### *Grounds Maintenance*

The Town Council has recently employed a local apprentice who has joined the grounds maintenance team. He is working well and has recently passed his mower and strimmer certificates. D Day poppies have been planted at the Field of Hope and Cosgarne Triangle. A tommy statue will be put on Mount Charles roundabout amongst the poppies.

The fourth grass cutting round has just commenced. There are still clumps of wildflowers around, and they will continue to be left as long as they are still flowering. The summer planting has taken place across the town with over 5,000 bedding plants put out.

### *Footpaths*

The rural footpaths are about to get their first cut of the season. Depending on growth, they might get another cut later in the summer.

## *Parks*

The Regeneration Officer is applying for CIL funding for improvements at Landrew Road and The Meadows and the demolition and making good of the old toilet block at Poltair Park is almost complete.

### **CC/24/12) 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.

### **CC/24/13) CCTV**

The Clerk updated Members on the operation of the town centre CCTV system which is run in partnership with Newquay Town Council. He outlined six locations in the town that would benefit from the installation of a fixed camera.

During discussion, Members expressed their full support for the purchase of six additional cameras to be installed at the locations suggested.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council purchase six additional CCTV cameras to be installed at the locations suggested.

### **CC/24/14) Hall at Robartes Place**

Members reviewed the Cornwall Council Asset Management Report and **RESOLVED** not to express an interest in The Hall at Robartes Place.

It was **RESOLVED** to return to public session.

### **CC/24/15) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.