

**MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Brown, Bull, Clemo, Cohen, Fox, Gray, Hamilton, Kimber, Lanxon, Pears, Preece, Rowse, Stephens, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

**C/24/27) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Double, French, Guest and Pearce.

**C/24/28) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received**

Councillors Bull, Clemo and Gray declared an interest in agenda item 20 by virtue of being Trustees of the Arts Centre.

**C/24/29) Dispensations**

There were no requests for a dispensation.

*\*\*Councillor Pears arrived to the meeting\*\**

**C/24/30) Minutes of Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/24/31) Matters to Note**

The Clerk referred to minute number: C/24/16 and advised that Councillor Cohen had expressed an interest in being appointed as the Town Council's representative on Climate Action St Austell (CASA).

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Cohen be appointed as the Town Council's representative on Climate Action St Austell (CASA).

**C/24/32) Mayor's announcements**

Councillor Young advised that he had attended:

- Pride St Austell
- Mid Cornwall Scouts District Camp
- Bodmin Town Council Sunday Service
- Fowey Town Council Civic Service
- D-Day Commemoration event at the war memorial
- Newquay Mayor Making Ceremony
- Poltair School Blue Skies Programme
- Truro City Council Civic Sunday Service
- St Austell Children's Literacy Festival
- High Sheriff Garden Party

### **C/24/33) Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

### **C/24/34) Members' questions**

There were no questions from Members.

*\*\*Councillor Rowse arrived during the next item\*\**

### **C/24/35) Nick Smith, CEO, Young People Cornwall**

The Mayor welcomed Nick Smith, Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall (YPC) to the meeting and invited him to address the Council.

Mr Smith advised that YPC is in its 50<sup>th</sup> year and has recently increased its social media presence by producing and publishing a short film. He added that in 1974 YPC were a volunteer led youth club but 50 years later they have 60 staff working out of The House at Carlyon Road who oversee a wide range of youth services across Cornwall.

Mr Smith advised that they are regularly seeing children with chaotic lifestyles, often living with parents struggling with mental health issues, drug and alcohol addiction and severe financial problems. In the last 3 months YPC has received 600 referrals across Cornwall, 80% to 90% of which relate to poor mental health. The House provides 1:1 support, advice and guidance, sports activities and holiday clubs. Hot food is also provided as there are a number of children arriving at the sessions who are hungry. Young People Cornwall has a Board of Trustees and a steering group, which has Town Council representation. Mr Smith advised that the threshold for a young person to see CAMHS has risen and at the present time there is a 9 month waiting list. YPC regularly supports community events and has distributed food vouchers to 168 families in need.

During discussion, members raised the following:

- The rise in mental health issues amongst young people
- The need to obtain the views of young people, possibly through a Youth Council
- The rise in young people involved in county lines/drug issues
- How safeguarding concerns are reported

Members thanked Mr Smith and his team at YPC for their excellent work.

### **C/24/36) Annual Report – 2023/24**

The Clerk referred Members to the draft Annual Report for the 2023/24 civic year and confirmed that the Mayor's introduction section has been approved by Councillor Pearce.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Report for the 2023/24 civic year as drafted.

### **C/24/37) St Austell Bus Routes – Working Group**

Councillor Brown advised that he had met with Councillor Gray and Mr McCardle and agreed the recommendations outlined in the report. Councillor Kimber advised that he had sent his apologies for the meeting. Councillor Pears thanked the Bus Working Group for their recommendations and outlined the work that Cornwall Council is doing to integrate the bus, ferries and train times into one place. He added that officers at Cornwall Council are unlikely to agree to the production of printed timetables, but the request should still be sent to them to consider.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit the recommendations of the Bus Working Group to:

- First Kernow
- Go Cornwall Bus
- Cornwall Council
- Councillor Richard Pears, Portfolio Holder, Cornwall Council
- The Member of Parliament
- Councillor Anne Double, Cornwall Councillor for Central and Gover
- Councillor Jordan Rowse, Cornwall Councillor for Bethel and Holmbush

### **C/24/38) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports**

Councillor Fox advised that she is the Town Council's representative on The House Steering Group and that knife crime and child exploitation are still a concern. The Youth Workers are increasing their outreach work and a video has been commissioned depicting their work.

Councillor Brown advised that he attended the April Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) Larger Council's meeting where three key items were discussed.

- The number of complaints against Town and Parish Councillors has gone up and was highlighted as an area that needs improvement.
- The potential for Town and Parish Councils to raise money through the hiring of premises and halls.
- There is still uncertainty with regard to the refreshment of the local plan and this might not be resolved until after the elections in 2025.

Councillor Lanxon advised that the next Community Area Partnership (CAP) meeting will be held at the Cornubia in Par on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, 6pm to 8pm and will focus on Community Health and Wellbeing.

### **C/24/39) Cornwall Councillor update reports**

The written reports from Councillors Double and Rowse were noted.

Councillor Pears advised that 1,000 streetlights have been switched off between the hours of 12am and 5am across Cornwall to reduce light pollution and costs. He added that around 500 potholes are being filled each day and that a 20mph speed restriction consultation for St Austell is due to be issued in August.

During discussion, the methodology for repairing potholes and parking enforcement at Clifden Road were discussed .

### **C/24/40) Planning and Regeneration Committee**

Councillor Brown requested the following amendments be made:

- 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Page 2. “affect” to read “effect”
- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Page 2. “annex” to read “annexe”

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendments to note the minutes of the meetings of the Planning and Regeneration Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### **C/24/41) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and approve the **RECOMMENDATIONS** contained therein of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### **C/24/42) Community Committee**

The Clerk advised that he is negotiating with Newquay Town Council with regard to the monitoring costs for the 6 new cameras. There might be a need to reduce the number of cameras installed to stay within budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes and approve the **RECOMMENDATIONS** contained therein of the Community Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

### **C/24/43) Climate and Environment Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

### **C/24/44) Schedule of Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 totalling £164,805.14 and the transfers between bank accounts totalling £204,255.01 be approved.

### **C/24/45) To consider excluding the press and public**

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

*\*\*Councillor Stephens left the meeting during this item\*\**

### **C/24/46) St Austell Arts Centre**

The Clerk explained that he had advised Councillors Bull, Clemo and Gray, trustees of the St Austell Arts Centre CIC that they can speak and answer questions on this item, but they will need to leave the room while the remainder of the Council determined the grant application. He advised that the grant request is to facilitate the completion of electrical and fire safety works which have been identified as necessary within the recently reviewed and approved health and safety plan.

Councillor Bull outlined the recent history of the Arts Centre and work undertaken to improve its management. She also outlined the business plan and health and safety action plan recently approved and the extensive range of community groups using the centre.

*\*\* Councillors Bull, Clemo and Gray reiterated their interest in the St Austell Arts Centre as trustees and left the room \*\**

Members discussed the value of the Arts Centre as a community centre and venue for theatrical events, considered the medium and long-term sustainability of the centre, the role of Cornwall Council as the landlord and the need to develop an improved relationship with Cornwall College in the longer term.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £10,000 be awarded to St Austell Arts Centre for electrical and fire safety works with conditions to be determined by the Town Clerk.

*\*\*Councillors Bull, Clemo and Gray returned to the meeting\*\**

### **C/24/47) Land at West Hill/Park Road, St Austell Track off Holmbush Road, St Austell Track off Holmbush Industrial Estate, St Austell**

The Clerk explained that Cornwall Council has advised that three parcels of land are considered surplus to its operational needs and that it was exploring options for disposal.

Members considered the merits of each site and expressed no desire to own the road and track at Holmbush.

Some Members felt that the land at West Hill/Park Road junction could be improved to create an attractive amenity area but recognised that there are cost implications.

It was suggested that the Town Council could own and/or manage this area if Cornwall Council made a contribution towards the Town Council's costs.

Councillor Rowse advised that he had expressed no objection to the disposal of the track off Holmbush Road but had asked Cornwall Council officers to retain the track at Holmbush Industrial Estate.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Offer to take control of the land at the West Hill/Park Road junction provided Cornwall Council contributed to the Town Council's costs;
2. Express no interest in the track off Holmbush Road;
3. Express no interest in the track at Holmbush Industrial estate but to support the view expressed by the local Cornwall Councillor that this track should be retained by Cornwall Council.

### **C/24/48) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Project**

#### *Rooftop Garden and Holy Trinity Church Piazza*

The Clerk updated Members on progress with the rooftop garden project and the design works for the Holy Trinity Church piazza.

Councillor Hamilton added that he is a member of the working group assisting with the design of the piazza and planting and that the Royal British Legion are in discussions with regard to the proposed landscaping around the war memorial.

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

#### *Student Accommodation*

The Clerk updated members on a grant awarded for a feasibility study for student and key worker accommodation in the town and the need for additional resource to take the project forward.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Matthew Vowels, Director of Capital Projects and Funding at Cornwall Council to take the project forward within the budget available.

#### *Gateway Project*

The Clerk advised that a £25,000 grant had been awarded to fund design work to improve the public realm and highway within Duke Street and explore the feasibility of uplifting the viaduct.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should accept the grant offer and procure the necessary work to satisfy the grant conditions.

#### *Hotspot Funding*

The Clerk advised that a grant of £25,000 was being negotiated with Cornwall Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for additional security patrols in conjunction with the BID. It was anticipated that the BID would act as the accountable body and assistance was being given to the BID to meet the grant criteria.

It was **RESOLVED** to note and support the acquisition of additional security patrols utilising Hotspot Funding.

#### *Market House*

The Clerk advised that the directors of the Market House had asked for a letter of support for a bid to the Good Growth Fund for funding for repairs to the roof of the old Council Chamber and insulation of the walls as part of a research project endorsed by English Heritage and Cornwall Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should send a letter of support for the old Council Chamber project to the Market House directors.

#### **C/24/49) To re-admit the press and public**

It was **RESOLVED** to re-admit the press and public.

#### **C/24/50) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.