

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2024 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Cohen, Double, Fox, French, Gray, Hamilton, Kimber, Lanxon, Pearce, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

C/24/51) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Bull, Clemo, Guest, Preece, Rowse and Stephens.

Councillors Double and Pearce advised that they needed to leave the meeting early.

Councillor Lanxon arrived to the meeting

C/24/52) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

There were no declarations of interest.

C/24/53) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/24/54) Minutes of Meeting held on 8th July 2024

Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that the Planning and Regeneration Committee had delegated authority to respond to Cornwall Council with regard to bus travel.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/24/55) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that a response to the communication relating to bus travel would be considered by the Planning and Regeneration Committee on the 3rd September 2024 (Minute C/24/37 refers) and that he had advised Cornwall Council that the Town Council would be prepared to take on the land at the junction of West Hill and Park Road subject to a small contribution to offset the clearance costs but had not yet received a response (Minute C/24/47 refers).

Arising from a question, the Clerk **AGREED** to circulate to Members the letter sent to the Arts Centre outlining the grant conditions applied.

C/24/56) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he had attended the following events/activities since the last Council meeting:

- Phoenix Passing out Parade
- Met with a representative from A Band of Brothers

- Met with Sarah Scoltock, Helen Toms and Kim Hager regarding ASB
- Attended the Wadebridge Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony
- Met with Noah Law MP
- Attended the Sports Academy Hub
- Attended the Fun Day on the 15th August 2024
- Attended the Summer Festival at Poltair Park on the 17th August 2024
- Attended the Table Tennis 4 Good event on the 20th August 2024
- Met with Bill Holland and Annette Miller regarding the Town Centre Christmas events
- Met with Helen Toms, Steve Rowlett and Tamsin Lees regarding ASB
- Attended a TEAMS briefing from Cornwall Council on a proposed extra care facility at Blantyre/Karenza.

C/24/57) Public Participation

The two members of the public present advised that they did not wish to speak.

C/24/58) Members' questions

There were no questions from Members.

C/24/59) The Consultation Infra23-213-SAM Countywide 20mph Speed Limits - Phase 3 St Austell & Mevagissey (region East)

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council intends to implement 20mph speed limits on most residential areas in the St Austell area and requires a response to their consultation by the 13th September 2024. The main through roads, such as the A390, Slades Road, Truro Road remain at 30mph.

During discussion, Members raised the following:

- If implemented, how the 20mph limits will be enforced;
- Whether the consultation results will be shared;
- If implemented, how much the associated signage will cost;
- Whether the Welsh backlash of implementing 20mph speed limits has been taken into consideration;
- The need for Councillors to feed comments back individually;
- Congratulations on a well-publicised consultation;
- Overall – broadly supportive

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Thank Cornwall Council for their comprehensive public consultation;
2. Endorse the implementation of 20mph speed limits in the residential areas as proposed;
3. Request a report on how the new speed limits will be enforced, if adopted.

Councillor Double abstained from voting on this item

C/24/60) Mobile Speed Activated Sign

The Clerk advised that through the Community Area Partnership, Cornwall Council has offered to fund the purchase of a mobile speed activated sign and manage its rotation (approximately every 8 weeks) across 6 approved areas of the town for the sum of an

upfront contribution from the Town Council of £13,019.59 over 4 years. The 6 Highways Officer approved locations are:

- Victoria Road
- Slades Road
- Southbourne Road
- Porthpean Road
- Menear Road
- Daniels Lane

During discussion, Members views were split with many Members suggesting that Cornwall Council as the Highways Authority should fund speed activated signs and that the sum requested from the Town Council seemed excessive.

Councillor Double advised that although not ideal, this proposal is an opportunity to deter speeding in the parish as well as collating data as evidence of problem areas.

Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that the Town Council's grounds staff do not have the capacity to move the speed sign around the parish.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide an upfront payment of £13,019.59 to Cornwall Council for the maintenance and regular relocation (at least every 8 weeks) of a speed activated sign over a four-year period at the following locations:

- Victoria Road
- Slades Road
- Southbourne Road
- Porthpean Road
- Menear Road
- Daniels Lane

Councillor Brown voted against this proposal

C/24/61) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Fox advised that Young People Cornwall is 50 this year and has received 800 referrals so far. The House is open on a Friday and a new Connect Neurodiversity Group is proving very popular. The summer holiday activities have been well attended.

Councillor Lanxon advised that Mr Evans has left Cornwall College and Rob Bosworth has taken up the position of Chief Executive. The plans for the refurbishment of the St Austell Football Club are progressing well and plans have been submitted to Cornwall Council.

C/24/62) Cornwall Councillor update reports

It was **RESOLVED** to note the update from Councillor Double.

Arising from two questions, the Clerk confirmed that due to a lack of use, the Beryl Bikes are likely to be removed from St Austell and that he would obtain an update from Cornwall Council on the Metro Project.

C/24/63) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings held on the 15th July 2024 and the 19th August 2024.

C/24/64) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 28th June 2024 to 22nd August 2024 totalling £186,628.93 and the transfers between bank accounts totalling £104,725.38 be approved.

C/24/65) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Project

Roof Top Garden

Pre-planning advice

The interim comments from the Planning Officer have been supportive so far.

Structural testing

The structural testing of the building has been cancelled following advice from the Town Council's solicitor. The final report will assume that the structural load of the building will be the same as permitted by building regulations when it was built.

Final Report

The consultants are finalising the report which should be available by the end of the year.

Church Piazza

The design works are progressing, and a planning application is being worked up for Listed Building consent. Initial enquiries indicate that there are a few contractors willing to tender for the construction of the piazza.

Poundland Banners

A second design is awaited and once received a public consultation and photograph exhibition will be arranged. It is likely that this will be in October.

Gateway Project

A contract to design improvements to Duke Street has been let and a feasibility study for uplifting the viaduct has been commissioned. A recent assessment of the viaduct indicates that the project will not be cost effective due to accessibility issues, the impact on nearby residents and the lack of visibility across the town.

Highways Improvements

No progress has been made with this feasibility study. Town Clerk is chasing Cornwall Council.

General Wolfe

Representations from the Town Council and the Chair of the Town Centre Regeneration Partnership on the state of the building have been sent to Cornwall Council. A recent reply from a senior officer has indicated that the building will be progressed as a housing scheme for the homeless.

Cornwall College

The Clerk advised that he had met with Mr Bosworth and that he is very keen to be involved with the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership and is working on a place-based approach to higher education. He is also keen to encourage students to stay in the town and is reviewing A level provision.

Arising from two questions, the Clerk re-assured Members that the viaduct feasibility study will not take up too much time and a more detailed discussion on the rooftop garden can take place at the Planning and Regeneration Committee the following evening.

Arising from a further question, the Clerk confirmed that discussions are ongoing with GWR with regard to the £5,000 grant received for station improvements.

Regeneration Officer

The Clerk advised that the Regeneration Officer's contract is due to expire at the end of September and that to see the revitalisation projects through until the end of March he would like to extend the postholder's contract until 31st March 2025. The Clerk added that the extension of the contract is within budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to extend the Regeneration Officer's contract until 31st March 2025.

Councillor Pearce left the meeting

C/24/66) 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.

C/24/67) Health and Safety and Human Resources Support

It was **RESOLVED** to accept a three-year proposal for combined Health and Safety and Human Resources support from Worknest in the sum of £2,990 per annum plus insurance costs.

C/24/68) Re-admittance of the press and public

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

C/24/69) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on 14th October 2024 and 9th December 2024

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.