

**MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Brown, Clemo, Fox, French, Gray, Lanxon, Pears, Preece, Rowse, Stephens, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

**C/24/70) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Bull, Cohen, Double, Guest, Hamilton, Pearce and Kimber.

*\*\*Councillor Pears advised that he needed to leave the meeting early\*\**

**C/24/71) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received**

The Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk declared an interest in the Staffing Committee minutes by virtue of both posts being reviewed and decisions made at the meeting.

**C/24/72) Dispensations**

There were no requests for a dispensation.

**C/24/73) Minutes of Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**C/24/74) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

**C/24/75) Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor advised that he had attended the following events:

- A Cornwall Council "Listening to You" event at the Arts Centre
- A de-brief for the Mayor's Fun Day held in the town centre in August
- An auction of Kenny Barnes' (Tango in the Night) guitar which raised £300 for the Mayor's charities
- A Mencap meeting
- A visit to The House on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- A meeting with Helen Toms and representatives of Safer St Austell on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- Attendance at the Mid Cornwall Male Choir fund raising event at Holy Trinity Church where £300 was raised for the Mayor's charities
- A publicity event at St Austell Library for the Wellbeing Kiosk

*\*\*Councillor Lanxon\*\**

*\*\*Councillor French arrived\*\**

### **C/24/76) Public Participation**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Keast to the meeting and it was agreed that he would speak later on the agenda when item 11 (Small Grant Scheme) was being considered.

### **C/24/77) Members' questions**

There were no questions from Members.

### **C/24/78) Sam Williams, Campaigns and Community Organisation Manager – Transformation Cornwall Carpet Campaign**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Williams to the meeting.

Mr Williams advised that the number of people visiting the Foodbank in St Austell has doubled in the last 7 years and a recent survey of users has shown that the cost of school uniforms, heating bills and carpeting social housing properties are the top three reasons for people getting into financial difficulty and needing to use a Foodbank.

Mr Williams advised that in Cornwall when social housing changes hands, the providers, for health and safety reasons, take the carpets out which leaves the new tenants with the expense of carpeting the property. In order to help raise awareness of the issue, Mr Williams invited all Councillors to a meeting with Guinness Trust at the end of the week to highlight the financial hardship this is causing. Mr Williams advised that in Wales there is a policy that when social housing changes hands the carpets should either be cleaned or new provided.

Members thanked Mr Williams for his interesting presentation and Councillor Pears advised that he would raise the matter with Cornwall Council.

### **C/24/79) CCTV Monitoring**

The Clerk advised that Newquay Town Council as the lead partner has increased recharges to St Austell Town Council for CCTV monitoring services by way of an annual inflationary increase which has not kept up to date with the true running costs of the service. In order to rectify this, Newquay Town Council has requested that the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> ratio of cost sharing be reinstated as agreed in 2011 and the increase be phased in over a three-year period.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the proposed apportionment of monitoring costs as set out in the report.

### **C/24/80) Small Grant Scheme**

Mr Keast provided the background to the St Austell Festival of Music and Speech. He advised that two Cornwall Councillors have provided funding through their Community Chest Fund and clarified that the total cost of the project is likely to be closer to £6,000 than £5,500 as stated on the application form. Mr Keast advised that a number of schools have reduced their drama, choir and poetry activities which has reduced entries.

A proposal to approve a grant in the sum of £1,000 was proposed and seconded.

An amendment to approve a grant in the sum of £500 was proposed and seconded.

The amendment was voted on and carried by 8 votes for, 4 votes against.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant in the sum of £500 to the St Austell Festival of Music and Speech 2024.

### **C/24/81) Member Internal Audit Checks**

Members reviewed the Internal Audit checks carried out by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

During discussion, the Clerk confirmed that having the cyber essential accreditation is something to strive towards rather than an essential qualification and that on page 21 under point 6 (Bank reconciliation) the tick should be "no".

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

### **C/24/82) Cornwall Council On The Move – A Framework for Leisure Activity**

Members reviewed the Leisure Framework consultation paper and raised the following:

- The importance of accessible, good quality leisure facilities and the benefits of healthy active lifestyles which were reflected in the document;
- Disappointment that the document lacked actions and specific detail for each town and leisure centre;
- The age of Polkyth leisure centre and that it has been operating for much longer than the expected life of the facility;
- Disappointment that there is little reference to the hydrotherapy pool at Polkyth in the document;
- None of the schools in the immediate area have a swimming pool and therefore rely on Polkyth for swimming lessons;
- Disappointment that no reference to the Carlyon Road Masterplan is made in the document as this document includes proposals for the replacement of Polkyth leisure centre within it;
- The lack of detail on revenue and capital budgets;
- The role of local Councils and community groups.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should make a submission to Cornwall Council reflecting the views of the Town Council.

### **C/24/83) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports**

Councillor Brown advised that he had attended a Leisure Framework Strategy online briefing from Cornwall Council, hosted by CALC and the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) annual general meeting. Good feedback was received following the CAB's presentation to the Town Council.

Councillor French advised that the BID is pleased that the Town Council has agreed to give free parking in Priory Car Park on the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas and that courtesy of the hotspot funding, there is 40 hours of security guard patrols in the town centre until January 2025.

Councillor Lanxon advised that the football club has received Section 106 funding but they are still exploring other funding streams for the project.

Councillor Clemo advised that the White River Project is progressing well and that representatives from the working group are due to attend the Town Council's Climate and Environment Committee to provide an update.

### **C/24/84) Cornwall Councillor update reports**

Members noted the previously circulated reports from Councillors Double and Rowse.

Councillor Pears advised that he is dealing with flooding issues in the Asda underpass and reviewing with Highways Officers the concerns raised with regard to the 20mph proposals.

Arising from questions, Councillor Pears advised that he would advise the Town Council as soon as he is aware of any discussions at Cornwall Council with regard to the local plan and undertook to review the bays at Clifton Road if the issues are submitted to him in writing.

*\*\*Councillor Pears left the meeting\*\**

### **C/24/85) Community Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### **C/24/86) Planning and Regeneration Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024.

### **C/24/87) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

The Clerk advised that within the Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes there were three recommendations.

#### *F/24/20 – Matters to Note (Robes – Minute F/24/11)*

The Clerk advised that the Town Clerk robes had been sent away to a specialist who has advised that they are approximately 75 years old and are beyond repair and that a new set of robes in the sum of £1,987.50 excluding VAT has been quoted. Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that he rarely wore the robes outside of the Parish.

The Clerk read out a note from Councillor Hamilton expressing his support for the purchase of new robes for the Town Clerk. During discussion, Members' views were split and it was suggested that a named vote be carried out.

It was proposed that the Town Clerk be authorised to purchase new Town Clerk robes in the sum of £1,987.50 excluding VAT.

Councillor Brown  
Councillor Clemo

Against  
Against

Councillor Fox	For
Councillor French	For
Councillor Gray	Against
Councillor Lanxon	For
Councillor Preece	For
Councillor Rowse	Against
Councillor Stephens	For
Councillor Styles	For
Councillor Thompson	For
Councillor Young	For

The proposal was carried 8 votes for, 4 votes against.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to purchase new Town Clerk robes in the sum of £1,987.50 excluding VAT.

*F/24/22 Priory Car Park*

It was **RESOLVED** that the Priory Car Park charges be frozen for the 2025/26 financial year and that a positive press release be issued stressing the Town Council's support for the town centre businesses.

*F/24/26 Procurement Policy*

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Procurement Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**C/24/88) Staffing Committee**

The Clerk provided a summary of the Staffing Committee discussions and the changes proposed.

Councillor Rowse advised that on the bottom of page 4 of the Staffing Committee minutes, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 should read 1<sup>st</sup> January **2025**.

Subject to the above amendment, it was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Staffing Committee dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and **APPROVE** the **RECOMMENDATIONS** contained therein.

**C/24/89) Schedule of Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 totalling £196,746.23 and the transfers between Bank Accounts totalling £301,245.57 be approved.

**C/24/90) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Project**

The Clerk advised that the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership had met on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and were provided with an overview of the projects to date. Hayhurst consultants are scheduled to attend the next partnership meeting with a view to completing the rooftop garden project by the end of December.

The banner project is progressing with public consultation due to take place at the library during half term and in White River Place the week after. The project is still on target to complete in January/February 2025. The delivery of the church piazza is due to go out to tender shortly, with a completion deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**C/24/91) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.22pm.