

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2018 in the Council Chamber at the St Austell One Stop Shop, Penwinnick Road, St Austell at 6.05pm.

Present: Councillors: Bishop, Brown, Bull, Cohen, Colwill, French, Hanlon, Heyward, Jones, King (Mayor), Lanxon, Leonard, Oxenham, Palmer, Pearce, Pears, Rees, Styles, Thompson and Walker.

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

C/18/49) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C/18/50) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

There were no declarations of interest.

C/18/51) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/18/52) Minutes of Meeting held on 16th July 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Oxenham abstained from voting on this item

C/18/53) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add. In answer to two questions, the Clerk confirmed that representatives from SABEF are due to attend the Council meeting on Monday 22nd October 2018 and that the carnival committee have not yet confirmed their acceptance of the grant conditions. Councillor Heyward advised that a signed confirmatory letter from the carnival committee would be submitted to the Town Council shortly.

C/18/54) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that additional wild flower sites have been identified and that Laura Larkin from Urban Buzz is progressing. He referred Members to the recent press release about his trip to Nantes with Councillor Walker and advised that he would provide a short report to Members in due course. The Mayor reminded Members of the Code of Conduct Training on the 20th September and the Informal Town Council meeting on the 11th October. He added that the Clerk hoped to start using the Town Council e-mail addresses by the end of the month and urged those Councillors who had not set themselves up to do so as soon as possible. The Mayor concluded that his plastic free initiative was due to be launched on Saturday 22nd September and welcomed everyone along.

C/18/55) Public Participation

Mrs Wendy Earl expressed her support for the Mayor's plastic free initiative and the positive work with Cornwall Council with regard to the old railway station bridge. She asked that a Town Council update be given in due course with regard to the garden town initiative and advised that volunteers are needed to help with clearance works at Menacuddle Well over the winter months.

C/18/56) Members' Questions

There were no Members questions.

Councillor Pears arrived during the next item

C/18/57) Parking at Prince Charles Park

The Clerk advised that an e-mail had been received that morning from Ocean Housing advising that they currently had no funds to put in to a parking scheme at Prince Charles Park but that it was in a programme of improvements to be made when funds become available.

Councillor Bull updated Members on the work carried out so far which included:

- A review of the parking allocation system to ensure that all disabled people in Prince Charles House had a parking space;
- Various meetings with the residents at Prince Charles Park;
- Agreement in principle of the Town Council's Community Committee to provide a strip of land from Prince Charles Park for parking purposes.

During general discussion it was acknowledged that:

- Parking is an issue across the Town;
- Parking for the bungalows at Prince Charles Park is an issue for Ocean Housing to resolve;
- The one visitor space in the area is used for medical supply drop offs;
- People regularly park in the slip road causing congestion.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Councillor Bull should continue to negotiation with Ocean Housing to find a suitable parking solution for the residents of Prince Charles Park;
2. The Town Clerk should write a letter of support to Ocean Housing encouraging them to find a parking solution for Prince Charles Park as quickly as possible and;
3. Councillor Bull should report back on progress in due course.

C/18/58) Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police merger

The Clerk advised Members that the Town Council had not been officially consulted on the proposals but that the Police and Crime Commissioner had indicated in a letter to CALC that comments would be welcomed into mid-September.

Councillor Brown advised that Cornwall Council are due to consider a motion tomorrow put forward by himself and Councillor McKenna objecting to the merger.

Members raised the following issues/observations:

- Concern that Town and Parish Councils had not been consulted on the issue;
- Concern that the survey and information provided was very simplistic and leading;
- Concern at the lack of a clear business plan;
- Concern at the lack of clear information on costs or savings;
- Concern at the differential in Council Taxes and the potentially adverse effect this would have on Cornish council taxpayers.

It was **RESOLVED** to strongly object in the light of:

1. The flawed consultation process;
2. The lack of a clear business plan;
3. The likely increase in cost to Cornish Council Taxpayers and
4. The potential erosion of local identity and loss of understanding of the local culture of devolution.

Councillor French and Pears abstained from voting on this item

C/18/59) Woodland Road Park

The Town Clerk referred Members to the previously circulated report and asked that Members agree to hold an extraordinary Council meeting on Monday 15th October 2018 to consider the recommendations of the Working Group.

It was **RESOLVED** that an extraordinary meeting should be held on Monday 15th October to consider the recommendations of the Working Group and to make a decision on the matter.

Councillors Pearce and Thompson abstained from voting on this item

C/18/60) Sea Cadets

The Clerk advised that the legal agreement for the approved £10,000 financial assistance to the Sea Cadets was nearing completion and that two authorised signatories are required complete the agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors King and Styles be authorised to sign the legal agreement in respect of the approved £10,000 financial assistance to the Sea Cadets.

C/18/61) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Members reviewed Councillor Bull's briefing note on the last Healthcare Patient Participation Group Meeting and Councillor Bull answered Members questions on the role of the PPG, telephone/appointment issues and fundraising activities.

Councillor Brown advised that SABEF is working well and is currently exploring the benefits of having a "Tourism" Business Improvement District in the St Austell area. He advised that the SABEF website was now up and running and that in his view, had a lot of potential. Councillor Brown referred to the Par Running Track which has recently been devolved to a local community group.

Councillor Palmer advised that the BID is progressing the Biddicks Court improvement project and that the Town Council may be approached in due course about theming the colour of the pots in the town centre with the rest of the floral displays. The BID is supporting the November "Purple Pound Day" and the security patrols around the town are scheduled in until the end of September and possibly half term. He also advised that the BID is struggling to obtain enough sponsorship to help pay for the replacement of the large discovery map on the side of the Poundland building.

Councillor Palmer advised that the larger CALC group had met recently where the following topics were discussed:

- *Local Government Boundary Review and Community Governance Review.* Disappointment was expressed amongst the group that the Boundary Commission proposals are not forward thinking enough to identify where parish boundaries should change. It was generally felt that a significant number of Community Governance Reviews would be required.
- *Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police merger.* The group expressed concern with the proposals.
- *Code of Conduct.* The Harvey v Ledbury Town Council legal case is likely to result in more issues being referred to the monitoring officer.
- *Section 106 Funding.* Cornwall Council have been invited to talk to CALC about Section 106 funding and the community infrastructure levy.
- *Car Park Orders.* An opportunity to share the cost of Car Park Orders was discussed.
- *Financial Management System.* One or two Councils expressed an interest in seeing the Town Council's financial management systems.

Councillor Lanxon advised that the Safer St Austell Group are meeting regularly and are still providing a multi-agency response to ASB issues in the town. She advised the group are trying to improve communication particularly in the light of the disappointing crime figures recently reported. She advised that the recent walkabout in St Blazey had been a success.

Councillor Walker left the meeting

C/18/62) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Pears advised that he was now the Conservative Shadow Cabinet Member for Customer Support Service and that it had been a busy summer with constituency work. He advised that he had been involved in a number of beach cleans which included using his boat to get to remote beaches.

Councillor Pears left the meeting

Councillor Heyward advised that Helston Heritage Railway are due to take the old railway bridge from St Austell, but she is hoping that Cornwall Council will be able to intervene and prevent it happening. She also advised that she is working with Cornwall Council's Highways Department to improve Biddicks Court by installing the red pots from White River Place and carrying out re-surfacing works.

Councillor Brown advised that the Boundary proposals will probably go through and that Cornwall Council were due to debate one or two areas at their meeting tomorrow but not St Austell. He advised that Cornwall Council are carrying out the Community Governance Reviews and that they will try to complete as many as possible before the 2021 elections. He suggested that the Town Council should debate very soon what its aspirations are. He advised that there were no further suggested changes for the Parliamentary Boundaries.

Councillor Brown advised that the Sandy Hill School extension had been completed on time and was a good example of joint working between the Planning and Education functions. He added that the Cornwall Council Local Plan was due for review and that he had received lots of compliments on the design of the new Sandy Hill play equipment.

Councillor French advised that there had been significant parking issues at Crinnis and Carlyon Bay during the summer which had caused concern amongst the residents and that the Parish Council are due to receive a briefing shortly on the Charlestown World Heritage Site Status.

Councillor Bull expressed her delight that the WI Hall is now being used by the Adult Education department for ICT, Maths and English courses and that the local residents are being consulted about the courses that they would like to see offered.

C/18/63) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 7th July 2018 to 31st August 2018 totalling £136,050.50 be approved.

C/18/64) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings held on the 23rd July 2018 and 28th August 2018.

The Deputy Town Clerk declared an interest in minute number S/18/09 and left the meeting

C/18/65) Staffing Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on the 19th July 2018.

The Deputy Town Clerk returned to the meeting

C/18/66) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the future Town Council meetings were Monday 15th October 2018 and Monday 22nd October 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.