

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2018 at the Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Bishop, Brown, Cohen, Colwill, Hanlon, Heyward, Jones, King, Leonard, Rees, Styles and Thompson.

Also Present: Councillor Oxenham.

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

CC/18/34) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull and Pearce.

Councillor Heyward advised that she needed to leave the meeting early.

CC/18/35) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Colwill declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Woodland House Residential Home and ABC Residents Association) by virtue of being a member of both committees.

Councillors Heyward and Jones declared an interest in Agenda item 7 (Trewoon Pantomime) by virtue of being Directors of St Austell Arts Centre.

CC/18/36) Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations received.

CC/18/37) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th September 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/18/38) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that the multi play unit at Linear Park has been removed and that over the next few months the safety surfacing left in situ would be removed and replaced with turf.

The plastic free launch took place on 22nd September 2018.

CC/18/39) Public Participation

Mr Allen from Trewoon Pantomime advised Members that he is seeking funding for the hiring of the Arts Centre and a Music Director in preparation for their 2019 production of Old Mother Hubbard. He explained that some members of the pantomime group are young or have a disability and participating in a pantomime greatly improves their confidence and social skills. Mr Allen advised that they have won many awards including 1st prize for the best overall pantomime at the 2018 Clay Country Pantomime Awards.

CC/18/40) Small Grants Scheme

Trewoon Pantomime Group

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Trewoon Pantomime Group for funding towards their February 2019 production of "Old Mother Hubbard".

Councillor Colwill reiterated his interest and left the meeting

ABC Residents Association

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to ABC Residents Association for funding towards their 2018 Christmas trip to Plymouth.

Woodland House Residential Home

The Clerk clarified that the Tesco grant detailed on the application form was funding for the summer dog show and did not relate to the funding requested for the residents' Christmas party.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Woodland House Residential Home for funding towards their residents' Christmas activities.

Councillor Colwill returned to the meeting

Poltair School

Members welcomed the prospect of another community defibrillator in St Austell and the 24 hour, 7 day accessibility of it located at Poltair School. It was suggested that the school could seek funding from the Manor Solar Farm fund.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Poltair School for funding towards a community defibrillator at Poltair School to be paid upon completion of the works.

St Austell Amateur Operatic Society

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to St Austell Amateur Operatic Society for funding towards their production of "The Addams Family".

St Austell Old People's Welfare Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to St Austell Old People's Welfare Committee for funding towards their Christmas party at Sembal House.

Poltair Residents Association

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Poltair Residents Association for funding towards their children's Christmas party.

Cornwall Hospice Care

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Cornwall Hospice Care for funding towards the expansion of their Neighbourhood Hubs.

Charlestown Football Club

Councillor Jones advised that a member of his team is involved with the Charlestown Football Club

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Charlestown Football Club for funding towards a new football kit.

Go St Austell

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Go St Austell for funding towards the servicing and repair of the mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

St Austell Running Club

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to St Austell Running Club for funding towards the organisation of the Imerys Trail Marathon and providing the finishers with t-shirts.

CC/18/41) Priory Car Park Toilets – Radar Key System

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has received two complaints recently about the accessible toilets at Priory Car Park. One complaint related to the 20p fee to enter the accessible toilets and the other complaint related to the accessible toilets being unclean following anti-social behaviour. Both complainants suggested that a RADAR key should be fitted to the accessible toilets.

The Clerk advised that all the toilets at Priory Car Park have a 20p mechanism installed. The mechanism also allows the toilets to self-close at night and re-open again in the morning. Anti-social behaviour is an issue at the toilets and is monitored closely by the police, Addaction and the CCTV suite in Newquay.

The Radar key system was introduced in 1981 to allow accessible toilets to be locked that could only be unlocked by a radar key. These keys were issued to people with a disability at a cost of £5 and worked reasonably well. Unfortunately, radar keys are not exclusively issued to the disabled anymore and are readily available on the internet without the need to prove a disability.

The Clerk advised that if Members wish, a radar key system could be fitted to the accessible toilet door, along side the 20p system. This would allow access to the accessible toilet by either using a radar key or a 20p. The cost of installing a radar key system was quoted at £500. Fitting the radar key system alongside the 20p mechanism would allow the accessible toilet to self-close and re-open without the need for manual intervention.

Members felt that as radar keys are easily obtained on the internet there would be no benefit to disabled users and the change could increase anti-social behaviour in the accessible toilet(s).

Councillor Hanlon spoke in support of a radar key system being fitted to the accessible toilet as he felt it would assist the disabled people who did not have 20p but carried a radar key.

A proposal to continue with the existing policy of charging 20p for all users of the toilets received 6 votes for and 6 votes against and was approved with the casting vote of the Chairman.

It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the existing policy of charging 20p for all users of the toilets at Priory Car Park and not install a radar key system on the accessible toilets.

CC/18/42) Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

The Town Clerk introduced a report setting out three proposed working groups to help shape the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and asked for volunteers to sit on each group:

- Dogs, alcohol, drugs litter and enforcement
- Play equipment, events and health/activity
- Green space, green audit, horticulture, trees and flowers

During discussion it was agreed that there would be overlaps between the groups, particularly with regard to anti-social behaviour which would need to be considered as part of the bigger picture. It was suggested that the Cornwall Wildlife Group might be able to help with Green Audits and that the Working Groups should as far as possible be led by the new, less experienced Members of the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

Councillors Styles, Cohen, Rees (and possibly Walker and Pearce) would sit on the **Dogs, Alcohol, Drugs litter and Enforcement working group.**

Councillors Oxenham, Bishop, Colwill and Hanlon would sit on the **Play equipment, Events and Health/activity working group.**

Councillors Thompson, King, Leonard and Heyward would sit on the **Green space, Green audit, Horticulture, Trees and Flowers working group.**

CC/18/43) Agency Agreement

The Clerk advised that the Agency Agreement to cut the grass and maintain closed churchyards and flower beds expires in March 2019 and that he is in the process of re-negotiating a new three year agreement with effect from April 2019. He explained that a couple of additional sites have been added in to the agreement which are manageable within existing resources, but that he had declined other areas due to either a lack of resource or lack of expertise (eg bridge maintenance).

Members expressed their gratitude for the horticultural activities undertaken by the grounds maintenance staff and suggested other areas in the town that could be improved, possibly by volunteers if the resource is not available within the grounds maintenance staff.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to sign the revised Agency Agreement covering the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2022.

Councillor Heyward left during the next item

CC/18/44) Projects Update

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk provided an update on the following projects:

CCTV – A £15,000 grant has been awarded by the Police and Crime Commission for CCTV upgrade/replacement and a recommendation has been put forward from the Finance Committee to full Council to replace 10 analogue cameras with digital cameras and add 5 new cameras at a net cost to the Town Council of £35,000.

Additional CCTV monitoring has been procured for each of the light night Christmas shopping events.

Environmental Projects – The grass cutting has now finished, and the winter maintenance schedule has started including repairing fences, pruning trees and maintaining benches. East Hill gardens is now the responsibility of the Town Council and will in due course be a project for the apprentice. Plum and apple trees have been planted in Linear Park by Edible St Austell and a wildflower section will soon be created at The Meadows by Urban Buzz. The shrubs are on order for the embankment at Truro Road Park and a funding bid has been submitted for a playground upgrade at Bethel Park. The grounds maintenance team have started mending the potholes in the car park and a Planning application has been submitted to Cornwall Council for the revised café at Poltair Park. If all goes well, the management of the café will be put out to tender in the spring.

Allotments – All allotments are let at the present time but there could be a potential vacancy in the new year. The owner of the Sawles Road allotments is happy to receive any referrals from the Town Council.

Car Park – car park income is around £10,000 under budget, probably due to a number of factors including declining retail, Bodmin Road being closed for the first half of the year and competition with the free car parks in the town. There is a need to consider a repair/maintenance budget or reserve for the car park to assist with the replacement of car park machines, tarmacking and white line renewals. Quotations are still being sought for the repair of the wall. The Town Council approved free car parking after 4pm for the torchlight carnival and each of the late night Christmas shopping events.

Footpaths – the Town Council's contractor has given his notice, so new quotations for the contract will be sought for the 2019/20 season.

Youth Services – The roof has been finished at The House to a good standard and Young People Cornwall are back in the building running youth services. The Administration staff are due to move from Truro to The House in the first week of January. The Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall is hoping to create a centre of excellence for young people in the building.

Anti-Social Behaviour – The latest ASB summit took place on Thursday 22nd November the notes of which will be placed on the Town Council's website within a few days. The County Lines briefing at the meeting was particularly well received. Safer St Austell are carrying out regular walkabouts with a variety of agencies and lower key walkabouts led by Helen Toms to engage with the homeless.

A "sleep out" event to raise awareness of homelessness is due to take place on Wednesday 5th December 2018. The Community & Projects Officer has linked up with the Police and has offered to support the Neighbourhood Watch initiative where she can.

CC/18/45) 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 commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

CC/18/46) Jubilee Meadow

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has received a request from a neighbouring property owner who would like to purchase a small strip of land, adjacent to his property, owned by the Town Council at Jubilee Meadows.

During discussion, Members raised concerns about the precedent that could be set if the Town Council sold the land and the general lack of green open space in St Austell that they felt should be protected.

It was **RESOLVED** not to sell the requested strip of land at Jubilee Meadows to a neighbouring property owner.

Councillor Brown asked that it be recorded that he voted against this decision

Councillor Bishop abstained from voting on this item

CC/18/47) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meetings of the Community Committee are scheduled for Monday 4th March 2019 and Monday 1st April 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.