

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2019 in the Council Chamber at the St Austell Information Service, 39 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, Rees, Styles, Thompson and Walker.

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

C/18/110) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pears.

C/18/111) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

Councillor Thompson advised that he had recently received hospitality as part of the re-dedication of the Police station. He also declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Community Governance Review) by virtue of being a Councillor on the neighbouring Carlyon Bay Parish Council as well as St Austell Town Council.

C/18/112) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/18/113) Minutes of Meeting held on 17th December 2018

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

Councillor Leonard arrived

C/18/114) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that he had written to Nigel Blackler to advise him that the Town Council supports the proposal to lower Holmbush Bridge and that a meeting had been set up with him at the end of the month to obtain a general update on progress so far with regard to the various highways schemes proposed for the town.

C/18/115) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that an informal Town Council meeting has been set for Monday 18th March and that the Deputy Town Clerk would confirm the details in due course.

Councillors Cohen and Lanxon arrived during the next item

C/18/116) Public Participation

Mrs Earl and Mr Wellicom advised Members that they are seeking support for the creation of a footpath from Trenance to Menacuddle Well. They advised that there is growing support for the project and that they are now looking for formal support from the Town Council. Mrs Earl advised that she intended e-mailing Councillors later this week for their views.

The Mayor advised that an update on Menacuddle Well will be provided at the next Community Committee meeting.

C/18/117) Members' Questions

None.

Councillor Thompson re-iterated his interest and left the meeting

C/18/118) Community Governance Review

The Clerk referred Members to Cornwall Council's correspondence seeking expressions of interest from Town and Parish Councils who would like Cornwall Council to carry out a governance review in their area.

During discussions, Members generally felt that a Community Governance Review would be beneficial and suggested that the boundary, number of councillors and the parish warding arrangements should all be considered.

Councillor Brown advised that Cornwall Council are hoping that firm proposals will be received by May and that it will make a draft recommendation in November and then hold a three month consultation on the proposals between November and February. It is hoped that a final decision will be reached in July 2020.

Arising from the above, the Clerk advised that he had sought advice from Cornwall Council's Monitoring Officer who had recommended that any Town or Parish Councillor who is also a Member of an adjoining Town or Parish Council that could be affected by the review should not take part in any Community Governance discussions for the time being. The Monitoring Officer advised that he would review his advice as the process evolves.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should:

- i. respond to the correspondence as suggested with the addition of a request for the number of Councillors to be reviewed.
- ii. Produce a report for the Finance and General Purposes Committee suggesting an appropriate way forward for working up, approving and submitting the Town Council's views to Cornwall Council.

Councillor Thompson returned to the meeting

C/18/119) Parks and Open Spaces Survey

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that it would be helpful to obtain the views of local residents to help inform the production of the Open Spaces Strategy. She advised that the Terms of Reference for each group are being worked up and that a meeting of the first group would be called shortly. She advised that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had agreed to survey residents in the Town Centre, the Projects Officer would visit the parks and the survey would be available on-line via the Town Council's Facebook page. Members agreed that the local schools should be consulted as well.

During discussion, the following improvements to the form were suggested:

- Question 5. Ask what time of year the park is visited.
- Question 12. Improve the wording “control dogs”, indicate that Poltair Park will have a café and ask responders to prioritise their answers.
- Friends Groups. Re-word the friends group section to read “would you be interested in forming or joining a friends group for the park that you use most”
- Re-word the privacy notice to reflect the need to hold data for statistical purposes.
- Include a section to enable responders to receive the results of the survey.
- Include a section about the accessibility of the play equipment.

C/18/120) CALC Annual Conference – 16th February 2019

It was **RESOLVED** to make attendance at this event an approved duty.

C/18/121) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Palmer advised that at the last CALC Larger Councils Group meeting, Members had an opportunity to discuss the Cornwall devolution process with Professor Jane Wills from Exeter University and received an update from Sarah Mason about the impending Community Governance Review and what it meant for Town and Parish Councils.

Councillor Palmer advised that the BID Board had met recently where they were advised that the first Christmas night shopping had gone extremely well with good footfall throughout the town, but the other three nights had been very quiet, possibly due to the poor weather. Disappointment was expressed at the meeting that the Town Council had resolved not to decrease the car park charges this year. The potential to fund a Police Constable instead of security guards is being explored and the percentage of vacant shop units in St Austell is below the national average.

Councillor Oxenham advised that the work of South and East Cornwall Local Action Group would continue until 2022 with the main focus on social and economic deprivation. She explained that she had been very active in St Austell delivering leaflets promoting the funding and that the South and East Cornwall Local Action Group had seen a rise in applications from the St Austell area.

Councillor Brown advised that he had attended a very good SABEF meeting recently where Members had received a presentation from St Austell Healthcare and an update on the appointment of self-employed contractors to help with the Garden Town Project. He explained that the governance arrangements for the project are being progressed and that a Masterplan is being drawn up which includes lots of proposals for improvement, many of which are on Town Council owned or managed land.

Councillor French endorsed Councillor Brown’s comments and stressed the need for good governance arrangements.

The Clerk advised that he was in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding to provide SABEF with guidance on the governance process that the Town Council needs to consider to be able to grant permissions, ensure safe working practices and, if appropriate, agree to ongoing maintenance liabilities. He advised that Mr Mike Hawes, one of the appointed contractors is due to update the Town Council at their meeting on the 25th March with the latest master planning work. A draft of the Memorandum of Understanding will be available for Members to consider at the informal meeting in March.

Councillor Lanxon advised that a draft Town Profile, which included crime statistics and feedback from the recent residents' survey, was discussed at the last Safer St Austell meeting. She explained that the group has a delivery plan and that there is ongoing work with the Phoenix Project, Time Credits and the potential to make a film about crime prevention work in St Austell.

C/18/122) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor French referred to the recent snow and commended CORMAC for their hard work in the very difficult conditions.

Councillor Heyward reiterated her support for CORMAC and queried the Town Council's position with regard to purchasing and filling of salt bins. She referred to the "Future High Streets Fund" expression of interest that the Community Network Officer had submitted to Cornwall Council, the dismantling of the railway bridge and the offer of a mobile CCTV camera from Cornwall Council that could be used for a trial in St Austell.

The Clerk explained that Newquay Town Council is exploring the options for the provision of a re-deployable camera and he understood from a conversation with Cornwall Council officers that the camera they hoped to trial is also re-deployable rather than mobile.

Councillor Bull praised the work of Cornwall Council's Fire Service and suggested that the Town Council might like to look at ways of becoming greener following a recent debate about climate change at Cornwall Council.

Councillor Brown advised that the Aldi planning application deadline has been extended until the end of March and that the Tour of Britain cycling event is looking very hopeful with the potential route to include St Austell. A final decision is due in September. If approved, it is anticipated that Town and Parish Councils will be asked to take the lead on organising complimentary events.

C/18/123) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 29th November 2018 to 25th January 2019 totalling £119,036.52 be approved.

C/18/124) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting dated 7th January 2019 be noted.

C/18/125) Schedule of Meetings – 2019/20

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Schedule of Meetings for the 2019/20 Civic Year.

C/18/126) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the next Town Council meetings are Monday 25th March 2019, Tuesday 7th May 2019 (Annual Parish Meeting) and Monday 13th May 2019 (Annual Town Council Meeting).

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.