

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 at the Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Bishop, Brown, Bull, Cohen, Colwill, Hanlon, Heyward, King, Leonard, Pearce, Pears, Rees, Styles and Thompson.

**Also Present:** Councillor Oxenham

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

**CC/18/48) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones.

**CC/18/49) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**CC/18/50) Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations received.

**CC/18/51) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

*\*\*Councillor Cohen arrived during the next item\*\**

**CC/18/52) Matters to note**

The Clerk advised that little progress had been made with the Open Spaces Strategy but that it was hoped to finalise the survey shortly and then to circulate it electronically with the assistance of Councillor Walker.

**CC/18/53) Public Participation**

Mr Wellicome advised that the gravestone of Charles Rashleigh is set to one side in Cemetery Park and enquired whether the headstone could be moved back to the graveside in order to be more visible in view of the importance of Charles Rashleigh to the area. Councillor Heyward advised that she is the Cornwall Councillor for this area and undertook to pursue the matter as the park is owned by Cornwall Council.

Mrs Earl enquired about Clinton House which she believed had been bequeathed to the people of St Austell and advised that it was in a poor state of repair.

**CC/18/54) Small Grants Scheme**

*St Austell Choral Society*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to St Austell Choral Society for funding towards their Spring Concert which will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

### *Friends of Menacuddle Well*

Mrs Earl advised that the Friends of Menacuddle Well are seeking to install two further benches at Menacuddle Well and that they have applied to Treverbyn Parish Council and St Austell Town Council for funding for a bench each. The cost of each bench was noted to be £731 (without a plaque) or £818.07 (with a plaque).

A proposal to grant £250 now and earmark the remaining £568 requested in the next financial year was lost 5 votes to 7.

Members indicated that they might be prepared to consider more than the £250 in the forthcoming financial year but felt only able to award £250 due to the budgetary constraints at this time.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to the Friends of Menacuddle Well for funding towards a new bench.

### *4FS Youth Dance*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to 4FS Youth Dance for funding towards their June 2019 show "The Platform".

### *Cornwall International Male Choral Festival*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Cornwall International Male Choral Festival for funding towards their 2019 biennial Festival.

### *Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust for funding towards the purchase of a new helicopter.

### **CC/18/55) Menacuddle Well**

The Clerk and Mrs Earl provided updates on work in relation to Menacuddle Well and raised the issue of the potential to re-open an old path that is shown on some maps running from the viaduct to Menacuddle Well across the St Austell Brewery land. It was noted that the Brewery are opposed to providing public access through their land at the present time.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should make an informal approach to the Managing Director of St Austell Brewery to see if a solution can be found.

### **CC/18/56) Lostwood Community Gardens**

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that since writing the report an application to the Pocket Parks Fund had been successful and funding was available for Lostwood Community Gardens to create a new fence and move the gates to improve disabled access to the houses in Lostwood Road. A grant of £3,975 had been awarded and required match funding from the Town Council of £1,045. This sum could be found from the parks and open spaces budget.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that a further grant application for Thornpark Road Park had also been successful and a grant of £11,565 had been awarded requiring £3,320 of match funding from the Council which could be found from the budget and by using in house labour as a benefit in kind.

Members noted the update and welcomed the grant funding.

It was **RESOLVED** that the gates at Lostwood Community Gardens be removed to provide better access for the disabled and that a fence and new gates be installed as proposed in the grant application.

Arising from a question, the Town Clerk confirmed that the proposed fence and gates would be sufficient to keep dogs out of the community gardens when closed.

### **CC/18/57) South West In Bloom – It’s Your Neighbourhood Competition**

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced a report seeking to repeat the arrangement that had applied in previous years to support community groups who wish to enter the “Its Your Neighbourhood” Competition. She advised that a budget of approximately £350 was required for plants and compost for the community groups and that the Operations Manager would like to be authorised to enter Truro Road Park and/or The Meadows Park in the 2019 “Pride in Parks” competition depending on the completion of works and the parks being ready for judging.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. funding of up to £350 be approved for plants and compost for the Community Groups taking part in “It’s Your Neighbourhood Competition”;
2. The installation of a “Supported by St Austell Town Council” sign be installed at suitable locations to recognise the Town Council’s funding being provided;
3. The Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to enter Truro Road Park and/or The Meadows Park in the 2019 Pride in Parks competition subject to the Operations Manager being satisfied that they will be ready for judging.

Councillor Heyward advised that she had a Residents Association who wished to enter the “It’s Your Neighbourhood” Competition. The Deputy Town Clerk undertook to provide an entry form for their completion.

### **CC/18/58) Salt Bins**

Members considered a report on salt bins which identified Cornwall Council’s policy with regard to salt bins on highways.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Staff be authorised to re-fill existing highways salt bins on request if necessary after the annual fill by CORMAC;
2. No money be set aside for new salt bin on highways;
3. The small grants scheme be used to help any residents’ groups wishing to provide and maintain communal salt bins.

### **CC/18/59) Citizens' Award Event**

At the request of the Mayor, the Deputy Town Clerk introduced a report on the potential to organise a Citizens' Award Event during this civic year. Members asked that the decision on this matter be a recommendation to full Council and be considered with the recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee relating to Mayor Making.

Members explored various options for a Citizens' Award event and expressed concern at the tight timescales proposed for this year's event. There was a general view that a public vote was not required to select individual candidates but in future public nominations might be invited. Differing views were expressed regarding the format of the event.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Council organise a Citizens' Award Event at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and review the event in September 2019 to determine whether to/how to proceed in the future.

### **CC/18/60) St Austell Town Council – 10 Year Anniversary**

The Town Clerk advised that June 2019 would mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Council and that it was hoped to produce a page in the St Austell Voice with an anniversary theme and to use the anniversary as a theme for the Garden Town event in June 2019.

Members felt that any information produced should be forward looking as well as backward looking. Councillor Bull suggested that Members might wish to organise a celebratory event to mark the occasion.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the verbal report and **AGREED** that Councillor Bull should liaise with other Councillors to investigate whether a celebratory event would be appropriate.

### **CC/18/61) St Austell Torchlight Carnival (Councillor Heyward)**

Councillor Heyward provided an update on the 2018 Torchlight Carnival as requested by the Committee when the grant funding for the event was approved. She advised that financial accounts were not yet available but would be provided as soon as the Accountant has completed them. She outlined the current financial position, some of the expenses incurred and thanked Members and Officers for their continued support.

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

### **CC/18/62) Projects Update**

The Clerk provided an update on the following projects:

#### *CCTV*

10 analogue cameras have been upgraded and 5 new cameras are being installed which should be operational within 2-3 weeks. A trial of a mobile CCTV system has

been completed but was not particularly successful. A second trial is due to take place with Cornwall Council shortly.

### *Environmental Projects*

- Ad hoc grass cutting is being undertaken and a winter maintenance schedule is in place including the repair of fences, pruning trees, maintaining benches and flower bed enhancements.
- Five new litter bins have been installed and lots of praise has been received for Poltair Park which has been awarded a second 4 star award in the Pride in Parks Scheme. East Hill Gardens have been cleared and litter picks have been undertaken at Linear Park by both the Rotary Club and U3A. The Rotary Club are due to undertake a second litter pick at Gypsy Lane towards the end of March.
- The progress with the Poltair Park Café development appears to be very slow and officers are chasing Cornwall Council to improve progress.
- A meeting has taken place with Nigel Blackler to try to progress a number of highways schemes and engineers are due to inspect Holmbush Bridge this week.

### *Public Conveniences*

ASB issues continue and a number of blockages have been experienced at the toilet block. The CORMAC cleaning contract is working satisfactorily.

### *Car Park*

Car Park income is still slightly below budget. Three sections of tarmac are due to be renewed shortly.

### *Weed Spraying/Footpaths*

Quotations are being sought for both contracts which are due to start in April.

### *Youth Services*

Young People Cornwall are now in The House. Legal agreements are being worked on by Solicitors.

### *Anti-Social Behaviour*

The next ASB meeting will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019. A number of new individuals have been sighted within the Town recently and there have been some needle finds in Holy Trinity Church grounds.

### *Old Vicarage Place*

Work is being undertaken to assist Cornwall Council to make a bid for the improvement of Old Vicarage Place under the Government's "Future High Streets

Fund" initiative. The bid is likely to assume a mixed use development including retail, office, social/community uses and housing.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write a letter of support from the Town Council to Cornwall Council for the BID and ask them to consider using investment funds held by the Council to re-develop Old Vicarage Place if the bid for Government funding is unsuccessful.

Arising from the above, Members advised that a lot of the problems relating to litter could be addressed by improving education and promoting a "no litter" campaign. It was noted that the old railway bridge at the station has been removed and that a group are investigating the potential to adopt the railway station.

### **CC/18/63) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.