

MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 7th MAY 2019 in the Meeting Room at the Stable Block Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DP at 6.00pm.

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

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

APM/18/01) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bishop, Colwill, French, Oxenham and Styles.

APM/18/02) Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th May 2018

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting on the 8th May 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to it being noted that Councillor Bull was not the Mayor at the time of the meeting.

*** Councillors Brown and Lanxon arrived during the next item ***

APM/18/03) Dr Anthony Hereward

The Mayor welcomed Dr Hereward to the meeting.

Dr Hereward outlined his background as a GP and his role in reorganising healthcare provision in St Austell. He then went on to provide a hard hitting talk on the impact of climate change. He set the scene with a quiz and then outlined the evidence provided by the Keeling Curve which plots the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere based on continuous measurements taken on the island of Hawaii. This demonstrates that CO2 levels are rising. He then explained that more green house gas molecules in the air mean more heat is trapped which leads to an overall warming of the planet and that increasing CO2 levels leads to temperature rises. Small temperature changes can have a dramatic impact on climate, sea levels and ice accumulations at the north and south poles. He explained the exponential nature of the progression of carbon dioxide levels and other indicators of climate change and suggested that radical changes were required to slow the progression within the next 11 years.

In response to a question, Dr Hereward suggested that more local power generation was required, the use of electric vehicles should and will expand, millions of trees need to be planted, wildflowers encouraged and more sustainable forms of living are needed.

The Mayor thanked Dr Hereward for his very interesting and thought-provoking presentation.

APM/18/04) Helen Nicholson – Community Link Officer, Cornwall Council

The Mayor welcomed Helen Nicholson to the meeting.

Mrs Nicholson provided an update to Members of the work of the Community Network Panel (CNP). She explained that they are open meetings and that their aim is to bring

the Town and Parish Councils together by discussing topics of interest to all. She advised that in the last civic year the CNP had discussed issues such as health and winter wellness, highways funding schemes, crime and disorder, the green/whitegold initiative and the Community Governance Review. She explained that Cornwall Council is looking at ways of further strengthening the Community Networks which may involve more budgetary responsibility and the increased use of social media.

Arising from the above, Members made reference to the representation of the Town Council at the Community Network Meetings and the climate change agenda.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Nicholson for her update.

APM/18/05) Mayor's Review of the 2018/19 Civic Year

Councillor King referred to an extensive list of achievements for the 2018/19 civic year and highlighted some of the key elements including:

- The first St Austell Garden Festival;
- The Whitegold Festival;
- The many World War 1 centenary events including a number at the library;
- Facilitating the complete refurbishment of The House Youth Centre and the transfer of Young People Cornwall and 40 jobs to St Austell.

He thanked Councillors and everyone else for their support and assistance.

APM/18/06) 2018/19 Financial Accounts

The Town Clerk provided an overview of the Council's Accounts for the 2018/19 financial year and explained that the detailed accounts would be available at the Annual Town Council meeting.

He advised that the Town Council had come a long way and that its turnover had increased from approximately £250,000 four years ago to almost £1million now. He explained that the Town Council continued to provide excellent value for money and that its Council Tax level was well below the average for Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall. He further explained that a small deficit of £15,000 had been made in the year after funding significant investments in CCTV cameras and vehicles. Savings in employee costs and playground equipment budgets had helped to off-set these investments.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council's Balance Sheet demonstrated a healthy financial position, good liquidity and reserves which were adequate but not excessive.

APM/18/07) Priorities of St Austell Town Council for the 2019/20 Civic Year

The Town Clerk advised that he had been giving some thought to the possible priorities for the Town Council in the next civic year. He advised that he would be recommending a number of priorities for the Council including:

- Climate Change/Garden Town/Greening Agenda
- Management arrangements for Poltair Park Café/toilets;
- Community Governance Review;
- Open Spaces Strategy;
- Sponsorship of roundabouts, flower beds etc;

- Identify waste management solution with effect from April 2020;
- Review car parking arrangements;
- Identify grant funding for the refurbishment of another park;
- Continue customer service improvements and development of the community hub at the Library;
- Anti-social behaviour measures;
- Identify and secure other grant funding opportunities;
- Continue to demonstrate and communicate improvements in services.

Members raised a number of issues including:

- The Tour of Britain cycle event in 2020;
- Pondhu House;
- ASB and CCTV;
- Member involvement in communications;
- Websites publicising community groups;
- Green waste;
- Feast Week.

APM/18/08) Open Forum for questions from the public

Mr Tristan Netherton advised that he was this year's Chairman of the St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce and confirmed that he was keen to build better working relationships with Councillors. He explained many of his ambitions for the Chamber and its relationship to the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce and a South West Chamber. It was hoped that more could be done to address skills shortages and the development of apprenticeships with local colleges. A 5-year business plan was being developed and the successful breakfast briefings would continue.

Mrs Anne Double thanked the Council for its excellent work and congratulated Councillors on the progress made.

APM/18/09) Mayor's closing comments

The Mayor thanked everybody for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm