

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2019 in the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR at 6.05pm.

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

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

C/19/65) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull, Colwill and Hanlon.

C/19/66) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

None.

C/19/67) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/19/68) Minutes of Meeting held on 15th July 2019

It was noted that on page 4, minute number C/19/53 the word "treat" should read "threat".

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th July 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/19/69) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that a public engagement event about the potential changes suggested to Cornwall Council affecting the parishes of St Austell, Pentewan Valley, St Austell Bay, Carlyon, St Mewan, St Ewe and Treverbyn has been arranged for Thursday 26th September, 7pm at the St Austell Information Centre.

C/19/70) Public Participation

Mrs Earl advised that Menacuddle Well is still in the process of being planted up, with volunteers very welcome to help on the second Sunday of each month, 2pm to 4pm. A bench is due to be installed in the south garden with the help of the Town Council and 3 tree ferns have been donated by Heligan and 2 bags of soil by Contec. Mrs Earl advised that she has seen detailed plans for the proposed A30 link road and is impressed by the planting proposed. She is hoping that community gardens will be created on the by-ways with the help of local Town and Parish Councils.

Mrs Earl stressed the need for community engagement with regard to climate change and urged the Town Council to take the lead to encourage the public and local groups to do their bit to help.

C/19/71) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor outlined his engagements since the last Council meeting as follows:

- Meeting the judges for the "In Bloom" competition
- Providing prizes to Foxhole School – winners of the Garden Festival suitcase competition
- Attendance of the Lion King production by Charlestown School
- Sea Cadets Awards Evening
- Meeting Active Plus Students at White River Place
- St Columb, Penryn and Falmouth Civic Services
- A Questions and Answers session at The Sycamores
- Attendance at the Cornwall Council Central Sub Planning Committee
- A Dragon's Den judge at the House twice to assist the National Citizenship Scheme with the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk
- Attendance at the Truro Road Bandstand Opening Event and Fun Day attended by Councillor Hilary Frank, Chairman of Cornwall Council
- Kresen Kernow opening at Redruth
- Town Council Parade and Civic Event on Saturday 7th September
- Attendance at the Bergfest Twinning Event with the Deputy Mayor.

C/19/72) Poltair School

The Mayor welcomed Ms Eileen Pearson to the meeting, Arts Teacher from Poltair School and thanked her and her Art students for producing the mural on the old toilet block at Poltair Park. He advised that the mural had made an incredible difference to the park and had helped towards the achievement of the Pride in Park 4* Award in 2018.

Members expressed their thanks to Poltair School and the Mayor presented Ms Pearson with a certificate of appreciation.

Councillor Brown arrived during the next item

C/19/73) Climate Change and Environment Committee

The Clerk advised that the Working Group had met and had agreed the Terms of Reference circulated with the agenda. He advised that the first meeting of the Committee was due to take place on the 30th September and that the membership and timing of the Committee meeting needed to be determined. He added that Paul Masters, Strategic Director, Cornwall Council had been invited to attend a Town Council meeting in due course to talk to members about how the Town Council can assist Cornwall Council with their climate change plans.

During discussion, it was noted that there is a Localism Summit on the 6th November and that it would be helpful if it could be an approved duty. Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that the Committee currently did not have a budget but that this could be considered during the next budget round. Members also agreed that an evening meeting would be preferable and that the Committee should be called the "Climate and Environment Committee".

In response to a question, the Clerk advised that Councillor Jones' work supporting other Town and Parish Councils and Cornwall Council with climate change initiatives would not preclude him from being a member of the Town Council's Climate and Environment Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. The Terms of Reference of the Climate and Environment Committee be approved as set out in the report;
2. The Membership of the Committee to be as follows:
 - Councillor Cohen
 - Councillor Jones
 - Councillor King
 - Councillor Lanxon
 - Councillor Oxenham
 - Councillor Pearce
 - Councillor Rees
 - Councillor Thompson
 - Councillor Walker
 - The Mayor (ex officio)
3. The time of the Climate and Environment Committee would be 6pm;
4. The Committee would be called the "Climate and Environment Committee";
5. The Localism Summit on the 6th November at the Royal Cornwall Showground should be made an approved duty.

C/19/74) Bank Signatories

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillors Styles and Pears be added to the Town Council's list of approved signatories for the Council's Bank Accounts.

C/19/75) Flood Forum

The Clerk advised that Councillor Cohen is the Town Council's representative on the Cornwall Council Flood Forum.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Cornwall Council Flood Forum in Goldsithney should be made an approved duty and that a report should be brought back to Members in due course.

C/19/75) Code of Conduct Training

It was **RESOLVED** that the Cornwall Council Code of Conduct Training due to take place in Liskeard, Launceston and Truro in October 2019 should be made an approved duty.

C/19/76) Members' questions

There were no Members' questions.

C/19/77) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Palmer advised that the contracting of a Police Officer for a few hours each week is not working as well as hoped due to the resource allocated being needed in other areas a lot of the time. Cornwall Council has indicated that the Biddicks Court improvements should start in the Spring and the BID website is current being re-built.

Concern has been expressed at the BID meetings that the impending Church Street closure is likely to cause problems.

Councillor Brown apologised for his late arrival and advised that due to a Cornwall Council commitment he was unable to attend the last SABEF meeting but hoped to go to the next meeting scheduled for the 25th September 2019.

Councillor Lanxon advised that Safer Cornwall had a stand at the Truro Road Fun Park Event, extra Police resource had been mentioned at the last Safer St Austell meeting as well as potential locations for needle boxes. She added that she intended raising the issue of dogs running loose in parks at the next Safer St Austell meeting.

C/19/78) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Pears advised that he had written a lengthy report regarding his Cornwall Council activities for the St Austell Voice but added that he had attended the Town Council's Civic Event on Saturday and the Twinning Association Bergfest Dinner with the Mayor. Councillor Brown added that it had been a very good event and well received.

Councillor Brown advised that Brexit was causing issues for Cornwall Council including a lot of time and money answering queries from different departments of the Government as revealed by a recent Freedom of Information Request. He added that the Chancellor's settlement was not as bad as expected but there is still a substantial under funding of Local Government which will result in Cornwall Council having to make more cuts.

In response to the Climate Change Agenda, the Planning Department are working on a "Climate Change Development Plan" which will hopefully be available in February for examination. Once finalised it will become part of the local plan.

Councillor Brown advised that he had proposed a motion for full Council tomorrow proposing campaign points on housing and planning.

The St Austell public meeting for the second stage of the Community Governance is on the 26th September and is one of ten public meetings being held to consult the public. He advised that an opportunity would be given for individuals to speak at the meetings with people promoting change being asked to speak first and those against last. He suggested that the Town Council should nominate a representative to speak at the meeting and urged a degree of preparation as it would probably be the one chance to present the Town Council's proposals.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor King be authorised to represent the Town Council at the Community Governance Review meeting on Thursday 26th September 2019.

Councillor French advised that the Festival of Sail had taken place at Charlestown, Kneehigh had been promoting shows at Crinnis Beach and he was campaigning for a blue badge for a disabled person.

Councillor Heyward reiterated the proposed refurbishment of Biddicks Court and an issue with regard to the labelling of the male and female toilets at White River Place.

Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that the café at Poltair was still progressing and that he was hopeful that the formal handover from Cornwall Council would take

place soon once it had completed the outstanding works to enable Building Control sign off. He advised that kitchen designers are working on an appropriate layout and that the tender process to find an operator would start in the autumn with a view to opening next year.

C/19/79) Schedule of Payments

Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that the £150,000 paid to Cornwall Council is a short-term investment in anticipation of the precept coming into the Town Council's Bank Account during September.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 6th July 2019 to 31st August 2019 totalling £327,257.35 be approved.

C/19/80) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings dated 22nd July 2019, 27th August 2019 and 2nd September 2019 be noted.

C/19/81) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on the 21st October 2019 and the 16th December 2019.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.