

MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2019 in the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR at 6.05pm.

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

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

C/19/82) Apologies for Absence

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

C/19/83) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

Councillor Heyward declared an interest in agenda item 10, by virtue of being Treasurer of the St Austell Carnival Committee.

C/19/84) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/19/85) Minutes of Meeting held on 9th September 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/19/86) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that Councillor King represented the Town Council at the Community Governance Review public meeting on 26th September 2019 where concern was expressed by Treverbyn Parish Council and some residents from the Treverbyn area with regard to the Town Council's proposals. Cornwall Council is due to formally consider these proposals on the 4th November 2019. He further advised that following an inspection by Cornwall Council's Building Control Service, the café at Poltair is in need of some further work before it can be handed over to the Town Council.

C/19/87) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he had attended the following events since the last Council meeting:

- Battle of Britain Church Service
- Whitegold Event
- Banger Rally
- 2 x civic events (Camborne and Saltash)
- Made in Cornwall Award – St Austell Print
- Sea Cadets Poppy Appeal
- SW in Bloom Civic Reception hosted by Newquay Town Council
- SW In Bloom Awards Day in Newquay

(SALSA/St Austell Station – It’s Your Neighbourhood Level 4) (Menacuddle Well, Chandlers Walk/Lostwood Garden – It’s Your Neighbourhood Level 5)

- Afternoon with the Mayors Event
- RAF St Mawgan formal reception
- Bodmin Jail Fundraising Event for Little Harbour
- Trafalgar Night Dinner

C/19/88) Public Participation

None.

C/19/89) Climate Change – Presentation

The Mayor welcomed Steve Ford and Mark Holmes from Cornwall Council to the meeting.

Mr Ford outlined to Members the work to date by Cornwall Council which includes the declaration of a “climate emergency” and the production of an action plan signed off by the Council in July 2019. He explained that many good things had been happening including the Penwithick Retrofit Scheme, the Green Cornwall Programme and a greenhouse gas inventory. He advised that significant behavioural issues had to change as a reduction in Cornwall Council’s carbon footprint alone will not make the step change required in Cornwall. He explained that the action plan had 123 projects under three programmes:

- Cornwall Council’s Operational Programme – Cornwall Council’s control
- Cornwall Council’s Facilitation Programme – Cornwall Council as enabler or partner
- Cornwall Regional & National Programme – working across border and with Government

Mr Holmes advised that Cornwall Council is now working towards developing programmes of work to achieve the following aims:

- Reduction of carbon emissions from commercial, industrial & public sector organisations and promotion of a circular economy;
- Cornish households reduce their carbon footprint and make more sustainable choices;
- Reduced emissions from transportation of both people and goods;
- Expansion of renewable energy;
- Climate resilient communities, landscapes and infrastructure;
- Increased carbon drawdown through natural and engineered climate solutions.

He outlined the first three priorities:

- Whole house retrofit
- Climate Change Delivery Plan Document (DPD)
- Forest for Cornwall

Mr Holmes outlined the communication and engagement activity planned so far including:

- Forest for Cornwall launch

- Partnership website development
- Climate Change DPD Local Parish Conferences
- Let's talk Cornwall: Face to face engagement
- Climate Emergency Campaign
- Localism Summit
- Low Carbon Schools Event

Mr Holmes outlined their "Climate Change Decision Making" tool which he said could be made available to Town and Parish Councils.

Mr Ford outlined the importance of partnership working and the consideration of both mitigation and adaptation strategies, the need to align existing activities and initiatives, embed climate change considerations within decision making processes and share good practice and co-design solutions.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:

- The significant amount of funding needed to carry out the whole house retrofit proposals;
- The need for Cornwall Council to look at renewable energy;
- The effects the proposed Spaceport could have on Cornwall's carbon footprint;
- The need to lobby for a change of national policies;
- The need for partnership working;
- The support shown for electrical charging points in car parks and the EU funding still available;
- Concern with regard to the damaging effects other countries are having on climate change (eg: coal fire power stations, destruction of rainforests)
- The challenges faced by the Forest for Cornwall (eg: developers obtaining planning permission to remove hedgerows and trees);
- The need to drive behavioural change.

The Mayor thanked Mr Ford and Mr Holmes for their interesting presentation.

C/19/90) To Life CIC – St Austell Zombie Walk

Members noted from the breakdown of expenditure that there is a proposal to purchase balloons for the event. Members reiterated their commitment to promoting "plastic free St Austell" and suggested that if a grant were to be approved the confirmatory letter should express the Town Council's wish that no single use plastics, including balloons should be purchased for the event.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £250 should be awarded with a suggestion to the organisers that no single use plastics, including balloons should be purchased for the event.

C/19/91) Torchlight Carnival – Councillor Heyward

Councillor Heyward expressed her concern at the need to provide detailed financial information as she understood that the Town Council had already agreed a budget of £3,000 for this year's Torchlight Carnival. She provided a verbal report on the Carnival's current financial situation and concluded that the Carnival Committee has enough funding for this year's carnival without a contribution from the Town Council but that this would leave very little funding in the Bank for future years.

She added that the Committee are short of volunteers and asked Members for their help on the evening. Councillor Heyward passed the Accounts and Income and Expenditure Statement to the Town Clerk.

*** Councillor Heyward re-iterated her interest as Treasurer of the Torchlight Carnival and left the meeting***

Members acknowledged that the carnival is enjoyed by many people and was identified as a priority for the town in 2009. They did however express concern that the Accounts and Income and Expenditure information was only provided on the evening and that this was unfair on other grant applicants who provide financial information on a timely basis.

The Clerk advised that the Council had agreed to set aside a budget of £3,000 for the 2019 Torchlight Carnival but there was still an expectation that a grant application form and up to date financial information would be produced to demonstrate that the funding was required.

A proposal to provide a grant in the sum of £3,000 for the 2019 Torchlight Carnival, payable upon receipt of the Accounts for the Year Ending February 2020 was lost with 3 votes for and 12 votes against.

A proposal to provide a grant in the sum of £2,500 for the 2019 Torchlight Carnival on condition that any future grants would only be considered following receipt of the Accounts within a reasonable period of time, to be specified by the Town Clerk in the grant condition letter, was supported with 9 votes for and 6 votes against.

It was **RESOLVED** to provide a grant in the sum of £2,500 for the 2019 Torchlight Carnival on condition that any future grants would only be payable following receipt of the previous year's Accounts within a reasonable period of time to be specified by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Heyward returned to the meeting

Councillor Palmer left the meeting

C/19/92) Sembal House

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £250 should be awarded with a suggestion to the organisers that no single use plastics, including balloons should be purchased for the event.

C/19/93) Christmas - Late Night Shopping – Priory Car Park

Members expressed their support for the Christmas late night shopping events and agreed that Priory Car Park should be made free after 4pm for each of the four late night shopping Tuesday's leading up to Christmas.

It was **RESOLVED** that Priory Car Park should be free after 4pm on each of the four late night shopping Tuesday's leading up to Christmas 2019.

C/19/94) Councillor Tim Jones – CALC Executive Board

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Tim Jones should be appointed to the CALC Executive Board.

C/19/95) Members' questions

None.

C/19/96) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Brown advised that SABEF had received a very interesting presentation from the Duchy of Cornwall Chief Forester and Councillor Cohen advised that she had attended a Cornwall Council Flood Forum in Goldsithney and would e-mail a full report to all Councillors. Councillors Heyward and Lanxon updated Members on a "chat bench" initiative that Safer St Austell are trialling, and Councillor Bishop advised that it was clear from a recent Steering Group meeting that The House are still helping a number of young people suffering from mental health issues.

C/19/97) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Pears advised that he had attended a number of events with the Mayor, carried out various litter picks across the town and had been in discussions with Cornwall Council Officers about improvements to the Porthpean Road junction.

Councillor Brown referred to the success of a bench recently installed in Chapel Field, his support for the Town Council to purchase a mobile camera and the recent debate at County Hall regarding the Newquay Spaceport proposals.

Councillor Brown advised that 10 public meetings had taken place during September/October and that the Electoral Review Panel are meeting regularly to review officer recommendations. He advised that the Panel had disagreed with some of the officer recommendations and some Councils, since the public meetings, had either amended or withdrawn their proposals.

Councillor Heyward advised that one gypsy traveller had arrived at the Karensa site and was being monitored by social care and gypsy liaison officers. She advised that the THI project is ongoing with the Manor House, Market House and Tengo property owners all interested in progressing. She advised that the Freshstart building is now a homeless shelter and that the Police have carried out some successful drugs raids at various locations across the town over recent weeks.

C/19/98) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 1st September 2019 to 10th October 2019 totalling £128,039.87 be approved.

C/19/99) Community Committee

The Clerk referred Members to minute number **CC/19/25** where it was recommended that the Town Council does not participate in the Cornwall Council Incident Report Scheme.

Members expressed concern with this recommendation and felt that the Town Council should support Cornwall Council with this initiative.

A proposal to support the recommendation was lost with 5 votes for and 9 votes against.

A proposal to support the Cornwall Council Incident Report Scheme was supported with 10 votes for, and 5 votes against.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Cornwall Council Incident Report Scheme.

The Clerk referred Members to minute number **CC/19/28** where it was recommended that the Town Council approve the grass cutting policy and ask the Working Group to look at matters relating to dogs and litter enforcement next.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Approve the grass cutting policy;
2. Ask the Working Group to look at matters relating to dogs and litter enforcement next.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Committee dated 16th September 2019 be noted.

C/19/100) Planning and Regeneration Committee

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

C/19/101) Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Clerk referred Members to minute number **F/19/25** where it was recommended that three months' notice is given to Cornwall Council to terminate the current waste contract, procure a small pick up vehicle and employ an additional operative to carry out waste management tasks with effect from 1st April 2020.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. Three months' notice is given to Cornwall Council to terminate the current waste contract with effect from 31st March 2020;
2. The waste management function to empty bins and litter pick on St Austell Town Council owned/managed land is brought in-house;
3. A small pick up vehicle is procured with a budget of no more than £15,000;
4. An additional operative to carry out waste management tasks and general grounds maintenance duties with effect from 1st April 2020 is recruited.

The Clerk referred Members to minute number **F/19/26** and advised that the word "Resolution" should have read "Recommendation" and asked Members to approve the minute as outlined.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to appoint T K Play Limited to undertake the safety surface works to three high priority areas identified at Poltair Park in accordance with their quotation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 23rd September 2019 be noted.

C/19/102) Climate and Environment Committee

The Clerk advised that the Library is free to host a community engagement event on Friday 8th November 2019 and suggested that the Its Your Neighbourhood Certificates could be awarded to the community groups at the same event.

Councillor King advised that Councillor Walker had drafted an on-line survey and that a proposed date for an invitation only stakeholder meeting had been suggested for Saturday 9th November 2019. He further advised that the Communities Support Assistant had confirmed that the Committee room at the St Austell Information Centre is free on this date and would be free of charge to the Town Council. Tea, coffee and biscuits would be donated by the Co-op.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

1. A Climate Change community engagement event would be held at the Library on Friday 8th November 2019 between 10am and 12pm;
2. The Mayor would present the community groups with their "It's Your Neighbourhood" certificates at this event;
3. A stakeholder, invitation only event would be held on Saturday 9th November 2019;
4. The Deputy Town Clerk to circulate the draft on-line survey to the Climate and Environment Committee for comment.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 30th September 2019 be noted.

C/19/103) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on the Monday 16th December 2019 and Monday 3rd February 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.