

**MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2020 (Remote Meeting) at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Bishop, Brown, Bull, Cohen, Colwill, French, Hanlon, Heyward, Jones, Lanxon, Leonard, Oxenham, Palmer, Pearce, Pears (Chair), Rees, Thompson and Walker.

**In attendance:** David Pooley (Town Clerk), Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk), Steve Skinner (Operations Manager).

**C/19/161) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Styles (Mayor).

**C/19/162) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received**

*\*\*Councillor Oxenham declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 (St Luke's Church) as she knows the applicant\*\**

*\*\*Councillors Brown and French declared an interest in agenda item 10 by virtue of being SABEF Directors\*\**

**C/19/163) Dispensations**

There were no requests for a dispensation.

**C/19/164) Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

*\*\*Councillors Bishop and Oxenham abstained from voting as they were not present at the meeting\*\**

**C/19/165) Matters to Note**

In response to a question, the Clerk provided an update on the financial position of the Council explaining the main variations from budget arising as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the impact anticipated in June and July. He advised that he was trying to obtain hardship funding from Cornwall Council to help ease the burden of losses of income and additional costs as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

**C/19/166) Mayor's announcements**

None.

**C/19/167) Public Participation**

None

### **C/19/168) Woodland Road Park**

The Clerk introduced a report explaining a request received from the Chair of Governors of Mount Charles School to erect a temporary fence in Woodland Road Park to assist with the segregation of children during the Coronavirus pandemic. He explained that children would be returning to the school this week and that the school had requested additional space to allow children to play and undertake lessons more safely in line with Government guidelines.

Members stressed the need for the arrangement to be temporary and discussed the conditions proposed. It was suggested that signage should be erected to communicate the purpose of the fence to the public. They also discussed the matter of rent and supported a peppercorn rent. Members felt that the arrangement should only be repeated in September if the first period in June and July operated successfully.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to:

1. Enter into an arrangement with CELT to allow a temporary fence to be erected in the position shown on the plan included within the report for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020;
2. Enter into a further arrangement for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 subject to the first period operating satisfactorily;
3. Signage be erected to explain the arrangement to members of the public including school contact details for any matters relating to the fence;
4. A peppercorn rent of £1 per period be charged.

*\*\*Councillors Brown and Bull voted against resolution number 3\*\**

*\*\*Councillor Thompson abstained from voting on this matter\*\**

### **C/19/169) Priory Car Park**

The Clerk introduced a report proposing a phased re-introduction of car park charges at Priory Car Park to support key workers and town centre retailers. He explained that the Council cannot afford to continue with free parking and that it would need to reintroduce the full parking charges before very long. He suggested a discounted charge of £1 per day for parking with effect from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with the normal car parking charges being reinstated to coincide with the Government's phase 3 relaxations in July.

Members felt that the proposal was a sensible compromise and a positive concession which would help the town centre. It was noted that Cornwall Council had reintroduced its full car parking charges with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 but that a concession was being offered to NHS workers.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to introduce a £1 per day car park charge with effect from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and authority be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to re-introduce the usual car park charges with effect from a date in early July.

Further to the discussions on the car park charges, the Clerk advised that the public conveniences were currently closed and that the proposal was to keep them closed for the time being and then to consider a gradual opening with the baby change toilet and disabled toilet opening first as conditions permit.

It was **RESOLVED** to keep the toilets closed for the time being and to review the position at the same time as the car park charges.

*\*\*Councillors Brown and French reiterated their interest in this matter as Directors of SABEF and left the meeting\*\**

### **C/19/170) St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) Artwork Maintenance**

The Clerk explained that the Town Council had been asked by St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) to maintain four artworks planned for the HSBC building, the plinth in Fore Street, Mount Charles roundabout and on benches to be located in a number of places in the town. It was anticipated that SABEF would pay for the maintenance of these facilities for the first 12 months and that the Town Council would maintain the artworks with effect from December 2021 or 12 months after completion if the works are delayed. This would help to establish the true costs of the artworks and allow the Town Council time to stabilise its finances.

Members were supportive and welcomed the installation of the artworks in the town centre in particular.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Ask SABEF to maintain the artworks for the first 12 months after installation in order to get a better understanding of the costs involved;
2. Agree to maintain the artworks with effect from December 2021 or from 12 months after completion if the works are delayed.

*\*\*Councillors Brown and French returned to the meeting\*\**

### **C/19/171) Cornwall Council – Making Spaces for Nature Project**

Members considered a report setting out proposals for projects under the “Making Spaces for Nature” initiative and the future maintenance of planting schemes. It was noted that schemes at Cemetery Park and The Meadows would be maintained by Cornwall Council until December 2022 and that the Town Council would undertake ongoing maintenance after December 2022.

Councillor Heyward advised that Cornwall Council were also planning to erect an interpretation board to explain the graves, gravestones and burials in the park. It was felt that having two interpretation panels might be too much for the park. The Clerk undertook to speak to the Cornwall Council officer leading the Making Spaces for Nature project to ensure that she liaises with the department in Cornwall Council designing the interpretation board relating to the gravestones with a view to combining all of the information on to one board.

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

*\*\*Councillor Thompson left the meeting \*\**

## **C/19/172) Small Grants Scheme**

### *St Austell Cricket Club*

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced the funding application received from St Austell Cricket Club for a community defibrillator to be installed on the site at the cricket club. Members were keen that the defibrillator should be available for use by the community and subject to it being available, felt that this was an application that they should support.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £415 be awarded to St Austell Cricket Club for the provision of a defibrillator for the benefit of the wider community.

*\*\*Councillor Oxenham left the meeting\*\**

### *St Luke's Church*

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that St Luke's Church was seeking funding for a project entitled "Kidsmatter" which aims to equip disadvantaged families with the confidence and support to enable them to thrive through the delivery of activity parcels. The programme is aimed at families of Bishop Bronescombe School. The Deputy Town Clerk reassured Members that this was not for Church members only and that the project would benefit the wider community. Members felt that the project was an excellent and worthy initiative.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £400 to help fund additional resources needed as part of the Kidsmatter project.

## **C/19/173) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports**

Councillor Lanxon updated Members on the issues discussed at the last Safer St Austell meeting. Councillor Palmer advised that the BID has organised a reduced hanging basket display for the 2020 summer season and that it has been approached by the national BID association to be on a national focus group. BID levy income is still very uncertain and will depend very much on whether businesses re-open or not. Councillor Brown advised that the next SABEF meeting is on Wednesday and the Carlyon Bay development is due to be discussed.

## **C/19/174) Cornwall Councillor update reports**

Councillor Heyward updated Members on the progress of the A30 Link Road and confirmed that the lowering of the road under the Holmbush Bridge is a top priority of the local Cornwall Councillors.

Councillor Brown advised that he is working with the Anti-Social Behaviour Caseworker with regard to a spate of anti-social behaviour in Bethel and that a further planning application has come forward for a filling station in Holmbush. A Planning Inspector is due to visit a property in Boscoppa which is the subject of an appeal and it is hoped that the Community Governance Review Panel will meet and resume discussions in early July. Councillor Brown also explained the governance arrangements at Cornwall Council whilst meetings are not being held.

Councillor French advised that the first phase of the Crinnis development is being worked up and should be submitted for planning in November.

**C/19/175) Planning and Regeneration Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 be noted.

**C/19/176) Schedule of Payments**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 totalling £75,720.64 be approved.

**C/19/177) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Council is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.04pm.