

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING of ST JUST-IN-PENWITH TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 1 Chapel Street, St Just on Monday 24 March 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor K McFadden - Town Mayor
Councillor T N McFadden – Deputy Mayor

COUNCILLORS

Mrs M Blundy	Mrs G McQueen
B Clemens	M Nicholls
Mrs F Cock	D Roberts
T McFadden	G Roberts
F Morris	Mrs G Salmon

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Mrs James, Cornwall Councillor

TC.356 PUBLIC ADDRESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

None.

TC.357 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

TC.358 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Deputy Mayor declared a discloseable interest in planning application PA14/01445 as the owner of the company which had been awarded the demolition contract. He agreed to withdraw from the meeting for consideration of the application.

TC.359 DISPENSATIONS

None.

TC.360 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 10 March 2014 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

TC. 361 MATTERS ARISING

On minute no. TC355/14 (Matters for Report), the Town Clerk stated that Cllr Mrs James had raised the matter of the mobile food catering van with Cornwall Council's Environmental Health Services and it had been confirmed that all appropriate certification was in place. Therefore no further action on this issue could be taken.

Cllr Mrs Blundy referred to a further letter she had received from Ms Rachel Ewer regarding the site at Botallack Moor which had been considered by the Town Council at its previous meeting on 10 March 2014 (min no. TC 353(c)/14) and requested that the Town Council reconsider its response in the light of the additional information received.

RESOLVED: That Cornwall Council's Planning Enforcement Service be asked to investigate the complaint raised by Ms Ewer.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

Cllr Mrs Blundy also raised the Town Council's response to Mr Deller regarding the Gews Farm development (min no. TC.349/14 refers). The Town Mayor acknowledged the highway difficulties for pedestrians in the vicinity of the development, however the Town Council had considered the matter and had felt that no further safety measures could be put in place. It was agreed that the matter would be kept under review.

TC.362 REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Town Mayor reported that, together with the Town Clerk, he had attended the annual "walkabout" at Moorland Close, Pendeen on 27 February 2014 with officers from Devon & Cornwall Housing, two meetings at County Hall, Truro on 10 and 13 March regarding St Just Library, and a meeting on 20 March with Roy Lee regarding the Lafrowda Club.

In respect of the Lafrowda Club it had been confirmed that there were two other named trustees and Mr Lee would be arranging a meeting with those trustees to discuss issues regarding the future operation of the Board and its responsibility for the maintenance of the Lafrowda Club building.

Councillor Mrs Blundy gave a report to the Town Council on the following matters:

A meeting of the St Just & Pendeen Vision (Community Action Plan), including Cllr Mrs McQueen and Cllrs Mrs Salmon had been held on 3 March 2014 which had suggested that the development of a revised plan should focus on the economic wellbeing, homes & housing and social life & welfare, and include an element of community engagement which could be through town councillor events and community newsletter for example. A further meeting of the group was to be held on 2 April.

A meeting of the Penwith Dementia Action Alliance Steering Group had been held on 13 March 2014, with the launch of the alliance planned for late April / early May.

The St Just Penzance Nevada City & Bendigo Twinning Committee had met on 18 March at which Cllr Mrs Salmon was also in attendance. A social event was to be held on 9 April 2014 and the committee was pleased to hear that links between Bendigo City and the Town Council had been formalised.

Cllrs Mrs Blundy had also attended the second stakeholder workshop in respect of the Poltair Hospital Consultation when the results of the consultation exercise had been presented. The preferred option from the consultation was the reopening of beds at Poltair Hospital. However, this result did not take account of other responses, including a 6000 name petition which favoured more community beds in Penwith, that community services were overstretched, wider scope in the consultation, including new build options (possibly St Clare site) and that money from the sale of Poltair Hospital be reinvested locally. Pressure was now being placed to secure the St Clare site and to seek Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group's support to this proposal.

Cllr Mrs Blundy proposed and it was seconded by Mrs McQueen that the Town Council sent a letter to the Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group setting out support for a new integrated care centre on the St. Clare site. Some members of the Town Council expressed concern at a letter being sent when insufficient information had been provided to the Council on which Town Councillors could make an informed decision.

The proposition was put to a vote: 6 for and 6 against. On the casting vote of the Town Mayor the proposition was lost.

Councillor Mrs McQueen reported that she and Cllr Mrs Blundy had attended the joint meeting of the West Penwith Community Town & Parish Forum and the Hayle & St Ives Community Network Panel on 20 March 2014 (copy of the note attached to the signed minutes).

TC.363 REPORT OF THE POLICE OFFICER

The Town Council received the report of the Police Officer for the period covering 21 February to 23 March 2014. During that period there had been 11 reported crimes which compared to 13 for the same period last year. These included:-

- 3 x Criminal Damage to Vehicle
- 1 x Criminal Damage to Property
- 1 x Criminal Damage to Building
- 1 x Making out without payment
- 2 x Communications Act
- 1 x Drive with excessive alcohol
- 1 x Assault ABH
- 1 x Theft from motor vehicle

TC.364 REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mrs James presented her report of county matters which included the following items:-

St Just Library

Last week the Cabinet member responsible for Libraries announced that the proposed reduction of Library opening hours would go ahead throughout the County. To achieve savings, it was also confirmed that for staffing purposes, the St Just Library would be paired with St Ives. This meant that the opening hours would be dovetailed in with St Ives which would reduce the opening days. The implementation date was 1st June.

What the local 'Friends' group had shown to the Head of Service and the Cabinet member was that our local community was passionate and willing to engage and Cllr Mrs James was hopeful that working together a sustainable future could be achieved. Clearly the reduced hours would have a knock on effect for the Tourist Information Centre and this was going to need our urgent attention if we were to ensure that visitors can get the information they need in our area.

Geevor

Geevor Tin Mine was one of our local heritage assets and in tough financial times, the challenge was to ensure that it was looked after. The newer Council members' member were advised that Geevor was owned by Cornwall Council but run by a local charitable Trust, Pendeen Community Heritage Trust. Cllr Mrs James reported on the positive feedback from recent meetings, constructive partnership working to ensure that money spent from either side was done in such a way as to ensure best value, according to agreed joint priorities. The Conservation Management plan would be key to guiding that process and assist in securing appropriate external funding.

Devon & Cornwall Housing (DCH) Board Appointment

Cllr Mrs James had been nominated by Cornwall Council to DCH to become a Board member on one of their Operational Boards. The appointment had been approved and she had attended her first meeting. Cllr Mrs James hoped to play a part in ensuring that tenants got the best service possible from their housing provider.

Help to Those Affected by Recent Storms

Cllr Mrs James had left details with the Town Clerk of help available to businesses and local residents following the recent storms. The impact locally had mainly been from the wind to homeowners, where insurance cover had been inadequate. Businesses could get some Business Rate relief and local residents could apply for Council Tax discounts. In addition, there were grants of between £250 and £1,000 available from an emergency fund, crisis awards of up to £1,500 and government 'repair and renew' grants of up to £5,000.

Bus Shelter Repairs – St Just & Pendeen

Cllrs Mrs James reported that discussions were still ongoing regarding the repairs to the bus shelters in St Just and Pendeen but she hoped that the matter would be resolved without further delay.

TC.365 FLY TIPPING SIGNAGE - TREGESEAL

The Town Clerk reported that she had received indicative costs for the purchase of signs from Cornwall Council.

RESOLVED: That the purchase of two signs from Cornwall Council at a cost of £18.50 plus fixing mounts and VAT be approved.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.366 REPLACEMENT INTERNAL LADDER – ST JUST WAR MEMORIAL

The Town Council received three quotations from local companies regarding the cost of replacing the internal ladder within the war memorial. The Town Clerk also stated that the internal clock mechanism would be removed in advance of the commencement of the works. Quotations had been received from Tecmet, J H Fabrications and R Johns Fabrications.

RESOLVED: That the quotation from R Johns Fabrications at a cost of £590.00 plus VAT to replace the internal ladder within the war memorial be accepted.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.367 ST JUST LIBRARY

The Town Mayor and the Town Clerk reported back on the meetings which had been held with members and officers at Cornwall Council. The first meeting on 10 March concerned the reduction of opening hours at St Just Library and the impact on the TIC provision for which the Town Council had given £2,500 grant funding in recent years to provide extended opening hours during the peak summer season.

The second meeting on 13 March had been arranged by Cornwall Council with representatives from the voluntary & community sector and other parish councils to consider a wider review of libraries.

Regarding the reduction of hours at St Just Library it had been confirmed that the decision taken to reduce hours had not been taken due to a reduction in footfall, but had been a political decision to spread the burden of required budget cuts across the whole of the service and that all libraries, with the exception of Truro, Penzance and St Austell, which were One-Stop-Shops, would also see a reduction in their opening hours. If this decision had not been taken then the alternative option would have been the potential closure of 11 libraries: one of which in all likelihood would have been St Just.

From the discussion at the meeting it was evident that further clarification was required on how the £2,500 had actually been used to support the TIC and information was awaited on this point and visitor numbers. The Town Clerk reported that the information on visitor number for years 2012 / 2013 had been received. However, there was still some uncertainty over staffing and until this had been clarified the Town Clerk suggested that a decision on the £2,500 grant funding be deferred until the next meeting.

The meeting on 13 March focussed on the need to review service delivery in the light of further budget reductions over the coming four years, and in particular, the meeting discussed in general terms, alternative ways in which to deliver the library service at a local level. The Town Mayor reported that he had suggested at the meeting that the Town Council would be willing to work with Cornwall Council on the

development of alternative options / models and to engage the local community in that process. However, it was important to note that no decisions had been taken on how the service might be delivered in the future and that a political steer had yet to be given by the Cornwall Councillors on this point.

The Town Council was also advised that Cllr Mrs James had arranged a further public meeting on 31 March 2014 to advise the local community that the proposed reduction in library opening hours at St Just was to go ahead with effect from 1 June 2014.

In addition, Cllr Mrs James reported that she had received permission from Cornwall Council to enable her to enter into preliminary discussions with a partner organisation which may be interested in supporting the TIC service at the library. Cllr Mrs James also reported that discussions regarding the formation of a "Friends of St Just Library" were continuing and that she hoped they would be involved in any future discussions on the library service.

Cllrs Mrs Blundy welcomed the progress that was being made in connection with St Just Library as it tied in with one of the Vision Group's priorities *"to explore creative ways of utilising the library building in the future."*

Following a detailed discussion of the issues raised the Town Council:-

RESOLVED: That

- (1) in view of the budgetary constraints facing Cornwall Council that it accepts the planned reduction in opening hours across the whole of the library service as a positive measure to avoid library closures at this time;
- (2) the Town Council continues to work with Cornwall Council on a wider review of the library service and to consider alternative service delivery options in the light of further budget reductions;
- (3) the issue of further grant funding to support the TIC be deferred until the next meeting pending further clarification from Cornwall Council on staffing issues;
- (4) the Town Mayor attends the further public meeting being organised by Cllr Mrs James on 31 March 2014 to outline the Council's formal position on this issue; and
- (5) the Town Mayor and Town Clerk be authorised to enter into preliminary discussions with Cllr Mrs James and a potential partner organisation for the TIC.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.368 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED: That the draft revised financial regulations, as amended in the light of the repeal of S.150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 as presented to the Town Council, be approved.

TC.369 DRAFT GEEVOR CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Town Council considered how it wished to participate in the consultation on the draft Geevor Conservation Management Plan which had been recently published by Cornwall Council's Historic Environment Service.

RESOLVED: That Cornwall Council is advised that the Town Mayor is appointed as the Town Council's representative throughout the consultation process.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

Tc.370 CORNWALL LOCAL PLAN – STRATEGIC POLICIES – PROPOSED SUBMISSION DOCUMENT MARCH 2014

The Town Council considered how it wished to participate in the six week consultation process on the proposed new Cornwall Local Plan, Strategic Policies – Submission document.

The Town Council agreed that a review of the document be undertaken by Cllrs Mrs Blundy, Cllr Mrs McQueen and Cllr Mrs Salmon, as part of their current work on the St Just and Pendeen Vision – the Community Action Plan revisited, and that a report be brought to the Town Council to enable a formal response to be made by the Town Council as part of the consultation process which ends on the 28 April 2014.

TC.371 FINANCE

(a) Financial Assistance

There were no applications for financial assistance.

(b) Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the accounts to the value of £4,839.95 be approved for payment.

(Action by: Elaine Baker)

(c) Grant Feedback / Letters of Thanks

The Town Clerk reported that thank you letters had been received from Pendeen Rally, Pengarth Day Centre and St Just Rugby Club in respect of the recent grant awards.

TC.372 PLANNING

(a) Applications

The Deputy Mayor declared a discloseable interest in the following application

and withdrew from the meeting for its consideration.

PA14/01445 Demolition of an existing storage building and the erection of a new dwelling on land to rear of Trewellard Stores, Trewellard, Pendeen. Applicant: Mr. David Ramsay. (. **Cl. Objection – Not in keeping with the local environment**)

PA14/02254 Two storey side extension, including Juliet balcony to replace existing prefabricated garage, front porch extension at Carn Vellan. Trewellard, Pendeen. Applicants: Mr. & Mrs. P. Skinner. (**T. Cl. Objection – Agree with Planning Officer’s comments**)

(b) Decisions

PA14/00704 Installation of 31.5kw of solar photovoltaic panels comprising a total of 126 distributed across 3 elevations at St. Just Primary School, Bosorne Road, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. David Stevens. **Approval** (T. Cl. Strong support).

PA14/00749 Proposed replacement rear extension, re-roofing of front roof slope and replacement front door at 14, Bank Square, St. Just. Applicant: Miss K. Prosser. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection).

TC.373 INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

TC.374 MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that no response had been received from Cornwall Council Highways regarding the intrusion of railings on to the public highway.

Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Town Mayor