

ST JUST TOWN COUNCIL

**ANNUAL TOWN PUBLIC MEETING ON THURSDAY 26TH APRIL 2007 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT 1 CHAPEL STREET ST JUST.**

REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL (read by the Mayor

Councillor Mrs S Smith).

During the past year there have been 29 meetings of the Town Council. Attendance of Town Councillors recorded at these meeting as follows:

Councillor Angwin	-	29
Councillor Bennett	-	28
Councillor Casley	-	25
Councillor Lee	-	27
Councillor Nicholls	-	20
Councillor Rees	-	29
Councillor Mrs Smith	-	25
Councillor Mrs Strick	-	22
Councillor Stevens	-	27
Councillor Thomas	-	21
Councillor Trezise	-	16
Councillor Williams	-	25

During the year Councillor Casley joined the Town Council.

Councillor Thomas is also a Penwith District Councillor for the St Just Ward.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have attended numerous meetings and functions throughout the year in the course of their duties.

Councillors are appointed at the Annual General Meeting to be representatives on various external groups and organizations – this past year representation has been as follows:

Cornwall Asscn of Local Councils – Councillors Angwin and Rees (Councillor Nicholls if required to deputise).

Police Liason Committee – Councillors Strick and Casley

Tree Warden – Councillor Angwin

St Just and Pendeen Age Concern – Councillors Mrs Smith and Councillor Bennett.

St Just and Pendeen Liaison Group – Mayor, Deputy Mayor together with Councillors Angwin and C Williams.

Geevor Regeneration Initiative Partnership Group – C Williams.

St Just and Pendeen Community Action Panel – Councillors Smith, Strick and Casley.

West Penwith Community Bus Committee – Councillor R Lee

Market and Coastal Towns Initiative – Councillor Stevens

St Just Community Sports Hall Committee – Councillor R Lee.

Healthwatch – Councillor R Lee

During the year the Council has been consulted by the Local Planning Authority on 123 Planning applications within this area. Consideration of planning issues takes much of the Town Council's time at meetings and this has a very important local impact on planning decisions. We are

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encouraged by the impact of the Town Council's comments on the final decision and on the conditions imposed in relation to that decision. The very local impact can only be reflected by a local authority taking an impartial and responsible response on behalf of the electorate. Letters of objections and support are taken into account prior to a final response. All the Town Council's meetings are open to public attendance and Agendas are published on the Notice Boards prior to every meeting. The Town Clerk's office is open from 9a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday with an answerphone facility available outside those office hours. Also contact to the Town Council can now be made by e mailing stjusttowncl@aol.com and information on the Councillors and the Town Council is available on the website at www.st.just.org

The Council has a good working relationship with the local Police Officers and the Neighbourhood Beat Team and with the completion of the CCTV project the confidence in public safety has improved considerably. The Police have used the footage from the system to secure prosecutions and take action against offenders on crimes of a minor nature in the area. The system is of particular benefit to the business premises in the Town. Our thanks go to Sgt Richard Hockin, Bernie Hall of Just Youth and Community Project and the Private Finance Initiative (Fire Service) at County for their assistance with funding and various permissions in relation to this project.

During the year the Council has made 22 donations from Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act (the Free Resource) totalling £8233. This has hopefully provided some basic funding to encourage groups with projects and initiatives that will benefit the area and attract funding from other sources for those with large projects.

The agency arrangement of the Local Maintenance Partnership with the Cornwall County Council continues to operate successfully with a local contractor undertaking the work by liaising directly with the Town Clerk. The schedule of works and subsequent report of faults etc helps to keep an up to date picture of the condition of the rights of way. The County Council is undertaking a detailed survey of all their footpaths and the St Just survey is planned to begin in the near future.

The "Just a Word" newsletter (copies available) continues to be successful although we would appreciate any contributions of interest from local groups/organizations etc. – also any individual articles of public interest would be appreciated. Please pass on any items to Councillors or send them to the Town Clerk.

The Council continues to promote the area to the tourists by publishing an accommodation list of contacts – which is free of charge to those advertising . This is very well appreciated and we receive many positive comments on the benefits of the list to locals and visitors alike

The Town Council's Tourism Committee have been active recently in collating information, photographs etc for the 2007 publication of the St Just Area Guide. The Guide is currently with the publishers and we anticipate delivery in the near future. We were very fortunate in using local expertise on articles, information and photographs – all kindly given for the benefit of the area.

The Council re-instated the Saturday morning Councillors Surgeries at the Centre of Pendeen and in the Council Chamber on a monthly basis. The response from the public was disappointing but the Council will reconsider the matter after the AGM in early May. Any comments on how this service could be of more value to the public would be appreciated.

The Council Audit of Accounts by the Audit Commission for 2006/7 was satisfactory and there were no matters brought to the Council's attention by the District Audit. The Audit Commission now

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requires the services of an independent Internal Auditor and a Council appointed Internal Audit Committee who are now obligated to undertake an annual review of procedures. These obligations require considerable commitment by the appointed Councillors.

Currently the Council are due to consider the adoption of the new Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct Order) 2007 due to come into effect on 3rd May 2007. This new Code will replace the previous Codes that were causing confusion due to the variances – all Council's will now be operating under the new legislation.

In July 2006 the Council were successful in acquiring a Public Entertainments Licence for the Plain and Gwarry. The Plain can be used for various events and activities by making application to the Town Council and agreeing to comply with the Licensing Act requirements. Use of the Plain is encouraged and is of course free of charge.

The lease document for the legal acquisition of the Boscaswell Corner is still awaited, but I have been reassured by the County Council that it is in hand. Once the Town Council have responsibility for the land we hope to keep it well maintained – with the help of the Pendeen Residents Association.

The Council were pleased that's its nomination for the St Just area Penwith Citizen of the Year Award was successful and Mr Geoff Woolradge of Pendeen was the recipient.

The Town Council's Citizens of the Year 2006 were: Senior – Mrs Jennifer Reynolds and

Junior – Miss Emma Field – both for their work

within the community.

The Council has consistently supported the fight to retain the services at West Cornwall and St Michael's Hospitals and attended various meetings, protests and marches to express the issues that were of concern to residents in this area.

Again the Council protested at the closure of the Lloyds Bank here in St Just and following a public meeting the Mayor led a representative group to fight to retain the Bank - going as far as her visit to the head office of Lloyds in London to present a petition. Unfortunately it was not successful as far as persuading the Bank to change its mind but it did give some good publicity to the area and accelerated the provision of the recently installed ATM at the Post Office – something that has been regularly sought by the Town Council for some years and that they were now in a position to strongly support at the planning stage.

A Christmas Window Display competition was organized for the first time in 2006. We were very pleased with the response. Some 40 applications all together covering St Just and Pendeen. The judging was undertaken by the Chairman of the District Council – Miss Bailey and the whole project was well received in the area. Hopefully this will continue and possibly develop as new ideas are brought forward.

Local Government Re-organisation dominates most meetings at the moment with the decision on the way forward being given by the Government in a few months time. The three tiers that exists at this point in time will not continue and the Government will need to decide which tier is in the best position to lead the electorate towards a more prosperous community. Town Councillors have already attended some meetings on this subject and more are planned for the near future. The press will have the responses at an early stage.

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Finally 2006 saw the success of the World Heritage Site Bid for Cornwall and West Devon. The Bid Team at County Council had worked very hard with this presentation to UNESCO and had reflected the important and fascinating history of the mining sites in the areas involved. The Town Council had written and congratulated them on their considerable achievement. This was much appreciated. This means that the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape now has World Heritage Status and we believe this will prove a very positive award well into the future.

We thank you for your attendance and interest this evening and we will be pleased to hear from you at any time.