

MINUTES of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING of ST JUST-IN-PENWITH TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 1 Chapel Street, St Just on Monday 15 June 2009 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor M Nicholls - Mayor  
Councillor M Thomas – Deputy Mayor

COUNCILLORS

B F Angwin	Mrs S James
W F East	Mrs S Olds
C McClary	D Stevens
K McFadden	

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor C Goninan, Cornwall Council  
PCSO Tonkin and PC Dan Care  
Mr R Sharpe – Acting Headteacher, Cape Cornwall School  
Mr C Denley – Deputy Headteacher, Cape Cornwall School

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None received.

TC.26 MINUTES

RESOLVED:-That the Minutes of the meeting of the Special Town Council held on 1 June 2009 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

TC.27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

TC.28 REPORTS OF THE TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Mayor reported that he and the Deputy Mayor had attended the Marazion Mayor Choosing on 19 May 2009. He had also attended meetings of the Audit Committee on 20 May and Policy Committee on 10 June. He and the Town Clerk had meet with Rod Porter, Estates Manager, Cornwall Council on 11 June 2009 and Councillor Chris Goninan, the newly elected Cornwall Councillor on 15 June 2009.

The Deputy Town Mayor reported that he had attended the same meetings as the Mayor with the exception of the meeting with Rod Porter and Councillor Chris Goninan.

TC.29 REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

The Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council, welcomed Councillor Chris Goninan to the meeting. Councillor Goninan responded by saying that he was willing to help the Town Council drive forward any initiatives for the benefit of the town of St Just.

TC.30 REPORT OF THE POLICE OFFICER

PC Dan Care gave a report on local Police activity for the period from 18 May to 15 June 2009.

Within that period there had been seven recorded crimes, compared to 32 for the same period last year which was a substantial decrease in crime within the area. There had been three acts of criminal damage to vehicles by unknown offenders, two assaults, one GBH and one common assault, one burglary and one domestic harassment case.

PC Dan Care also reported that the Police were currently receiving complaints regarding vehicle obstruction in Bosorne Road and a resolution to the problem was currently being sought with partner agencies.

Councillor Angove referred to the Land Rover which was illegally parked in Chapel Street. PCSO Tonkin reported that the vehicle would be removed in the next few days.

Councillor McClary referred to the problems of off-road motorised biking on the outskirts of the town which was causing problems for walkers etc. The Police confirmed that they were aware of the problems particularly at Cape Cornwall and Trewellard Carn. Unfortunately, due to a lack of information / description of the culprits it was proving difficult to undertake any enforcement action. The Police urged anyone with additional information to come forward to help resolve the problems.

The Mayor reported that St Just-in-Bloom had agreed to planters being used to help solve parking problems outside to the Co-op supermarket and that it was hoped that this would help to alleviate the current problems.

TC.30 COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR ITEM TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA

(a) Cape Cornwall School

In the absence of Councillor N McFadden, who had requested that this item be considered by the Town Council, Rob Sharpe, the Acting Headteacher at Cape Cornwall School gave a brief summary to the Council of the current position with regard the appointment process for the new headteacher following the departure of Miss Steele last August.

He explained that for legal reasons the new appointment would not take place until January 2010 but that applications were currently being invited. As the interim headteacher he was responsible for delivering strong professional leadership to the school and that he was currently in discussions with the relevant bodies regarding the situation for the autumn term as it was important to maintain continuity for the school and provide a

sense of stability. New members of staff had been recruited and would be joining the school in the autumn and he felt that the school was now well placed to move forward.

Finally Mr Sharpe confirmed that he was willing to meet with Councillor McFadden at anytime to discuss his particular concerns with regard to the school.

The Mayor thanked Mr Sharpe and Mr Denley for attending the meeting and for outlining the current position.

(b) Cornwall Council One-Stop-Shop is it working?

Councillor McClary highlighted difficulties that he had experienced in trying to contact officers of Cornwall Council at the Penzance One-Stop-Shop. Difficulties had arisen after callers were put through from the call centre, phones were not being answered and voicemail did not appear to be operating. Councillor Stevens reported that he had experienced similar problems.

Councillor Goninan agreed to raise the matter with officers at Cornwall Council.

TC.31 NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY

The Town Clerk informed the Council that the public notice in respect of the casual vacancy following Councillor Rees resignation would appear in the Cornishman on 18 June 2009. Electors would then have until the 8 July to notify the Returning Officer at Cornwall Council if they would like to request an election.

TC.32 APPLICATION TO USE PLEN-AN-GWARY

The Council approved an application to use the Plen-an-Gwary from 12-18 July 2009 from the Lafrowda Committee for Lafrowda week.

TC.33 APPLICATION TO USE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Council approved an application to use the electricity supply in Market Square on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 July by the Lafrowda Committee for Lafrowda Week.

TC.34 NOTICE BOARDS

The Town Clerk circulated details of the design and costs of various notice boards for the Town Council's consideration.

The information had been obtained to enable the Council to decide on the type of public information board it would like sited at the Lafrowda Car Park. Having considered the information it was suggested that local joiners should be invited to tender for the work.

RESOLVED: - That the Town Clerk be requested to obtain three quotes from local joinery companies. Board to be made in hardwood from a sustainable source, 4 x A4 double-sided, marked St Just Town Council Information.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.35 CAR PARKS

The Town Clerk reported that she had received a response from Cornwall Council regarding the Council's request to take over responsibility for Lafrowda Close and Boscaswell Downs Car Parks and to maintain them as a free facility for the benefit of the local community.

Cornwall Council had responded by saying that following the election of the new Council there would need to be a wide ranging debate on car parks and how they were managed in the future. The desire of any Town or Parish Council to take over a car park would be part of that debate. However, it was unlikely that there would be a decision until the autumn.

It was agreed that this matter would be brought forward for further discussion in September / October 2009.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.36 WAR MEMORIALS TRUST

The Town Clerk advised the Council that the War Memorials Trust worked for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK. The charity aimed to promote and support the preservation of war memorials so that they could be valued as an important part of our national heritage. Through its grant schemes the Trust could make a financial contribution towards the repair and conservation projects.

Councillors welcomed the information and

RESOLVED: - That the Town Clerk be requested to bring forward further information on the types of grant available and eligibility criteria.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.37 PARISH INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB) MANAGEMENT PLAN

Councillors had been circulated with a copy of a document from the Cornwall Rural Community Council (CRCC) which gave details on the development of a new AONB Management Plan and which sought the active involvement of Town and parish Councils within the process.

Following discuss it was

RESOLVED: - That the Town Clerk be requested to advise the CRCC of local events which might be useful as part of the face-to-face consultation exercise being undertaken.

TC.38 FINANCE

(a) Applications for Financial Assistance

The Town Council considered requests for financial assistance under S.137 & S.145 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 19 of the

Local Government (Misc. Prov. Act) 1976. In respect of the Centre of Pendeen, Pendeen Parish Rooms, Nancherrow Centre, St Just Community Sports Hall and Lafrowda Festival Committee the Council had previously resolved (min.no.2741 of the meeting of 28 January 2008 refers) to make a financial commitment to these organisations for the following three financial years, subject to a number of conditions. The Mayor, Councillor Mrs James and Councillor Stevens who represented the Town Council on these groups gave an update on the activity of each of the groups and presented their accounts thereby complying with the conditions of the financial assistance.

The Town Council also reconsidered the request for financial assistance from the St Just Pre-School Playgroup.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Centre of Pendeen, Pendeen Parish Rooms and Nancherrow Centre each be awarded £1,000 under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972
- (b) That £2,500 be awarded to St Just Community Sports Hall Association under S.19 of the Local Government Act 1976;
- (c) That £2,000 be awarded to the Lafrowda Festival Committee under S.145 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (ii) That the St Just Pre-School Playgroup be invited to reapply for further financial assistance in December 2009 on the basis of a joint venture with the St Just Nursery.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

(b) Accounts for Payment

**RESOLVED:** That the accounts to the value of £2,357.69 be approved for payment.

(c) Formal Approval of Accounts and Completion of the Annual Governance Statement for External Audit Submission

The Town Clerk presented the Internal Auditors report to the Council and reported that there were no matters to bring to the Council's attention other than the considerable variance in the annual precept and other expenditure, boxes 2 and 6 respectively on the form. The Council was advised that the External Auditor would need to be advised of the reason for these variances. The Council advised that the decision to increase in the precept had been taken to enable the Town Council to provide more on-going financial support to local community groups under S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council was advised of the questions listed in the Annual Governance Statement which had all been answered in the affirmative. The audit form and the statement were signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council for forward transmission to the Audit Commission.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

(d) Letters of Thanks

The Town Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Pendeen Silver Band.

TC.39 PLANNING

(a) Applications

**09-0481-LBC** Internal and external alterations including formation of ramped and pedestrian accesses adjacent The Manse, 11 Bosorne Terrace, St Just for the Free Church. Town Council raised **no objection**.

**09-0482-P** Change of use of Meeting Room to Internet Cafe – Alterations including formation of ramped and pedestrian accesses adjacent The Manse, 11 Bosorne Terrace, St Just for the Free Church. Town Council **no objection**.

**09-0552-P** Demolition of existing extension and construction of two-storey extension at Forge cottage, Tregiffian, Sennen for Mr Kelvin Collins. Town Council **no objection**.

**09-0564-TCONS** Felling of 2 no. Monterey Pines at 16 Cresswell Terrace, Botallack, St Just for Mrs J Twonlow. **The Town Council would prefer to see tree surgery to be carried out to control rather than fell the trees.**

**09-0574-HP** Construction of conservatory at The Stables, New Road, Tregeseal, St Just for Mr & Mrs David Tague. Town Council **objection raised**.

**09-0599-P** Demolition of garage and outbuilding and construction of 2 no. dwellings on land at Boscaswell Road, Lower Boscaswell, Pendeen for Mr N Bennetts. Town Council **no objection**.

**09-0604-LBC** Retention of replacement windows on front elevation at 4 Church Street, St Just for Patchell Davies – Solicitors. Town Council **no objection**.

(b) Decisions

**09-0152-HP** Construction of extension and minor alterations at Pendragon, Bollowal, St Just for Dr A C Skapski and Ms S J Johnson. **Approval (T CI no objection)**.

**09-0377-HP** Construction of single storey extension at Blue Gates, Higher Bosavern, St Just for Mr James Roberts. **Approval (T CI Approval)**.

TC.40 URGENT ITEM

The Mayor reported back on the meeting with Rod Porter, Estates Manager, Cornwall Council with regard to outstanding issues relating to the refurbishment and redecoration of the Council offices. The Council was also advised on the works

which were to be undertaken as part of the refurbishment of the upstairs flat.

The Council was advised that the future occupation of the building had been discussed, including the possibility of the Town Council taking over responsibility for the whole building via a "community transfer" which would need to be supported by a business case. It was suggested that an initial first step would be to raise the issue with Sally Newby, the local Community Network Manager.

Following discussion of the issues raised it was:

RESOLVED : That

- (a) The Town Council supports, in principle, the suggestion to pursue a possible "community transfer" of the whole Council building and authorises the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk to begin initial discussions with officers from Cornwall Council with a view to a business case being developed in support of the transfer; and
- (b) A further report be brought to the Town Council following the meeting on 19 June 2009 with officers of Cornwall Council.

(Action by : Mayor / Deputy Mayor / Town Clerk )

Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Town Mayor