

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 22 September 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

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

COUNCILLORS

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

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Sue James – Cornwall Council  
Richard Marsden – Lawrence Associates Architects  
PCSO Andrew Tonkin – Devon & Cornwall Police  
Edward McFadden – Local Resident

PUBLIC ADDRESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

None.

TC.125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr G Roberts.

TC.126 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Cllr T McFadden declared a non-discloseable interest in minute no. TC.134/14 (Applications) in respect of planning application PA14/08337 as the applicant and being related to the applicant and agreed to withdraw from the meeting for consideration of the application. In addition, they all declared a non-discloseable interest in minute no. TC133/14 (Accounts for Payment) as the owner and relatives to the owner of a company on the list of accounts for payment. They agreed to take no part in the decision on the approval of the payments schedule.

TC.127 DISPENSATIONS

None received.

TC.128 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 8 September 2014 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

TC.129 MATTERS ARISING

On minute no. TC.124/14 (Matters for Report), the Town Clerk advised the Town Council of the response that had been received from Cornwall Council's Countryside Officer in respect of the bridge at Tregeseal which had been closed for health & safety reasons. The matter had now been referred to the highways as it was responsible for maintaining the bridge and carrying out the repairs.

TC.130 REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr Blundy tabled a report from the meeting of the West Cornwall HealthWatch held on 19 September 2014 (copy appended to the signed minutes) regarding the committee's evaluation of the "Living Well" project.

The committee also noted that there had been no let-up in the demand for hospital beds and was planning to send an open letter to NHS Kernow, Peninsula Community Health and Cornwall Council requesting that the Poltair debate be reopened.

The Town Council RESOLVED to be a co-signatory to the letter.

(Action by Marna Blundy / Elaine Baker)

TC. 131 REPORT OF THE POLICE OFFICER

PCSO Andrew Tonkin presented the Police report for the period covering 19 July to 22 September 2014. During that period there had been 40 reported crimes which compared to 34 for the same period last year.

The reported crimes were as follows:

- 1 Drink Drive
- 10 Assault's
- 12 Theft's
- 8 Criminal Damages
- 1 Dog not under proper control
- 1 Rape
- 1 Drunk & Disorderly
- 2 Sect 4 use threatening / abusive / insulting words
- 1 Burglary
- 1 Section 5
- 1 Public Nuisance / Exposure
- 1 Threat to Damage / Destroy Damage

PCSO Tonkin explained that the assaults and thefts occurred during the Lafrowda Festival. In addition there were reoccurring problems with off-road motor bikes at Trewellard and Pendeen which the Police were monitoring. There had also been an

increase in drunkenness in the Closed Churchyard. PCSO Tonkin confirmed that the churchyard was not covered by the alcohol free zone and therefore the Police did not have the power to arrest for drinking in that area. The Town Council expressed concern about the situation and requested the Town Clerk to contact Cornwall Council's Legal Services about the possibility of extending the current Designated Places Order and to report back to a future meeting.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.132 REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

The budget for 2015/16 through to 2018/19 was dominating Cornwall Council business, Cllr Mrs James also touched on the national devolution debate. In her capacity as Chair of the Land's End Peninsula Community Land Trust Cllr Mrs James also gave an update on the housing being built at Moorland close, Pendeen as her roles on Cornwall Council, DCH and Land's End Peninsula CLT often became rather blurred, in the housing arena. Finally, her report also updated the Town Council on changes to her committee responsibilities.

**The Budget**

Unusually, the Cabinet of Cornwall Council had taken the view that it needed to set the budget for three rather than one year. Some councillors did not agree with this decision because they felt the General Election next year could change the way local authorities were regarded and more money could come our way. The forecasts however suggested there were unlikely to be any dramatic changes even if the makeup of the Government altered and the scale of the reduction of funding to councils was unprecedented. Annual budgeting would cause prolonged changes and uncertainty whereas a longer term view would allow changes to happen and allow people to get on with things as they were in the new world without constantly looking over their shoulder for the next change.

The scale of the cuts was 30%. The cuts would not be evenly applied because some services could not manage that scale of cut, perhaps due to increasing demographic demands and because some services the Council had to provide and some it was allowed to provide but was under no compulsion. Cllr Mrs James stated that she was still "drilling down" into the detail of the implications for this area but it was already clear that nothing the Council provided would be done in the same way and there were many things that Cornwall Council would not be involved in at all, come 2019.

The trends were, to encourage others to provide the service and to sell things off like land and buildings that were not essential to what Cornwall Council was doing. With a cut to Cornwall Council's staffing budget of £31m that was a lot of staff currently employed by the Council that would not be employed by 2019 and as many services relied on staff to provide them, less staff inevitably meant fewer services. At least £34m worth of services needed to be devolved or they would likely cease to exist. In terms of things like leisure centres, the Council was looking towards the private sector.

Affecting all community groups with premises was the proposal to abolish discretionary business rate relief. Although some organisations, primarily charities, would still get the mandatory business rate relief, the discretionary relief would go

which would mean that many community groups who paid no or very little business rate, would find themselves with a bill for the first time or a bigger one than they were used to. That was not till 2017/18 but was likely to hit most community groups with premises and they needed to start preparing for that.

Cllr Mrs James urged the Town Council to have a look at the budget papers, and suggested that as many as possible should go to the budget consultation on 8 October, at 7 p.m. at St Clare offices although there were other consultation events around the County. You can also respond on-line to the budget generally or there were some specific service consultations.

### **Devolution of powers from London**

Cornwall was lobbying hard to be the first in line for any devolved powers, on the back of the Scottish referendum, so that it could have more control over money that came to Cornwall and how it was spent. This was addition to the lobbying for a fairer funding deal for Cornwall.

### **Housing in Pendeen by Land's End Peninsula CLT**

After lengthy delays, building was now going on at pace and although the official completion date was 5 February, it seemed likely that hand over would be very early in the New Year. As a reminder, there would be 6 X 2 bedroomed houses available for sale to local people for £116,500. Anyone interested in these should contact Cllr Mrs James but they do need to register on the Help to Buy SW website, to be eligible. There would also be 2 X 2 bedroomed bungalows, valued at £167,500 for sale but as there were no restrictions on their sale, Wilkins Estate Agents would market them for the Trust.

### **Committee Change**

Cllr Mrs James advised the Town Council that she was no longer a member of the West Planning Committee although that did not affect her role as local member in relation to local planning applications. Instead, Cllr Mrs James had been moved to Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee; which she suspected would be a tough job in the face of service cuts which would be challenged!

#### **TC.133 FINANCE**

(a) Financial Assistance

No applications for financial assistance had been received.

(b) Accounts for Payment

In accordance with their declaration Cllrs K McFadden, N McFadden and T McFadden took no part in consideration of the following item.

Cllr Morris took the Chair for the following item.

RESOLVED: That the accounts to the value of £9,167.09 be approved for payment.

(Action by: Elaine Baker)

(c) Letters of Thanks

None received.

TC.134 PLANNING

(a) Applications

**PA14/07773** Pruning of 2 conifer and 1 palm at 12, Falmouth Place, St. Just. Applicant: Miss Raffael Lafae. **For Information Only.**

In accordance with the disclosure of their interests, the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr T McFadden withdrew from the meeting for consideration of the following planning application.

Cllr Nicholls took the chair for the following item.

**PA14/08337**

Construction of six dwellings and four flats, creation of access and associated works on land at Gews Farm, Fore Street, St. Just. Applicants: K and D McFadden. **(T Cl No objection).**

**PA14/08437**

Demolition of garage and construction of extension to add 2 additional bedrooms due to family needs at 3, Carn Bosavern Close, St. Just. Applicant: Mrs. R. Oldland. **(T Cl No objection).**

(b) Decisions

**PA14/05544**

Proposed pair of holiday units at Highfield Stables, Nancherrow, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. W. Tieken. **Refusal** (T. Cl. Not against the principle of holiday lets but strongly objects to the use of materials and the scale of the development).

**PA14/05619**

Outline application with some matters reserved for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings to replace existing sub-standard bungalow at Corsham, Boscawell Downs, Pendeen. Applicants: The Executors of the late Mrs. V.L. Pascoe. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection).

**PA14/06706**

Conversion of existing redundant barn to residential dwelling at Leswidden Farmhouse, St. Just. Applicants: Mr. and Mrs. M. Jay. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection).

**PA14/06790**

Installation of a 1.8m diameter satellite dish, 2 dipole antennas, 2 GPS antennas and development ancillary thereto at Arqiva Mast Communications Mast, 141612 Carn Bean, Trewellard Hill, Pendeen. Applicant: Arqiva Ltd.

**Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection).

TC.135 INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLVED: That Hudson Accounting Ltd be re-appointed as the Town Council's Internal Auditors for a further three-year period on the same terms and conditions.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.136 QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING

The Town Council received details of income and expenditure, together with bank reconciliations for the period 1 July to 22 September 2014 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

TC.137 INFORMATION ITEMS

The Town Clerk advised the Town Council on the receipt of a letter dated 15 September 2014 from Cornwall Council which confirmed that from 1 October 2014 that there would be no change to the operational arrangements in respect of the public conveniences within the parish.

TC.138 Matters for Report

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had received an invitation from St Just Primary school to participate in its "Community Open Evening" which was being held on 6 November 2014. It was AGREED that Cllrs Mrs Blundy / Clemens / Mrs Salmon would represent the Town Council at the event.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

Cllr Mrs Blundy reported that analysis of the returned questionnaires had begun and that a report would be brought to a future Council meeting.

Cllr Clemens reported on the progress being made at the St Just Sport Centre and in particular the increase in use of the Gym by all age groups.

Cllr Clemens also gave a final update on preparations for this week's Macmillan Mix event and the media interest which had been generated.

Cllr Mrs Cock reported on her attendance at a budget consultation event in respect of Adult Social Care. In response Cllr Mrs McQueen referred to the current situation regarding the lack of community beds and the need for local medical support.

Cllr Mrs Salmon reported on the success of St Just in Bloom on attaining the gold award in the South West in Bloom Competition. It was AGREED that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Chairman of the Group.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC. 139 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that under Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the business specified in the following item.

TC.140 POTENTIAL ISSUES FACING THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Mayor and the Town Clerk advised the Town Council of a number of potential issues relating to rubbish clearance at Portherras Cove, Lafrowda Car Park and pest control at the Plain-an-Gwarry.

In respect of the Plain-an-Gwarry the Town Council RESOLVED : That the quotation from Rentokil for the installation of three subterranean bait boxes and inspections at a cost of £1,047.00 (excl. VAT) one-off cost and service cover at a cost of £114.25 (excl. VAT) per quarter be accepted and that the additional expenditure be met from the Council's free reserves.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Town Mayor