

MINUTES of the MEETING ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 1 Chapel Street, St Just on Monday 19 March 2012 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D Stevens - Chairman
Councillor C S McClary – Vice-Chairman

Councillor Mrs S James
Councillor F Morris

Councillor M Nicholls
Councillor Mrs S Olds

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

Also in Attendance

Chris Goninan, Cornwall Councillor
Brian Keast, Cornwall Council's Environment Service
Tom Marks, Area Manager, Neighbourhood Services, Cornwall Council

E&TC.013 Apologies for Absence

None received.

E&TC.14 Declarations of Interest

None received.

E&TC.15 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2011 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

E&TC.16 Matters Arising

On minute no E & TC.11/11 (Allotments), the Chairman gave an update on progress in respect of the allotments at Kenidjack Valley. At the recent Allotment & Growers Association AGM it had been agreed that a further meeting be held between the Association and the National Trust to move the delivery of the allotments forward. It was believed that the meeting had been held and that Bosavern Community Enterprise would be the new leaseholders.

Provided there had been a positive outcome from the meeting, the next step was for the Town Council to complete the agreed infrastructure.

E&TC.17 Changes to Cornwall Council's Neighbourhood Services

Tom Marks advised the Committee of changes to the structure and organisation of Cornwall Council and its move to become a commissioning authority. This would

result in a small number of employees being retained by the authority responsible for commissioning work and securing contracts.

From 1 April 2012, the existing Neighbourhood Services would be split into two private companies: Cormac Solutions which would be responsible for “passport work” to its own former Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) which would become a new separate company and tender for contracts / business.

The commissioning core would own the properties and take decisions on the frequency of inspections / number of grass cuttings etc.

The Committee was also advised about the new waste collection and recycling contract which was to commence on 1 April, operated by Cory. It was anticipated that there would be little change to the service currently in operation, but that there was likely to be some reduction in the street cleansing service with a reduction in the frequency of mechanical cleaning. However, it was unlikely that there would be a change to manual cleaning as Cory was keen to “engage with the local community”. There was some confusion as to whether wheelie bins could continue to be used as storage, provided that the waste was presented in bags for collection, and Tom Marks agreed to verify the position and advise the Town Clerk accordingly.

Within Cormac Solutions, there would be a local team with responsibility for a group of parishes and contact details would be passed to the Town Clerk. Tom Marks confirmed that he would continue as Area Manager for the former Penwith District area with responsibility for street cleansing, waste collection, parks, highways, cemeteries, grass cutting and lighting. He would be assisted by a local steward, Phil Keverne.

Tom Marks confirmed that assistance would continue to be given to St Just in Bloom in 2012 / 13, but that he was unclear as to the level of assistance in subsequent years.

The Committee thanked Tom Marks for attending the meeting and explaining the new arrangements.

E & TC.18 Dog Control Orders

Brian Keast advised the Committee on how the Town Council could introduce Dog Control Orders for specific areas within the local community and a scheme to enable town and parish councils, working in partnership with Cornwall Council to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to address dog fouling problems.

The Clean Air & Environment Act enabled principal authorities to work in partnership with local councils to train council employees and / or contractors to issue FPNs provided they had completed the required training. Cornwall Council would provide the “back office / administrative support and undertake prosecutions, whilst the local council would be responsible for patrolling and issuing FPNs. Any income derived would be split 80 / 20 to the Town Council.

Under the Act, local council could also apply for Dog Control Orders which could either ban dogs from specified areas or introduce controls for dogs to be kept on a lead. Any new order would be subject to a period of public consultation and the Town Council would need to provide evidence to support the implementation of the new order.

A further option was to form a local "Dog Watch Scheme" comprising of local volunteers, working with the support of Cornwall Council, who would patrol the local area and report back on problem areas. Relevant training would be provided at a small charge.

The Committee welcomed the initiatives and **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COUNCIL**

1. That, subject to obtaining the agreement of the Head Teachers, a Dog Control Order(s) be pursued for the following areas:-
 - Plen-an-Gwarry;
 - School Playing Fields: Cape Cornwall, St Just Primary and Pendeen Schools; and
 - St Just & Pendeen Recreation Fields.
2. That the local "Have Your Say" group (former PACT) be consulted on forming a local "Dog Watch Scheme".

The Committee thanks Brian Keast for attending the meeting.

E & TC.19 Local Maintenance Partnership (LMP) - Footpaths

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that Toby Lowe had been replaced by Colin Bayes, as the new Local Area Ranger and that it had been confirmed that the LMP grant for 2012 / 13 would remain unchanged at £5,590.

The Committee was also advised that Mick Stallworthy, Scottworthy Estates had also indicated his willingness to continue as the Town Council's LMP Footpath Contractor in 2012 / 13.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL COUNCIL: That Standing Orders on Contracts are waived to approve the appointment of Scottworthy Estates as the Town Council's LMP Footpath Contractor for 2012 / 13, subject to the receipt of the relevant certification and proof of insurance.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman