

MINUTES of the ORDINARY TOWN MEETING of ST JUST-IN-PENWITH TOWN COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 1 Chapel Street, St Just on Monday 19 December 2011 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor M Thomas - Mayor
Councillor Mrs S James – Deputy Mayor

COUNCILLORS

Ms P S Angove	N. McFadden
B F Angwin	F Morris
W F East	M Nicholls
C S McClary	Mrs S Olds
K McFadden	D. Stevens

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Chris Goninan – Cornwall Council

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

TC.195 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor McFadden declared a prejudicial interest in minute no. TC.202/11(b) (Accounts for Payment) as his company was listed as a payee, and agreed to take no part in the approval of accounts for payment.

TC.196 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 5 December 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

TC.197 REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Mayor reported that he and the Town Clerk had attended the Town & Parish Forum on 24 November, which had received a presentation on the latest position regarding the Members' Code of Conduct and future of the Standards Board for England following the Localism Bill receiving Royal Assent. Further information would be brought to the Town Council when the new regulations had been published.

The Mayor had also opened the Christmas Gift Fair on 27 November, participated in the "Hands of Our Hospital" March, together with the Deputy Mayor and attended a meeting of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team on 16 December.

The Deputy Mayor reported that she had also attended a meeting of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team on 25 November and Sennen Feast on 27 November.

Councillor Ms Angove reported that she had attended a meeting at the Pengarth Day Centre on 9 December.

Councillor Angwin reported that he had attended a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 13 December.

TC.198 REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

West Cornwall Hospital Forum (WCH)

The support march for WCH on 3 December was very well supported and clearly demonstrated to the officers of Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust (RCHT) the public passion and commitment to maintain acute services in this area.

At a meeting of the Forum on Friday 16 December attended by the new CEO, Leslie Boswell, it was stated that the new strategy for healthcare in Cornwall would be presented to the RCHT Board in April and that this would clearly define the role of WCH in the delivery of health services.

The GP's who were designing new services for WCH to act as an urgent centre were making real progress with the model and were in regular discussions with the relevant officers at Treliiske Hospital.

St Just Buggies

Unfortunately, the bid to the Silver Dreams Lottery Fund was not successful but Councillor Goninan confirmed that a meeting would take place locally in the New Year with the trustees of the Douglas Woolcock Fund to progress the idea of delivering local transport for those without easy access to the shops and coast.

Falls Prevention

An Inquiry Day was held on 9 November and would be taking additional evidence from Cornwall Blind on 20 December. Following this, a report would be produced for submission to Cornwall Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March 2012.

Councillor Goninan wished those present a very happy Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year. He stated that there were some difficult challenges ahead but by working together hopefully we could bring about good outcomes for the people we represent.

TC.199 COUNCIL PRECEPT 2012 / 2013

The Town Council received a report by the Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer which gave details on a proposed budget and level of precept for 2012 / 2013, and which also addressed the issue of the Council's level of reserves which had been raised as an issue by the Council's Internal Auditor as part of his interim audit report.

The Town Council faced a number of challenges in deciding the level of precept, including the impact of the possible devolution from Cornwall Council for the maintenance and operation of the public toilets and car parks which would have an inevitable impact on the Council's budget.

The report set out the assumptions made in respect of each of the proposed financial allocations to assist the Town Council in reaching its decision on next year's budget.

Councillor Ms Angove commented that the Localism Bill had now received Royal Assent and that, although it had been anticipated that local councils with an income below £750,00 would be exempt from capping regulations this had not been included in the new Act. However, no capping regulations were to be introduced in 2012 / 2013, and it was still unclear what the position would be in future financial years.

To avoid any potential capping thresholds Councillor Ms Angove suggested that the Town Council should look to increase its expenditure / precept to deal with the additional items now when it was in a position to be able to do so, rather than leave it to a later date when the Town Council could be capped at a level that would not allow it to increase its precept to take on additional items. She also commented on the need for the Town Council to raise its levels of reserves to ensure that it had sufficient financial provision to reduce the Town Council's exposure to risk.

The Town Council reviewed each of the items as identified in the appendix to the report and RESOLVED to approve the following changes:-

- That Grants / S.137 be renamed Grants – General
- That the financial allocations in respect of Feast Grants, St Just Community Sports Association Lafrowda Festival Committee currently allocated to Projects are allocated within the Grants – General Cost Centre, and that the limit of financial provision is adjusted to £20,000.

In consideration of the Projects for 2012 / 2013 the Town Clerk reported that she had received a response from Cornwall Council in respect of the Town Council's letter of 24 November concerning the devolution of the car parks and toilets.

The Council was advised that Cornwall Council had noted its position with regard to public toilets and its decision to make financial provision within the 2012 / 13 budget. Further progress on this issue would be made once there was clearer picture in respect of the community network area.

Regarding car parks, the Town Council was advised that Cornwall Council was willing to enter into discussion with the Town Council on the possibility of it purchasing the freehold. However, further discussions would be required including obtaining a valuation of two car parks which was unlikely to be completed before 31 March 2012.

In view of this, Cornwall Council was proposing that the Town Council enter into a one year agreement with Cornwall Council, along the lines previously discussed, which would mean that the car parks would remain free at the point of use.

The Town Council welcomed the response and it was agreed that a further meeting of the Staffing & Premises Committee be arranged early in the new Year to move the issue forward.

To ensure that the Town Council had adequate financial provision within its budget to cover taking on full responsibility for the car parks and toilets it was RESOLVED that the financial provision in 2012 / 13 be adjusted accordingly:-

- Toilets £15,000
- Car Parks £25,000

Consideration was also given to the current level of reserves which had been referred to by Council's Internal Auditor in his interim report which had stated that *"the Council's reserves are at the bottom end of accepted levels, a situation which leaves the Council vulnerable to unforeseen events."* The budget for 2011 / 2012 made further use of these reserves. The Town Clerk advised the Council, that the Cornwall Association of Local Councils recommended minimum level of reserve should be 25% of the total budget. Therefore the report suggested a reserve level of £28,688, based on a budget of £114,750.

However, this level would increase in light of the changes to expenditure approved by the Council to that set out in the report. The Town Council considered that the level of reserve should be set at the minimum level of 25% of the total budget in 2012 / 13.

It was proposed by Councillor N McFadden and Councillor McClary that the level of expenditure of £135,650 for 2102 / 13 be approved, together with a free reserve of £34,413 and a precept request of £148,795.

It was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by the Councillor Ms Angove that there be a recorded vote. Unanimously approved by the Town Council

The recommendation was put to a recorded vote as follows:

FOR

Councillor Mrs Olds
Councillor McClary
Councillor K McFadden
Councillor N McFadden
Councillor Morris
Councillor Nicholls
Councillor Ms Angove
Councillor Stevens
Councillor Mrs James
Councillor M Thomas

AGAINST

Councillor Angwin
Councillor East

The recommendation was approved 10 For / 2 Against

RESOLVED: That a total expenditure level of £135,650 for the financial year 2012 / 2013 is approved, including a free reserve of £34,413 and that a precept request of £148,795 is made to Cornwall Council by 31 December 2011.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.200 QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING

The Town Clerk presented details of the Council's income and expenditure, together with bank reconciliations for the period 26 September to 13 December 2011 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED: That the position be noted.

TC.201 FEAST

The Town Council considered a request for financial assistance from the St Just Feast Clay Pigeon Shoot towards the cost of insuring the event which formed part of this year's Feast celebrations. A copy of the insurance certificate had also been provided in support of the application.

RESOLVED: That a financial contribution of £150.00 to the St Just Feast Clay Pigeon Shoot is approved.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.202 FINANCE

(a) Applications for Financial Assistance

None received.

(b) Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the accounts to the value of £6,017.31 be approved for payment.

(c) Letters of Thanks

None received.

TC.203 PLANNING

(a) Applications

PA11/10061 Removal of outbuildings and construction of extension at Springs Cottage, Penzance Road, Pendeen. Applicant: Ms. A. Slattery. **(T Cl no objection)**

PA11/07427 Erection of first floor extension (Amended Design) at Chy An Gof, Pendeen. Applicant: Mrs. K. Legg. **(T Cl no objection)**

(b) Decisions

PA11/06746 Erection of a dwelling and associated works (amended scheme of PA11/03322/F) on land opposite (S.E of) 2 & 3 Church Road, Pendeen Applicant: Mr. A. Patrick. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection provided it is of a good design and faced with local granite in a local style).

PA11/07485 Erection of vehicle access and formation of parking area at Benoni Villa, Boscaswell Terrace, Pendeen. Applicant: Mr. D. Clark. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection provided the cut granite wall with coping stone is retained).

PA11/07906 Continued use of guest house/hotel as a single dwelling at Boscean Country House, Boswedden Road, St. Just. Applicants: Mr. and Mrs. T. Conway. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection).

(c) Enforcement

EN11/02951 Alleged unauthorised wooden building (sauna) at Chymorgen, Botallack, St. Just

EN11/02945 Alleged unauthorised balcony at Alskai Cottage, Crescent Place, Pendeen.

TC.204 INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

TC.205 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Councillor Stevens reported that in the New Year he would be stepping down as Company Secretary at the St Just Community Sports Association and would taking up a position as a Governor at St Just Primary School.

Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Town Mayor