

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 July 2013 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor K McFadden - Town Mayor

COUNCILLORS

T McFadden
Mrs G McQueen

F Morris
M Nicholls
G Roberts

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Sue James – Cornwall Councillor

TC.85 PUBLIC ADDRESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

None.

TC.86 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs Blundy and Councillor Mrs Salmon.

TC.87 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

TC.88 DISPENSATIONS

None.

TC.89 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 8 July 2013 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC. 90 MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

TC.91 REPORT OF TOWN MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Town Mayor reported that he had attended the Western Area Planning on 1 July 2013 to speak in support of planning application PA13/09446, Land opposite St Peter's Row, Boscaswell, Pendeen, an event at the Old Town Hall to mark the recent visit of musicians from Huelgoat, Brittany on 6 July and the judging of the South West in Bloom Competition on 15 July 2013. The Town Mayor commented that he had been extremely impressed by the work undertaken by the St Just in Bloom Group and he wished them well in the competition.

Councillor Roberts reported that he had attended a recent CAP Meeting and that PCSO Andrew Tonkin had raised the issue of replacing the goal posts at the St Just Recreation Ground, other issues included dog fouling in the Old Churchyard, St Just and the erection of signage by Cornwall Council. Councillor Mrs James confirmed that Cornwall Council had agreed to erect new warning signage. Councillor Mrs McQueen stated that following the CAP meeting she had contacted Brian Keast, Cornwall Council, as a local resident of Church Square, to request an additional dog bin. Councillor Mrs James advised that there was a reporting mechanism available on Cornwall Council's website for members of the public to use to report incidents of where repeated dog fouling was taking place which would be investigated.

TC.92 REPORT OF THE POLICE OFFICER

In the absence of PCSO Andrew Tonkin the Town Clerk gave the Police Report for the period 22 June to 18 July 2013.

During that period there had been four crimes reported for the above period, this compared to 20 for the same period last year.

The Town Council was advised that the Police were looking into the possibility of purchasing a "Speed Visor", a battery operated LED sign that flashed "30" SLOW DOWN or "20" SLOW DOWN. The sign would be mounted on roadside poles or streetlights to advise motorists of the speed limit and to SLOW DOWN.

The cost was in the region of £2,000 for the sign, brackets, spare battery and charging unit and the Town Council was approached about the possibility of funding some of the equipment for use in the St Just & Pendeen areas. Another possibility would be to ask neighbouring parish councils for contributions with a view to sharing the equipment amongst neighbouring parishes which would limit the amount of time the equipment could be used in the St Just area.

Councillor Mrs James commented on the possibility of CAP becoming a formally constituted group which would enable it to make funding applications for such projects. The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had previously provided match funding to support projects such as the repairs to the skate park which had been jointly funded by the Town Council, Cornwall Council and the local Cornwall Councillor via his Community Chest Fund, and that a similar approach could be considered for other projects.

RESOLVED: That the request for funding to provide a new speed visor is referred to the next meeting of the Town Council on 5 August 2013 and that PCSO Andrew Tonkin be invited to attend the meeting.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.93 REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

Councillor Mrs James presented her monthly report.

County Highlights

Full Council had agreed to lobby Government to restore meaningful sanctions for serious breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct and to resist proposals to move responsibility for our local Fire and Rescue Service to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The view of Cornwall Council was that for serious breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct, where councils could face disruptive or embarrassing behaviour from members, that current sanctions were inadequate as there were no powers to remove them, either temporarily or permanently, before an election. An amendment passed also meant that Cornwall Council would ask Government to consider giving the electorate the right of recall for serious breaches.

Councillor Mrs James reported that she had proposed a motion, that was passed unanimously, for Cornwall Council to write to the Home Secretary, MPs, our Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Brigade Unions stating its belief that the idea, as a cost cutting exercise, to move the Fire and Rescue Services from local authority control to the control of Police and Crime Commissioners was a bad one. The Homes and Communities Portfolio Advisory Committee had also been asked to gather information to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of our local control of Fire and Rescue.

Councillor Mrs James had also been appointed to the Police and Crime Panel as one of Cornwall's five representatives. She had attended the first meeting which had agreed that two areas of the Police and Crime Commissioners work and office would be scrutinised. Firstly, how the Police and Crime Commissioner was making his commissioning decisions and what his future commissioning intentions were and secondly, looking at the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, in terms of staffing, employment of consultants and expenses and allowances paid.

Finally, for Countywide issues, Alex Folkes was putting in place an ambitious plan to undertake consultation on setting the budget and over what the various options for Council Tax would deliver in services. There was some smart technology available to model various scenarios and engage people.

Community Chest Budget

Applications would be welcomed from projects that had not received Community Chest funding before, projects that could use the Cornwall Councillors assistance to obtain other sources of funding and those that would benefit hard to reach groups. The closing date for the first batch of applications was 6 September and further details were available from the Town Clerk.

Motor Bikes at Calartha Road, Pendeen

The owner of the land had now blocked the gateway and PCSO Andrew Tonkin was seeking a letter stating that there was no consent for motorbikes to use the field to avoid similar problems occurring in the future. The Noise Abatement Order had not been issued as the problem had stopped by the time ownership of the land had been established and the owner had agreed, voluntarily, to take action to reduce the risk of the situation starting up again.

Remedial Works at Tregeseal, to Reduce Future Flooding Risks

Progress towards a start date was proving frustratingly slow, although commencement of the works was anticipated before winter. The new committee of the rugby club seemed less keen to progress matters before the start of the season and there were more questions to be answered. The new Committee had been put in touch with the relevant officers in Cornwall Council. If progress was not made, Councillor Mrs James would seek an early date to bring key players together, including the Town Clerk and Mayor.

Recycling of Cardboard in St Just

This situation had improved, with better labelling and emptying that was keeping up with the volume of waste.

Bus Shelters in St Just and Pendeen

The bus shelter in St Just had been repaired and the shelters in Pendeen had been cleaned. Councillor Mrs James was working on getting the two shelters in Pendeen repaired but getting funding was proving challenging.

Portherras Cove

Concerns regarding safety had been recently reported in the Cornishman. It was understood from Delia Webb, who represented Friends of Portherras Cove, that the group had been working with land owners to highlight the dangers of the unstable cliff edge and recent landslides. The signage would hopefully help avoid serious incidents whilst longer term solutions were sought.

Night Walk

Councillor Mrs James had joined two researchers from Exeter University, a scientist and a photographer, who were investigating the impact of artificial light on our natural environment, through photography. From the Carn above the town the group watched the sun set and the moon rise. Some local enthusiasts and amateur photographers joined the researchers to learn night photography skills so that in August, when they returned, they could record what they saw and experienced without artificial light. An exhibition of the photographs would be held to share their findings.

TC.94 FINANCE

(a) Financial Assistance

The Town Council considered a report by the Town Clerk which gave details of a request for financial assistance from the St Just Football Club in respect of refurbishment works to its grandstand.

Following discussion it was

PA13/02754 Erection of 18m 60KW wind turbine on land at Tregeseal Hill, Tregeseal, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. Mark Harvey. **Withdrawn** (T. Cl. Strong support).

TC.96 INFORMATION ITEMS

The Town Clerk reported that notification had been received from Cornwall Council regarding its annual Town & Parish Councils summit event to be held on 21 September 2013.

The Town Council was also advised that notification had been received from Dr Neil Walden, Penwith Locality Lead regarding the recent review of services in West Cornwall. The first stage of the review on elder care had been completed which would be subject to public consultation in due course.

TC.97 Matters for Report

The Town Clerk advised the Town Council about complaints which had been received recently regarding the condition of the public toilets at Cape Cornwall. The Town Clerk advised that negotiations between Cornwall Council and the National Trust regarding the transfer of the toilets had not, as yet, been completed. However, both parties had been advised of the problems and measures were being put in place to avoid similar problems in the future.

Councillor Roberts referred to the extensive litter problems within the town during the Lafrowda Festivities. The Town Clerk commented that the Town Council had been made aware of the problems and that a meeting was being arranged between the Town Council, Cornwall Council, Lafrowda Committee and Cory to discuss the problems so as to avoid similar problems occurring in the future.

(Action by : Sue James / Elaine Baker)

Meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

Town Mayor