

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 23 September 2013 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

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

COUNCILLORS

Mrs M Blundy	M Nicholls
T McFadden	G Roberts
F Morris	Mrs G Salmon

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Sue James – Cornwall Councillor
Stephen Maunder - Cornwall College
Chris Goninan - Local resident.

TC.135 PUBLIC ADDRESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

None.

TC.136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs McQueen.

TC.137 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

TC.138 DISPENSATIONS

None.

TC.139 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 9 September 2013 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC. 140 MATTERS ARISING

On minute no. TC.128/13 (Request to Erect a New Public Seat), the Town Clerk reported that the new bench had been ordered and that delivery was anticipated in the next couple of weeks. The bench would include an inscription *"In Loving Memory of Winifred, Kathleen and Mary Harvey"*.

Rev. Leach had also been approached about the possibility of re-siting the existing bench at the graveyard at Carn Bosavern but the Town Clerk had been advised that there were two seats and therefore no need for any additional seating. Rev Leach had suggested the Closed Graveyard, but the St Just-in-Bloom Group had confirmed that there was no need for any additional seating in that area.

It was agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting and Town Councillors were invited to come forward with suggestions for the location of the bench.

TC.141 REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Town Mayor reported that he had hosted the annual "Mayor's Sunday" event on 11 August 2013, attended a meeting with Rolf Necke, Cornwall Council,, Jonathan Hancock, Chairman of the Lafrowda Committee, Cllr Mrs James and the Town Clerk on 10 September to discuss the cleaning arrangements with Cory following Lafrowda Day. The Town Mayor had also presented the annual St Just-in-Bloom awards at its presentation evening on 20 September and together with the Town Clerk had hosted a meeting with the Cabinet member for Devolution & Localism, Cllr Mrs James and officers from Cornwall Council a report on which was to be provided later in the meeting.

TC.142 REPORT OF THE POLICE OFFICER

No Police report was presented.

TC.143 REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mrs James gave her monthly report on the following matters:-

County Highlights

The most major issue for Cornwall Council and the people of Cornwall was the setting of the budget for 2013/14 and beginning preparation for the years ahead. Not unconnected to the budget setting were concerns regarding the county's Fire and Rescue Service. Another consequence of budget discussions which was also being reported in the media concerned local bus services.

The public budget consultation events were under way and proving to be lively and at times passionate. The challenge was a declining grant from Government and increased demand for Council Services, particularly for adult care due to the county's ageing population. Projections were that the Council needed to save (or increase its income) by a further £196m by 2019. All suggestions submitted at meetings or on-line, under the 'Have your say' heading on the council's website, would be shared with all Cornwall Councillors.

Alex Folkes, the Cabinet lead, was quoted as saying that “we cannot balance the books this coming year or in future years by chipping away at services”. Cllr Mrs James stated that it would not be possible to achieve savings by ordering fewer paper clips! What could be provided by Cornwall Council would be very different in four years time and that this would be the case throughout the country. Cllr Mrs James referred to the rural penalty and the lobbying of Central Government to distribute funds more fairly so that, as a rural council, it would not be faced with 50% less grant per head than an urban area.

Regarding the Fire and Rescue Service, there were suggestions in draft budget papers that the time had come to start exploring a merger with Devon and Somerset Fire Service because it could take two years to bring such mergers about. At Cornwall Council's Homes and Communities Committee, councillors had voted that there was no appetite for such a merger as only disadvantages to our local service could be foreseen.

Another big issue, stemming from the budget was the local bus service. Greyhound had decided it did not want to continue providing a bus service within the locality, due to budget constraints but First Bus were still at the table and there were active discussions continuing on community bus projects to see how they might be able to assist. The challenge was that rural buses were vital to those people who were dependent on them but many were rarely even half full. Cllr Mrs James's view was that we needed to find a way to match demand more appropriately and hopefully, that would save money. She would be attending a locally arranged meeting for members on Thursday evening.

Relationship Between Cornwall Council and the Town Council

Cllr Mrs James hoped that the Town Clerk and Town Mayor agreed that, from a meeting today, we want to work collaboratively together to best meet the needs of our community. She hoped to have a conversation soon to explore how to engage and prepare local people for the challenges ahead.

Community Chest Budget

Cllr Mrs James reported that she had made her first allocations but as the officer who needed to check and sign them off was away she did not want to announce them at the meeting. Details of the recipients would be posted on her website.

Remedial Works at Tregeseal to Reduce Future Flooding Risks

Cormac had started work but were now consulting with a land owner and the rugby club on revised plans. It was hoped that work would recommence on or before 7 October to complete most of the work. Root cutting equipment was required to deal with tree roots that had grown into the drainage system which was affecting the flow of water. The rugby club were hopeful of progressing with a modified scheme, which was less complicated and costly for the club.

Pilot Community Employment Programme

Cllr Mrs James was fully committed to supporting this proposed pilot and many local businesses and community groups had already agreed to attend the meeting later this month.

OFSTED

Julie Nash had previously reported on the achievement of Cape Secondary School in being assessed by OFSTED as 'good'. The Ark Children's' Centre, at Pendeen, had also received a similar rating. Good for our local children and a credit to the staff who worked there.

Local Challenges

Cllr Mrs James had also dealt with a range of issues that could not be reported on in detail which ranged from Business Rates problems to rats and many calls and emails relating to inconsiderate drivers, where sadly there were no easy fixes and sometimes what one person thought of as a solution could create another person's problem.

The most common concerns brought to Cllr Mrs James related to rumours about the Gews Farm development. No matter how many times people had been told that the homes would be allocated to local people the obsession with Liverpool Council moving all their problem families to St Just remained. A local meeting was hopefully being arranged so that people could be reassured and understand how they could apply to live there.

Invite

The Community Land Trust development had begun in Moorland Close, Pendeen and the Town Council was invited to the launch event on 15 October at 1 p.m.

TC.144 THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

Stephen Maunder, Cornwall College attended the meeting to advise the Town Council of a pilot project to be run in St Just designed to help the disadvantaged to get back to work (outline of the project appended to the signed minutes).

Mr Maunder stated that the success of the scheme would be dependent on the community "buying" into the project and a commitment from the business community. Similar projects had been introduced across Cornwall and had helped 1,400 unemployed people to date. The intention of the project was not to create an artificial job market but to identify work placements in the local community such as Bosavern Community Farm. The placements would be supported by the required training and certification, with courses tailored to individual needs. A number of local organisations had agreed to attend the meeting on 30 September such as the National Trust, Kiers and Warrens.

The Town Council thanked Mr Maunder for attending the meeting to provide the Council with an outline of the project and wished it every success.

TC.145 REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

In response to Cornwall Council's Standards Committee current review of the Code of Conduct one year on from the changes to the ethical standards regime the Town Council agreed to make no formal response on the content or operation of the code.

TC.146 DEVOLUTION & LOCALISM MEETING

Consideration of this item was deferred to the confidential part of the meeting.

TC.147 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS

RESOLVED: That Cllr Mrs Salmon is nominated at the Town Council's representative at the meeting being held at Penwith College, Penzance on 23 October 2013.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.148 CORNWALL COMMUNITY FLOOD FORUM'S – 2ND CONFERENCE

It was agreed that no representative would be sent from the Town Council.

TC.149 WEBSITE

The Town Council considered an amendment to its existing annual maintenance contract with webfooteddesigns in the light of changes as a result of the development of the Council website which was due for renewal in October 2013.

It was proposed that the contract be amended to include monthly back-ups and updates which at present were being carried out on a quarterly basis and would increase the cost from £250.00 p.a. to £600.00 p.a.

RESOLVED: That the renewal of the contract with webfooteddesigns at a cost of £600.00 per annum be approved.

TC.150 FINANCE

(a) Financial Assistance

No application had been received.

(b) Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the accounts to the value of £5,186.37 be approved for payment.

(Action by: Elaine Baker)

(c) Grant Feedback / Letters of Thanks

A letter of thanks had been received from Pendeen Parish Magazine in respect of the £2,000.00 grant it had been awarded by the Town Council.

TC.151 PLANNING

(a) Applications

PA13/07381 Erection of a timber shed at 4, Lafrowda Terrace, St. Just.
Applicant: Mr. Ben Beckwith. **(T Cl No objection)**

PA13/07886 Application for the modification or discharge of a planning obligation in respect of Decision Notice W1/06/P/0280 Change of use and

conversion from building to residential annexe including new roof at Hillside Lodge, Trewellard, Pendeen. Applicants: Mr. & Mrs. C. Hooley. **(T Cl No objection)**

(b) Decisions

PA13/03255 Conversion of the annexe at the side of The Old Sunday School, Cape Cornwall Street, St. Just into a separate cottage. Applicant: Ms. Nancy Pickard. **Refusal** (T. Cl. No Objection).

PA13/04678 Change from residential annexe to residential house at Hillside Lodge, Trewellard, Pendeen. Applicants: Mr. & Mrs. C. Hooley. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection provided application is submitted to discharge the Section106 obligation).

PA13/06770 Replacement windows at The Barn, rear of 10, Cape Cornwall Street, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. Bishop. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection).

TC.152 ST JUST FREE CHURCH – PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF INTERNAL STAIRCASE

The Town Council received a letter from the Acting Chairman of the St Just Free Church Trustees regarding the installation of an internal staircase but made no additional comments as advice should be sought from Cornwall Council's Planning Team

TC.153 QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING

The Town Council received details of income and expenditure, together with bank reconciliations for the period 1 July to 17 September 2013 (copy appended to the signed minutes).

TC.154 INFORMATION ITEMS

The Town Council received a briefing on the industrial action being taken by the Fire & Rescue Service on 25 September 2013.

TC.155 MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that an invitation had been received from the Leader of Cornwall Council to send a representative from the Town Council to a budget debate to be held at County Hall on 10 October 2013 to which representatives from the private, public and voluntary sectors had been invited to attend.

Cllr Nicholls requested that the grass be cut around the public seat at Botallack.

TC.156 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

TC.157 ANNUAL CITIZEN, JUNIOR CITIZEN AND SPORTS AWARDS 2013

The Town Council considered nominations for the annual citizen, junior citizen and sports awards 2013 which would be presented on Feast Sunday.

TC.158 DEVOLUTION & LOCALISM MEETING

The Town Council received a report from the Town Mayor, Town Clerk and Cllr Mrs James on the meeting which had taken place with Cornwall Council's Cabinet member for Devolution & Localism and officers.

The focus of the discussion was the future financial position for Cornwall Council and the likelihood of further budget cuts to services, the implications for the Town Council and potential impact on the Town Council's precept.

Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Town Mayor