

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF ST JUST-IN-PENWITH TOWN COUNCIL held on Line, Zoom on Monday 26 April 2021 at 7.15 pm

**THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS
(CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE
AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS
2020 No. 392**

Present

Marna Blundy Town Mayor
Sue James Deputy Mayor

Councillors

Farmer Morris Debbie Shephard
Zoe Baxter Daisy Gibbs
Constance Moore Grenville Prowse
Chris Denley

TC.243 Public Address at Council Meetings

None.

TC.244 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received on behalf of Louise Paine, Brian Clemens and Jonathan Manser.

TC.245 Declarations of Interest

Farmer Morris Planning Application No 47 (Family Member)

TC.246 Dispensations

None.

TC.247 Minutes

RESOLVED: That, the Town Mayor signs as a true and accurate record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 12th April 2021.

TC.248 Matters Arising

None.

TC.249 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment of £2351.were presented for approval.

RESOLVED: To approve the payments **£2351.00.**

(b) Financial Assistance
None.

(c) Letters of thanks:
None.

TC.250 Planning

Sue James read the following statement:

As both a Cornwall Councillor and Town Councillor for the St Just-in-Penwith Division, I wish to make clear that any views and opinions expressed today will not affect my decision-making at a later stage of the planning process when I might have different information and be in a different role.

a) Applications

45/21 Application: PA21/02737

Proposal: Replacement windows and external doors

Location: Meeting Place, North Row, St Just **(T. Cl. No Objection)**

46/21 Application: PA21/03227

Proposal: Proposed dormer roof extension

Location: 11, St. John's Terrace, Pendeen **(T. Cl. No Objection)**

Councillor Farmer Morris left the meeting and re-joined after the decision was made on 47/21.

47/21 Application: PA21/02999

Proposal: Construction of detached self-contained holiday unit to replace an existing outbuilding.

Location: Cryor Farm, Newbridge, Penzance **(T. Cl. No Objection)**

b) Decisions

Application: PA21/00350

Proposal: Demolition of existing rear garden lean-to extension and replacement with new extended lean-to extension. Replace existing side lean-to corrugated roof with new corrugated roof panels.

Location: 2, Bosorne Terrace, St. Just Approval (T. Cl. No Objection).

Application: PA21/00211

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension and erection of modern lean-to extension to the front of the property.

Location: Teasel Cottage, Lafrowda Terrace, St. Just. **Approval** (T. Cl. No Objection)

Application: PA21/01884

Proposal: Application for tree works within a Conservation Area. Sycamore T1 – pollard to 12ft. Ash T2 – pollard to 15ft.

Location: 3, Market Street Gardens, St. Just. **Decided not to make TPO.**

(TCA apps). (T. Cl. Noted the Tree Officer’s advisory comments which seemed a more sensible way of carrying out this work and would prefer this action to be carried out which would then attract a “No Objection” comment from the Council).

c) **Appeals** None

d) **Enforcements** None

TC.251 Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

No meetings have taken place. The Neighbourhood Planning Team have been given the opportunity, by Cornwall Council to select an Examiner from a choice of two; who will then look in detail at the document.

TC.252 Library

On the current advice, the Town Council could continue providing the current Click and Collect service which is working well. The Chair of Staffing met with staff on 15 April 21 to get a better understanding of the situation and the report was sent to Full Council today. The report discounted the option to allow limited numbers into the Library which may end up providing a more restricted service with crowd control and regular clean downs between customers in set time limited slots. He also confirmed all staff appraisals were completed and staff encouraged to take leave in May and June before the 21 June 21, if possible. At Stage 4, 21 June of the lockdown, it is expected the library will open to the public and all staff to be back to work having had their 2nd jabs. The current position of providing a foyer click and collect service is working well. Faulty electric door was reported and the Clerk was taking steps to find a company to ensure it can be serviced and maintained regularly.

A service that could be provided from 17th May is photocopying; but still not allowing public entry to the main Library building just the Foyer. The Deputy Mayor mentioned caution was still needed because coronavirus was still out there.

TC.253 Coronavirus Report

The Clerk is continuing to send emails from the various bodies such as CALC and Cornwall Council to Councillors, the latest one was sent today; these give advice/actions the Town Council could take during the crisis. The next key date is the 17 May 21.

TC.254 Committee Reports

From the last the meeting The Town Council were being asked to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill by the Chair of the Climate Change Committee, which is coming before Parliament.

What will the CEE Bill do in law?

1. *Ensure that the UK contributes fairly to climate mitigation consistent with limiting global temperatures increase to 1.5°C (compared to average pre-industrial levels).*
2. *Ensure that the UK takes full responsibility in accounting for its entire greenhouse gas footprint (consumption emissions, passenger international shipping, flights and land-based transport) domestically and internationally.*
3. *Ensure that the UK first and foremost reduces its anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, to the point of cessation (zero), at energy sources.*
4. *Ensure that any negative emissions technologies may only be considered with proven efficacy and stringent safeguarding against any negative impacts on any ecosystems.*
5. *Ensure the restricted conditions for proposed negative emissions' technologies for the purpose of carbon offsetting only when all alternative carbon neutral approaches have been primarily pursued. Negative emissions technologies must not be factored into prospective mitigation pathways as a substitute for societal decarbonisation.*
6. *Ensure that the UK abides by annual national carbon budgets and in enacting the transition to a carbon neutral economy the burden must not fall on the poorest in society.*
7. *Ensure that the UK restores and regenerates its habitats by implementing robust measures to protect and enhance the variety, abundance and health of soils and biodiversity in both rural and urban/human-modified ecosystems and in so doing, enriches natural carbon sinks.*
8. *Ensure that the UK implements conditions that protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and UK global supply chains (incl. extraction of natural resources, land degradation, pollution and waste), and thus mitigate the UK's ecological footprint.*
9. *Ensure that independent bodies create benchmark standards to robustly evaluate the progress of the UK's climate mitigation and ecological protection and restoration pathways*
10. *Ensure that the strategy and solutions to enact this law are thoroughly democratic: a citizens' assembly - randomly selected but representative sample of the UK population- to work alongside Government, under the scrutiny of Parliament.*

RESOLUTION: Town Council agreed to support the Bill and asked the Clerk to write to the local M.P.

TC.255. Town Vitality Fund Meeting 12 April 21.

Caitlin Murray of Cornwall Council and her colleagues are engaging with the Deputy Mayor and Clerk who will taking it forward after the election. The Deputy Mayor would be doing a walk around the Town with the team to assist with an audit of the commercial properties. The last one was carried out in 2019 and so needed updating.

TC.256 Remote Virtual Meetings

A legal challenge from the Local Government Association was heard in the last week of April 21 which may change the situation. Therefore, based on the current situation, the Council will make a final lawful decision on 11 May 21 on future meetings.

TC.257 Correspondence

The Council noted the following correspondence previously forwarded.

Dog Fouling Report. The Council agreed the report could be shared with another Council area.

Summer Theatre Group Project 'Owdyado'. The Council were supportive of this project but wanted exact dates to avoid double booking the venue.

Keep Britain Tidy. The Council were supportive of this initiative and the Council should engage with it .

St Just in Bloom - a letter was received today which was read out by the Clerk (Circulated after meeting) and the contents were noted.

TC. 258 Plain an Gwarry.

Adam is now awaiting Nick's comments/suggestions on his drafts. The additional works cannot be carried out by the contractor until November 2021.

RESOLUTION: Town Council instructed the Clerk to contact the Contractor to ask him to plan for the work in November 21. The Council awaits Historical England to agree the work formally.

TC.259 Cornwall Councillor Report

I have written my last Cornwall Councillor piece for the local Outreach Magazine and now this is the last time I will report to this Council, as the Cornwall Councillor for St Just. Of course, the next Cornwall Councillor report will be from the Cornwall Councillor for Land's End and the workload and demands on them might mean they cannot attend every meeting as they will have other Parishes to support, more residents approaching them and likely more committees to serve, at a Strategic Cornwall wide level.

I have however decided to continue with my website and use of Facebook, albeit that I might revamp and revise how I use them as a Town Councillor.

I have been the local Cornwall Councillor since 2013 and whilst there have been highs and lows, I have always put our community first, doing my best to listen and explain. In the last 4 years alone, Cornwall Council has made 1,000 more homes available to local people; introduced the real living wage which has in turn pushed up average earnings by 5.6%; we were the first Unitary Rural Council to declare a Climate Emergency and as part of our plan to improve our environment, have planted 100,000 trees, installed 150 more electric vehicle charging points and sown wild flowers in many open green spaces and verges; the Council has also enabled more homes and businesses to get connected, with an additional 9,000 homes and businesses benefitting from superfast broadband. Despite decreasing funds from Government, the Council has not only maintained its social care budget but has also increased its spending on our most vulnerable.

Probably an achievement that few will have noticed is that, on and off since 2013 I was part of the Council's Pension's Committee, not the most glamorous part of a Councillor's role. I banged on about reducing investments in fossil fuels, long before Extinction Rebellion started its public campaign. Whilst initially I was patted on the head and told why it could not be done, since 2019 I have been involved in the Committee taking huge steps in that direction and now financial advisers talk about reducing the Carbon footprint of investments and progress is being monitored. Climate Change is now recognised as a risk to future pension investment returns and I'm proud to have shifted people's thinking on this.

Locally, with the help of our great community, I stopped our Library being allowed to wither away and now that the Library is under local control, once we come through this pandemic, I am confident it will become the community hub residents dreamed of, back in 2014 when campaigning for its future. I wonder how many town councillors were involved in taking out almost all the books from the library, on 28 February 2014, to demonstrate how special it was to our community? I look at photos taken then and see many faces that will be here again to work with us to develop *their* precious resource, ensuring it never becomes *a building storing books*, that wonderful quote from me in the press, expressing my disappointment at the reduced opening hours.

I'm sure you all have thoughts of what I and the Council did not achieve but whoever takes on the role next will discover that some things just cannot be shifted from that dreckly speed lane of progress!

TOWN VITALITY FUND BID

I reported verbally last meeting that our bid for funds and support is progressing and I have now received a Town Centre audit of premises occupancy that was completed by Cornwall Council in 2019, which will now be updated. I have agreed to walk around the Town with the Officer when it is reviewed. In consultation with our Clerk, I will work to form the required Steering group for forming new Administration.

The final, proper meeting of Cornwall Council, was on 23rd March, and it gave me the chance to support a motion in support of our Cornish Shell Fishing Industry that has been struggling since we left the EU. Officers are striving hard to support the Industry and are hopeful they can find workable solutions, including Lobbying Government for some short to medium term financial support to get the right licensing arrangements in place. Longer term, we need to find a way to improve the quality of our waters, but it is going to take time to reduce polluting run offs from farms and discharges from sewage treatment works; that surely has to be the goal though?

COVID

Sadly, there has been some slight increase in infection rates in our part of Cornwall so I want to remind people that the virus has not gone away and whilst the vaccine is reducing serious illness and death in our most vulnerable, it does not totally stop transmission of the virus and that is how unwanted mutations will emerge. So, keep washing your hands, remember your mask if inside any premises, keeping that 2 metre distance and only meeting up with folk outside your household out in the fresh air. It is only if we can keep control of the spread that we can risk relaxing rules further to get back to hugging loved ones.

ELECTION PLANS

COVID safe election plans have taken a lot of planning and changes from the usual arrangements. Please remind family, friends and neighbours, going to polling stations, to take their own pen or pencil. At polling stations and Count venues, COVID safe precautions that we have become used to will be in place. Despite all this, the turnout is expected to be lower than normal, although more residents are taking advantage of postal voting.

See some of you the other side of the election!

TC. 260 Mayor's Report

Well, here it is – the final report after two years as Mayor, before I step down from the Town Council and once a new mayor is elected on May 17th.

It has been an interesting if challenging two years as your chair, following two years as Deputy Mayor, and I've been privileged to hold this position.

I'd like to pay tribute to all our councillors and staff who have contributed their time and effort to their roles. For Cas, Shirley and Julie, working from home has brought its challenges, and I'm sure they will be glad to return to some semblance of normality in the coming months. I'm thankful for their patience and fortitude, and for supporting councillors so well. To Vicky and Sarah, along with Annie, who have maintained the Library service and the Library building over the past turbulent year, always cheerful and always willing to go the extra mile to help and to serve the community. And to my fellow

councillors, a big thank you for your diligence, your commitment to the community and your insights into all the many and varied issues which arise. I've appreciated your support and your helpfulness. In particular I must mention those councillors who will not be returning to the council table in May. Thank you to Louise, who has battled illness but managed to complete her term; to Zoe for her honesty and passion; and to Constance for her commitment to Climate Action. Thank you to Grenville whose forthright and candid manner has challenged us; to Clemo whose insights and practical help have been valuable; and to Jonathan for his sterling service particularly during the move to the Library, and on the Staffing Committee, and who is much in our thoughts following his recent family tragedy.

Now the Council moves on, and I'm glad to know that five of our number will be returning for a new term of office. I wish Debbie, Daisy, Sue, Chris and Farmer all the very best for what is to come. A thank you to them for all they have contributed to this Council, with a special word for Sue as Deputy Mayor who has been a fount of knowledge and wisdom as well as a steadfast support. I'll be watching from the side-lines and cheering you on as you commence a new term, to conclude the purchase of the toilets and the car parks (finally), complete the Plen an Gwary works, achieve improvements to our roads particularly in speed reduction, deliver the Neighbourhood Plan if it passes at the referendum, develop the Library and its environs as a vibrant community hub, and work with the community over Climate Action measures. I wish you every success.

TC.261 Information Items and Matters to Report

The Council had received confirmation that the underground pipes at both toilet sites had been repaired and had a deep wash throughout. The Deputy Mayor mentioned the Cormac cleaner was still one issue to resolve. This issue had to be still investigated and resolved by Cornwall Council before the devolution process could be progressed further.

The Clerk had shared by email the possible buying costs for speed cameras for retention by the Council itself. The Town Council is likely to benefit from the Network Project of having a shared camera scheme in October 21.

Training for all Councillors now requested post 21 June 21.
The Council is following CALC advice on filling vacant Council seats and an announcement is due on 17 May 21.

Constance Moore mentioned the memorial seat which the Council had agreed funding for St Just in Bloom to purchase at a previous meeting. Three contractors had been contacted but no costings on installation had been received. The Council would see if it could help by giving some further names of contractors.

TC.262. Exclusion of the Press and Public

If necessary, to consider passing the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That under Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it is proposed that, 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(s).

TC.263 Confidential Financial Matters

1. The Offer of Legal Services Cornwall Council was rejected because the Town Council is already using a solicitor who Councillors highly rated.

2. Closed Churchyard Contract was accepted by the Council

RESOLUTION: Town Council accepts the contract and asked the Clerk to sign and accept the contract by writing to Cornwall Council.

3. The Town Council asked the Clerk to raise a Local Purchase Order (LPO) for the footpaths contract as it is above 5K value £7461.89 numbered 1/21

4. The Town Council agreed to suspend Financial Regulations/Standing Orders to appoint its existing Contractor to the Footpaths Contract 21/22

RESOLUTION: The Council agreed to suspend Financial Regulations / Standing Orders to appoint its existing Contractor to the Footpaths Contract 21/22

5. Recycle Leaflet Pricing Information. Noted

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman's signature _____ Date _____