

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING of ST JUST-IN-PENWITH TOWN COUNCIL  
held in the ST JUST W.I HALL on Monday 16 May 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Sue James- Town Mayor  
Daisy Gibbs – Deputy Mayor

COUNCILLORS

Kevin Casley	Chris Denley
Martin Cavell	Robert Chadder
Farmer Morris	Jessica Morris
Brian Clemens	Fynn Tucker

TOWN CLERK

Cas Leo

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE

Judith Summers +4 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

ATM.1 MINUTES

RESOLVED: -That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 17 May 2021 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

ATM.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

ATM.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

ATM.4 DISPENSATIONS

None received.

ATM.5 REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Mayor presented the Town Council Annual report for 2021/22 to the meeting which gave details on the major issues and projects which the Town Council had undertaken during the previous municipal year.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report were read and noted. (Report attached).

ATM.6 Community Grants

Organisations who received Community Grants in 2021/22 came to council meeting to inform the meeting how the grants have assisted them.

ATTENDEES

Bosavern Community Farm	Holly Whitelaw
St Just in Bloom	Holly Whitelaw
Nets and Edges Table Tennis Club	Howard Charman

ATM.7 MATTERS RAISED BY THE ELECTORATE

There was one matter raised by the electorate.

*The Neighbourhood Development Plan includes a section on implementation, monitoring and review which commits the Town Council to put in place mechanisms for ensuring that the Plan is being followed. It proposes that the Town Council should establish a sub-committee for this purpose, with proposals for how it might work. Now that the Plan is made, will the TC consider this as part of its work for the coming year?*

Judith Summers

The Mayor thanked Judith for the question and answered the question by saying the matter would be decided at a future council meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.38 p.m.

Town Mayor

**ST JUST TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT, 2021/2022**

We started out the administrative year in May 21, with 8 people standing for Council so no elections. We went on to co-opt 4 people, to complete our team but we had our first resignation from the original group, quickly followed by a second. So, 1 more person was co-opted, closely followed by a by-election in January, and for a brief time (2 months) we were 12. 2 further resignations this year leave us with 10 Town Councillors, until we can fill the vacancies.

At the start of our administration, some restrictions to manage the coronavirus pandemic were still in place, with Town Council staff largely working from home and a foyer collect and return service operating in our Library. On 19<sup>th</sup> July, when Coronavirus restrictions were all lifted, our Library re-opened to the public, with longer hours than when it closed at the start of the Pandemic, such a short time after the Town Council took responsibility for the Service. It is now open 2 full days and 2 half days with hopes that hours can be extended further, later this year. The Town Council Office is also

becoming more available to public visitors, although some staff are still working partially from home.

The Steering Group for our Neighbourhood Development Plan worked tirelessly with our residents to develop a plan to shape the future of our Parish and that was passed by Referendum on 13th January this year. We thank them for this and know already it is influencing local planning decisions.

For the first time, to my knowledge, we have bid into various funding pots and successfully achieved almost £50,000 Town Vitality Funding for St Just, and £2,726 from the Welcome Back Fund to obtain events equipment for Lafrowda and other community groups to use; this is being stored and is bookable through the Lafrowda team. Our Climate Action Group also successfully bid for £10,000 from the National Lottery, for Environmental/ Climate Change projects, working with our community to develop renewable energy schemes and with farmers and land owners to understand more about regenerative agriculture methods.

The Town Vitality Fund money was to commission consultants to work with key stakeholders of our town to produce a report articulating our vision for the town and helping us draw up an implementation and funding plan. Key issues it is hoped they will help us resolve are traffic and parking pressures. This work is just starting to get underway, led by a Steering Group working with LDA Design.

We commissioned a Governance Review and, over the next year, many of the recommendations will be adopted, increasing our staffing, changing how we operate and hopefully delivering more effectively and efficiently for our residents. Early in this next administrative year, we will be consulting with residents on what they want from us for their community over the next 3 years and beyond. To that end, I have circulated to Councillors a very draft Parish Plan that, at our next meeting, we can get into a format to start our community- based consultations. This will enable us to build on the work of the previous Neighbourhood Develop Plan Steering Group as well as following up on the report commissioned through the Town Vitality Fund.

The Town Council started holding monthly community engagement sessions, alternating between the Library and Centre of Pendeen and, as the trial is judged to have gone well, these sessions will continue, with a community consultation giving us the opportunity to build on them.

My first local duty, or should I say honour as Mayor, was to attend our Midsummer bonfire at the top of Chapel Carn Brea, lighting the fire after speaking some traditional Cornish words; other local Mayoral duties have included being witness to a double Guinness World Record event, as a Mustang Mach-E electric car arrived at Land's End from John O'Groats, using least electrical energy and shortest charging time; Mayor's

Sunday, on 19<sup>th</sup> September, was a community event, enabling our many community organisations to re-connect with our residents after the lock downs of the pandemic, recruit volunteers and fundraise; at the request of St Just Church, Feast was a quieter day, without the usual formal parades and visiting dignitaries but such was the appetite for getting back to 'normal' that an informal residents parade took place, led by Pendeen Band; we did St Piran's Day proud, on 4<sup>th</sup> March, when I led our local children on a parade around the Town and sang Trelawney; local duties ended with my attending our Miners' Chapel male voice choir concert as part of the Cornwall International Choral Festival on 1 May.

Not Town Council led events but ones that are noteworthy were the Tour of Britain cyclists flying through our Parish on Sunday 5 September; The Ordinalia filling Plain-An-Gwarry for 2 glorious weeks, 4 – 18<sup>th</sup> September, showing our town's creative talents at their best; and whilst Pendeen Post Office shutting its doors at the end of January was disappointing, I am pleased to say that I have managed to negotiate the mobile post office van coming to Pendeen Doctor's Surgery car park, Mondays 9 till 10 a.m, starting hopefully in June.

We should also celebrate that our Town is now within an International Dark Sky Park, a Designation recognised through Planning Policy. This was a project I co-ordinated as a Cornwall Councillor but completed and celebrated as a Town Councillor, attending the celebratory event with Daisy Gibbs, our official Town Council delegate, last December.

External 'official' events this year have been the Trafalgar Thanksgiving and Nelson's Memorial day at Madron in October; with Town Council's blessing, along with Daisy Gibbs, my Deputy, we slept outside at Eden Project on a wet and windy night in November to raise awareness and funds for St Petroc's, between us raising around £2,500; Daisy went as my deputy to the Carol Service at Truro Cathedral, in aid of St Petroc's; I attended Trevithick day in Camborne on 30 April and I went to the Mayor choosing at Penzance, on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

During the year the Town Council have given money to many of our community groups that enrich and support the lives of our residents and, on behalf of us all, I want to say "a big thank you!" Some have come today to share with us what that money helped them achieve. We have also given money so that residents in Pendeen and St Just can celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next month and I hope some Town Councillors will volunteer to make these events a success, and providing another opportunity for conversations with our residents.

I want to end by thanking all current Town Councillors for their contribution to our work for the benefit of the community, and those councillors that were with us for part of the year. I of course want to thank our Town Clerk, Cas Leo and all our Town Council and Library staff, who, like everyone else, have had to adapt and be flexible but have kept serving our community to the front of their minds.