

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 27 January 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor K McFadden - Town Mayor

COUNCILLORS

Mrs M Blundy	F Morris
B Clemens	D Roberts
F Cock	G Roberts
T McFadden	Mrs G Salmon
Mrs G McQueen	

TOWN CLERK

Elaine Baker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Sue James - Cornwall Council
Ian Flindall – Chypraze Farm, Morvah

WELCOME TO NEW TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Town Mayor welcomed the new Councillors Brian Clemens, Fiona Cock and David Roberts who had been co-opted on to the Council on 20 January 2014.

TC.272 PUBLIC ADDRESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Mr Flindall gave a short presentation to the Town Council on the threat to farmers whose land was potentially under threat from the re-designation of land currently freehold to common land, which he stated reduced the protection of land currently under environmental management such as Environmentally Sensitive Area Agreements and Higher Level Stewardships overseen by Natural England. These agreements provided light grazing by native cattle so that the natural flora and fauna could be protected.

Mr Flindall outlined his personal situation and that a similar application to register waste land of the manor had been submitted on land currently in his ownership. The Town Council acknowledged his personal situation and suggested that he make representation to Cornwall Council.

TC.273 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor and Cllr Nicholls.

TC.274 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None received.

TC.275 DISPENSATIONS

None.

TC.276 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 13 January 2014 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 20 January 2014 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Town Mayor.

TC. 277 MATTERS ARISING

On minute no TC264/14 (Matters Arising), the Town Clerk reported that at the meeting held on 21 January 2014 to discuss the bus shelter it had been agreed that Cornwall Council would investigate the possibility of replacing the glass with a lower cost option and cost of improving the lighting in the shelter.

TC.278 REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCILLORS

The Town Mayor reported that he had attended the meeting on the bus shelter on 21 January 2014.

Councillors Mrs Blundy and Mrs Salmon reported that they had attended a meeting of the Penzance, St Just Nevada & Bendigo Twinning Committee on 21 January 2014 and Cllr Mrs Blundy had also attended a further meeting of the Dementia Friendly Communities Group and Patient Participation Consultative Meeting.

Cllr Mrs McQueen and Cllr Roberts had attended a meeting of the CAP group on 23 January and Mrs McQueen reported that she was continuing to carry out surveillance on the Closed Churchyard but that she was pleased to report that there had been no activity.

Cllr Roberts also reported that at the CAP meeting volunteers to operate speed guns in the town were being sought.

TC.279 REPORT OF THE POLICE OFFICER

The Town Council received the Police report for the period covering 16 December 2013 to 23 January 2014.

During that period there had been 11 reported crimes which compared to 18 for the same period last year. The crimes reported included the following:-

- 1 Burglary
- 3 Assaults / ABH
- 1 Assault / GBH
- 2 Criminal Damage to Dwelling
- 3 Criminal Damages to Vehicles

1 Misuse of the Communications Act

TC.280 REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mrs James gave her report on county matters which had arisen since the last meeting regarding buses, the allocation of homes at Gews Farm and Tregeseal flooding. Cllr Mrs James also focussed on the implications of financial constraints on Cornwall Council and gave some facts behind the Cornwall Council housing figures.

Local Bus Service

In terms of route, Alex Carter, First Bus had confirmed that 3 off-peak buses a day would run as far as Morvah thus restoring a limited service to the far end of Pendeen and Bojewyan, from 24 February. Timetable details were awaited.

Following complaints regarding the fare increases on a return fare to Penzance of £2 this has been reduced to an increase of 50p. Sadly, many other residents in Cornwall were facing rises of between 10 and 50%.

Homes at Gews Farm

31 out of the 36 of the new homes had now been allocated to people with a local connection. It was hoped that the remaining five homes would be allocated to people further down on the waiting list and that a further "bidding process" would be avoided.

Flooding at Tregeseal

Whilst remedial work was completed before the heavy rains, leading up to Christmas, a problem arose from the completed work causing flooding to the footpath behind the Turnpike, however the problems were quickly resolved

Impacts of Budget Cuts

Changes to the funding formulae to schools meant that the extra support that had been provided to Cape Secondary School, so the children could use the sports hall had been lost. This would place a significant hole in the finances of the sports hall and whilst Cllr Mrs James was looking at what help might be available, and was due to attend their meeting on 17 February, it was unlikely that additional funding would be found.

Cllr Mrs James expressed concern about the impact on other projects and services that relied on Cornwall Council money as funding from Government dramatically reduced, with organisation / groups having to find alternative funding sources of income. Cllr Mrs James's message to the Town Council was to work with the groups and individuals in supporting them to become financially independent of Cornwall Council funds.

Facts Behind the Housing Numbers Headlines

Cllr Mrs James had recently voted for the building of 47,500 homes, across Cornwall, by 2030. The facts were, that without a plan that the Government approved, developers would have a charter to come in and apply for things that the local community would not wish for and therefore local defences would be weakened. 47,500 was thought to be the lowest figure that Cornwall Council could put to Government that would pass scrutiny and provide a plan.

The plan ran from 2010 so housing that had been built or granted planning consent from that date counted towards the total. 7,000 homes had been built and a further 20,000 had planning consent in place. That meant that in each year from this year to 2030, 1,205 homes would need consent across the whole of Cornwall.

For the West Penwith Network area, excluding Penzance, 1,000 new homes were

proposed for the plan period. 153 had already been built and a further 458 homes had planning consent. An average of 23 homes per year needed to be given planning consent up until 2030 and probably less than half of those would be in our parish.

TC.281 ST JUST LIBRARY

The Town Council received a report from Cllr Mrs James on the current position regarding the proposal by Cornwall Council to reduce library opening hours by a further nine hours the result of which would be that the library would only be open for one whole day and two half days a week and not at all after 4.30 p.m. Staff would be expected to work in more than one library, with staff in St Just being asked to also work in the St Ives Library.

The mobile library was also to be scrapped with half the consequential cost saving (£150,000) used to provide alternative services for affected areas.

Cllr Mrs James was seeking the Town Council's support to working with her on finding an option to maintain the status quo perhaps by finding alternative uses for the library such as a local job club or the use of volunteers, and therefore sought support to

- arranging a public meeting, early in February, and
- supporting Cllr Mrs James in arranging a 'visit St Just Library Friday' in February.

The public meeting would be held to ensure that local people were made aware of what was being proposed and to ascertain public views. The visit the library event would require the support of local people to visit and use the library on a given day (users and non-users alike) which would help to increase the footfall figures.

The Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council thanked Cllr Mrs James for her presentation and stated that the Council would consider its response in the closed part of the meeting due to the sensitive nature of the issue under discussion. Cllr Mrs James would be advised of the Town Council's response.

TC.282 SISTER CITY (TWINNING) RELATIONSHIP

The Town Council considered a request from the Greater Bendigo City Council to extend the Sister City Relationship, which had already been established with Penzance Town Council, to St Just-in-Penwith.

RESOLVED: That the request from the Greater Bendigo City Council to enter into a formal Sister City relationship with the Town Council is approved.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.283 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR ST JUST

The Town Council considered a request from Cllrs Mrs McQueen, Mrs Blundy and Mrs Salmon for the Town Council to submit an application to Cllr Mrs James's Community Chest for a grant of £500.00 to undertake research and piloting of a community newsletter for St Just.

A number of Town Councillors expressed a degree of concern at the level of community interest in the project and felt that this should be tested in advance of a formal funding application being submitted and therefore it was

RESOLVED: That an initial newsletter be produced for publication on the Council's website as a trial to gauge the local community's views and a further report be brought back to the Town Council on the results on the trial.

(Action by : Cllrs Mrs McQueen / Mrs Blundy / Mrs Salmon and Elaine Baker)

TC.284 CORNWALL COUNCIL PENSION FUND – ST JUST-IN-PENWITH TOWN COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION RATES

The Town Council received a letter from Cornwall Council dated 6 January 2013 regarding confirmation of the employer contribution rates to the pension fund for the financial years 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 following the triennial review.

TC.285 FINANCE

(a) Financial Assistance

The Town Council considered an application for financial assistance from Arthritis Research UK towards the cost of research into the cause, treatment, and cure of all forms of arthritis.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £150.00 be awarded to Arthritis Research UK.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

(b) Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED: That the accounts to the value of £355.99 be approved for payment.

(Action by: Elaine Baker)

(c) Grant Feedback / Letters of Thanks

A letter of thanks had been received from the Bolitho Club towards the cost of the external decoration and repair to the building.

TC.286 PLANNING

(a) Applications

PA13/11767 First Floor rear extension including a rooflight at 9, Chapel Street, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. Tommy Hosking. **(T Cl no objection)**

PA14/00039 Rear first floor extension over existing ground floor flat roof extension at 22, Carn Bosavern, St. Just. Applicants: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Quayle. **(T Cl no objection)**

PA14/00030 Retention of external alterations at garage at Crippas Hill, Kelynack, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. M. May. **(T Cl no objection)**

PA13/1156 Proposed alterations to cottages forming one dwelling including addition of new rooflights at 11, Bosvargus Hill, Bosvargus, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. Paul Waters. **(T Cl no objection)**

PA14/00362 Proposed conservatory to front elevation at 3, Calartha Terrace, Boscaswell Downs, Pendeen. Applicant: Miss Jane Wheeler. **(T Cl no objection)**

The Town also reconsidered application PA13/10123, conversion and extension to form additional accommodation at 1 Regent Terrace, St Just as revised drawings had been submitted replacing the Juliet balconies with traditional style windows with timber boarding. **(T Cl no objection)**.

(b) Decisions

PA13/10975 Replacement of an existing timber and glass conservatory in the rear garden of 2, Bosavern Manor Farm, Kelynack, St. Just. Applicant: Mr. Norman Bragg. **(Approval T Cl No objection)**

(c) Enforcements

EN13/02404 Alleged raising of roofline of garage and insertion of chimney at Chy an Gwel Garage, Crippas Hill, St. Just. **Application Received.**

EN13/02520 Alleged earth works with the intention of a landfill for crab shells on land to the south of Ashmore Cottage, Trevegean, St. Just. **No Breach Found.**

EN14/00054 Installation of solar panels on roof in Conservation Area at Nos. 10 and 11 Carn Bosavern Close, St. Just. **PD or Deemed Consent.**

TC.287 INFORMATION ITEMS

The Town Council received the following information item:-

1. Update letter on the Poltair consultation from the Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group, response from Cllr Jim McKenna to the Town Council's letter and a copy of the response by West Cornwall Health Watch to the consultation.

TC.288 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr G Roberts raised the issue of fly tipping at Tregeseal, and in particular a request for new signage to be erected to advise local residents of the flooding risk to local properties if rubbish continued to be dumped near the stream. It was agreed that the item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting on 10 February.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

TC.289 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 consideration of the following item because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

TC.290 ST JUST LIBRARY

In accordance with the decision taken earlier in the meeting, the Town Council considered its response to Cllr Mrs James's request for assistance in connection with the proposed reduction in hours at the St Library and

RESOLVED: That the issued be deferred until the next meeting pending the receipt of further information from Cornwall Council.

(Action by : Elaine Baker)

Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Town Mayor