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Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held in the Committee Room, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 29 October 2015 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Williams
Vice-Chairman – Councillor M Armstrong

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T
Lait R
Nicholls C
Taylor L
Tulley R

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor H Garrod
Cornwall Council Community Link Officer

OFFICERS

Town Clerk
Assistant Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors Armstrong and Taylor.

C&E.131 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 3 September 2015

C&E.132 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

C&E.133 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

The Community Link Officer reported on the following:

- Gave the contact details for the Carbis Bay Residents Association, to consult regarding the wording of a sign regarding dogs in Trewartha Park.
- Events on the quay / West Pier, people who will be holding an event on West Pier would fill in the online events form and then the Harbour Master would be consulted. So it appeared that the Harbour Master would have no additional responsibility and there was no need for the town council to become involved.
- Reported on two local community groups who were looking for space near Porthmeor Beach and so the Island Centre might be of interest.

The Chairman thanked the Community Link Officer for her attendance and work in support of the area.

C&E.134 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

C&E.135 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE REPORT

Members considered the Clerk's update on actions since previous meetings, circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and that a meeting of the Palemon Best User Group be held in November.

C&E.136 ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW YEARS EVE

The Clerk reported that the road closure was due to be submitted, St John Ambulance were to be contacted regarding their cover, and arrangements for implementing the road closure were to be made.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

C&E.137 COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTER

The Community Link Officer advised on how to register Community Assets on the register held by Cornwall Council (now able to be registered following on from the Localism Bill).

Should the community consider that a building / facility was an asset to the community, then an application could be submitted and if successful would be added to the register held by Cornwall Council. If and when the facility then came up for sale, there would be a time period of 6 months to enable the local community to put forward a proposal for buying the asset on behalf of the community. The 6 month deferral was brought into action when there was a change of owner, rather than a change of use.

There were currently no entries for the St Ives parish on the Cornwall Council register. It was suggested that lists in the Neighbourhood Plan could be a starting point for carrying out the registration process for the St Ives area.

Work would be involved in each application. It might be that communities might have been put off from submitting applications for buildings not currently used by the community, and being realistic about whether a 6 month delay would be sufficient for funds and a business plan to be drawn together should an asset be released for sale on the open market.

Members were advised that the register was in place and that there was guidance available on the means to add assets to the register.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Neighbourhood Plan list is more a local heritage list than a focus on community buildings, though a number on the list would likely benefit from being registered as a community asset;
- The relevant officer at Cornwall Council would be meeting representatives from the Archive to run through the process and so there was an opportunity to attend and learn more about it;

RESOLVED – that the update be noted, and for Councillors Williams and Lait to meet to consider the assets listed in the Neighbourhood Plan to consider whether to proceed further.

C&E.138 CONSENT STREETS

Councillor Garrod reported on the following:

- Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 has been used by other councils to bring in Consent Streets to control trading and advertising;
- Noted the difficulties in enforcing any restrictions on advertising;
- Specific streets can be designated as Consent Streets
- Pedlars can operate with a police licence but must not operate from a single place
- Gave examples of another council giving clear advice for pedlars:
 - Operate on foot and keep on the move
 - Can have a portable stand
 - Should not return to the same area the next day – principle is to keep moving
 - Pedlars controlled by the police
- If we had a consent street, then town council enforcement officers would have powers to inspect pedlars licences, then if they returned the next day the police could be called
- Face painting, hair braiding, henna tattoos – as soon as they sell accessories they become street traders
- Need to take into account shops trading outside their premises
- Current measures to prohibit street trading in specific areas of St Ives

Councillor Garrod suggested to ask Cornwall Council for the town council to be responsible for 1982 consent street administration and enforcement. There could be savings in legal costs by taking on the 1982 legislation from Cornwall Council (as opposed to implementing new legislation such as a Consent Street). Administration and enforcement would need to be factored in.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were considered:

- Major difficulty being enforcement of the Pedlars legislation
- The fixed penalty notices issued were often contested and under the present legislation were difficult to enforce
- Bournemouth Act 2010 – sets out clear legal limitations on pedlars

There was a suggestion that the way forward could be a joint operation between trading standards, highways, licensing and the police. (Counterfeit goods, obstruction of highway, whether operating with a licence and within terms of the licence).

It was suggested to investigate the Bournemouth Act to see if it could be effective in St Ives –

though it was also noted that the current review may mean that this approach might not now be possible.

A further report could be given in 2 or 3 months time if it was clearer at that time what the Government were planning to do regarding the review of legislation in this area.

RESOLVED – that a letter from the town council be sent to the MP, to say that pedlars and enforcement are a problem in St Ives and nationally, and to ask: do the Government have any plans to bring in any changes to legislation to assist the situation?

C&E.139 CORNWALL COUNCIL CONSULTATION – 20MPH ZONE, POLMENNOR DRIVE, CARBIS BAY

Members considered the consultation document circulated and discussed the merits of the 20mph zone. It was suggested that in future it might be beneficial to extend the zone to Polwithen Drive.

RESOLVED – that the proposed 20 mph zone be fully supported, and that it be noted that it might be beneficial to consider extending the zone to include Polwithen Drive and Trenchrom Lane either now or in the future.

C&E.140 UPDATE FROM THE ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION AND REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Members considered the update from the Allotments Association. Members were primarily supportive of the work of the Association and the following points were noted:

- Concern at the proposal for gravelling of the access routes – there was only every supposed to be minimal access and so use of the allotment field by vehicles should be minimised
- Whether the National Trust should be consulted on whether access routes in the site should be gravelled.
- The need for the field to be returned to the landowner in prime agricultural condition at the end of the lease
- The need for the town council to be consulted on changes which might affect the long term use of the land (such as gravel and other installations) – as the lease agreement is between the town council and the landowner.

RESOLVED – that the council agree to the £350 hire costs of equipment and with regard to the proposed gravel, that the costs of this will not be met pending further discussion with the Allotments Association – and for alternatives to be investigated. Thanks to the Allotments Association for all that they do and appreciation of the voluntary time and effort put into this.

C&E.141 REVIEW OF STREET WEEDING (COSTS AND LOGISTICS)

Councillor Lait stated her concern that there were a number of areas where the street weeds had become more noticeable and asked whether this was due for review, to investigate which areas

The Clerk reported that the costs of carrying out manual street weeding this year had been calculated and that an initial quote for weed treatment by spraying had been received earlier in the day. It was suggested that the Clerk meet with Councillors Lait and Williams to work through the options for next year, to present a report to the next meeting.

Councillor Andrewes to contact Highways with concerns that the A3074 (Treloyhan) had significant weed growth and to request that the weed be treated to ensure highway safety.

RESOLVED – that the actions set out above be approved.

C&E.142 RECREATION AREAS IN CARBIS BAY

Councillor Andrewes reported on recent planning developments approved in Carbis Bay with Section 106 monies allocated for capital improvements. For example the £35,000 contribution from the Carninney Lane development had been allocated to Chy An Gweal Gardens. The Open Spaces Officer had advised that the funds must be allocated to specific sites and not generally for open space in Carbis Bay. This matter was brought to committee to try to channel S.106 funds to potential new (named) recreation areas in Carbis Bay, to help cater for the increasing number of dwellings.

It was noted that under the Local Plan it had been identified that the St Ives and Carbis Bay area were below average for public amenity space such as sports fields, and that there was a lack of identified children's play space in the Chy An Gweal and Belyars areas.

RESOLVED – that a working group be held for all Lelant and Carbis Bay Councillors to meet, discuss and consider potential solutions, to have potential suitable locations for future recreation areas in Carbis Bay.

C&E.143 WASTE INCENTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEME

Members noted the application circulated with the agenda, seeking retrospective approval for the initial expression of interest already submitted, and for the full application to be approved to be submitted. It was noted that the aim was to find a positive solution to encouraging the proper use of the street bins and keeping trade waste in the commercial waste stream. If the initiative were successful in bringing funding to the area, it had the potential to bring a benefit to the community.

RESOLVED – that the proposed initiative be supported and for the full application to be written and submitted on behalf of the town council.

C&E.144 FAIR RENT FORUM

Councillor Williams reported that she had met with Councillors Nicholls and Andrewes to discuss the prohibitive level of commercial and residential rents.

It was suggested to invite representatives from the Cornwall Affordable Housing Team to find out more about the waiting lists, Lanhams to find out more about the residential letting market in this area, and Shelter to learn more of homelessness.

It was noted that this was a growing problem which needed to be addressed to enable the local community to function and thrive, retaining a local workforce.

RESOLVED – that a representative from the Cornwall Affordable Housing Team be invited to attend at a meeting of the Forum to advise on the wider issues relating to affordable housing in the area.

C&E.145 UPDATE ON PALEMON BEST RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Williams reported that goalposts had been installed; gates, benches and zipwire posts painted; welcome sign put up; skate-ramps fixed and regular visits to tackle the graffiti and damage to equipment.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.146 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Lait reported that the Independent Examination was underway.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.147 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS 2016 / 2017

The financial report circulated set out the actual income and expenditure (to date) against that budgeted for the year.

Many of the budget lines were agreed at the same level for the coming year, with the following exceptions:

Income items amended:

Chapels income – added budget line of £2,000 for wedding blessings

Expenditure items amended:

Community Safety – reduced to £4,000

Miscellaneous expenses – new budget line, £400

Street weeding – new budget line, £3,000

Disposal of green waste – new budget line, £600

Salary costs – services – increase to £15,850

Vehicle and fuel costs – increase to £5,100

RESOLVED – that a formal letter be sent to St Ives BID to invite their financial input into the street marshal initiative.

RECOMMENDED – to Council that the proposed budget areas covered by the Committee be as set out above.

C&E.148 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED “That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matters on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.”

C&E.149 CONSERVATION TREATMENT REPORT, SCULPTURE AT LONGSTONE CEMETERY
(Paragraph 3)

Members considered the report, setting out the options for conservation treatment to the sculpture.

RESOLVED – that it be agreed for the Hepworth Estate to arrange for the conservation work to be carried out if able to be funded through the Estate.

C&E.150 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 January 2016.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Chairman