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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 3 September 2015 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

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

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Parsons A
Lait R	Taylor L
Nicholls C	Tulley R

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor C Chard  
Councillor H Garrod

Cornwall Council Community Link Officer

OFFICERS

Town Clerk  
Assistant Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None.

C&E.110 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 11 June 2015

C&E.111 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

C&E.112 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Andrewes declared an Interest in Minute C&E.122 (Street Trading consultation) due to his involvement with the Farmers Market.

Councillors Nicholls, Williams, Andrewes and Tulley each declared an Interest in Minute C&E.129 (Hepworth Estate Proposal) due to their links with the Tate St Ives, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

C&E.113 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE REPORT

The Clerk presented a brief update on actions since previous meetings.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.114 PALEMON BEST IMPROVEMENTS AND LIAISON WITH USER GROUP

The Chairman advised that the Palemon Best User Group was being established and supported to help bring about improvements and community involvement with the recreation ground. It was evolving in such a way that the town council would continue to host stakeholder group meetings at the Fire Station and were continuing as separate groups (ie skatepark user group, community orchard user group).

The following items were considered:

- i. Press release and photo – **Agreed** that the town council will co-ordinate
- ii. **Agreed** that the Council continues to support meetings of the users of the recreation ground
- iii. Goal posts – **Agreed** to order goal posts without nets
- iv. Concrete skate park – considered that with the number of repairs and maintenance needed for the existing skatepark, a suggestion had been made for a concrete skatepark. The concrete option was becoming more popular and was thought to be a better long term investment. **Agreed** – that a local skatepark provider be asked to advise on the potential options and for early investigations into the possibility of a concrete skate park
- v. Signs – **Agreed** – to purchase replacement signs and a new welcome sign.
- vi. Next meeting – early October

RESOLVED – that the agreed actions as set out above be adopted.

C&E.115 SEAGULL COMPLAINTS

Members considered the Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting.

Discussion points:

- Asked whether the seagull advice leaflet needs to be updated;
- Seagulls would be wherever there was food and while there continued to be a source of food, they would continue to be a nuisance;
- More (and more clear) signage was needed on shielding food while eating outside;
- Noted that BID had installed seagull spikes on many of the hanging basked brackets, which had helped reduce perching places;
- Noted the improvement with the new compactor bins, reducing gulls feeding from the bins
- Gulls had learned to move to Fore Street to find food being eaten outside.

RESOLVED – that the following steps be taken:

- Speak to St Ives BID about any signage they may be planning
- Check with St Ives BID whether they planned to install seagull spikes on the lampposts along Wharf Road
- This to be raised at next meeting with **BID**, to be held soon. (Also to discuss website, festoon lighting, possible contributions to street marshals and public conveniences). (Bring the seagull advice leaflet to the meeting)

C&E.116 OPTION FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL TO RUN THE ADMIN FOR BANDS AND CHOIRS ON WEST PIER

Members considered the Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting.

Discussion points:

- The wish to continue to see bands and events being able to be held on West Pier
- Concern that the town council would be taking on another function from Cornwall Council
- Would need to have a means of liaising with the Harbour Master to ensure that there are no double bookings.
- Suggested that the town council would only be willing to take this on if they were solely running West Pier.
- Concerns at taking on additional work and being able to recoup the costs in a satisfactory way
- Not wishing to charge for bookings for community performances such as brass bands and choirs, instead to simply make a small contribution to the Harbour each year for electricity used.

The Community Link Officer offered to speak to the Harbour Master to establish whether the Harbour would be able to carry out the administration of this service itself.

RESOLVED – that the item be deferred pending further report from the Community Link Officer.

C&E.117 STREET MARSHAL SCHEME – UPDATE ON THE TRIAL SCHEME TO DATE

Councillors Williams and Taylor reported on the feedback they had received from the Street Marshal initiative, noting the value of the work they had carried out, and the positive comments received from businesses and the public.

It was considered that as the majority of the street marshal work was linked to licensed premises, it was reasonable to request their financial contributions towards any future scheme.

The Mayor agreed to attend a Pubwatch meeting with the Assistant Clerk, to put a request for funding contributions from those who run the licensed premises in town, to support the initiative continuing in future years.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted, and that efforts to secure financial contributions from others (licensed premises, St Ives BID, late night takeaways and the taxi rank) be invited in readiness for a decision on whether the scheme could continue in future years.

C&E.118 DEFINITIVE FOOTPATH APPLICATIONS

Members considered the update from the Clerk on the potential to request that footpath applications in Lelant with shared evidence be considered together (ie with the lower priority path to be raised to the level of those at higher priority).

RESOLVED – that Cornwall Council be requested to consider footpath applications together, as set out in the report, and to copy the request to C.Councillor Penhaligon to request her support as Ward Member.

C&E.119 GOOD FRIDAY CONSOLS BOATING

Councillor Tulley reported that it had been found that the most effective way of clearing the pond was for people to don wetsuits and physically pull up and remove the weed, two or three weeks before the Good Friday event. It was noted that **Councillor S Tanner** had been particularly effective in rallying volunteers last year and so would be an excellent choice to lead on this for the coming year.

Provided that the pond is cleared of weed, then the event could continue to be held. It was also important to contact the Environment Agency as they attend on the day to lower the water levels.

RESOLVED – that Councillor S Tanner be thanked for all her work on leading the pond clearing in recent years, and be invited to lead on co-ordinating volunteers for Good Friday 2016. Also that it be noted for the office to contact the Environment Agency closer to the time.

C&E.120 RE-MAPPING OF ST IVES (ACCESSIBILITY)

Councillor Armstrong explained that linked to her current studies she was willing to volunteer her time to the Remapping St Ives project (a group looking to improve accessible routes around St Ives for wheelchairs, pushchairs, and mobility impaired people).

Through Councillor Armstrong's involvement, this would constitute the town council's element of involvement in this joint partnership project. Of particular importance was the information available to wheelchair and pushchair users to help plan routes when visiting St Ives. There was the potential that some improvement works may be identified, but the primary aim at this stage was to increase information and awareness.

An example given was that with a beach wheelchair available at Porthminster Beach, information was needed on how to access the beach in order to use the beach wheelchair.

The intention of the project was to highlight information on accessibility.

RESOLVED – that the council endorses Councillor Armstrong to act on behalf of the town council in her voluntary work as part of the Remapping St Ives partnership project.

C&E.121 SEWAGE PROBLEM – PORTHREPTA ROAD, CARBIS BAY

Councillor Lait present the item raised by a local resident with sewage overflowing residential properties on a fairly regular basis. South West Water had made efforts to tackle the issue, but had yet to fully rectify the problem. The town council had been requested to help the local residents in their calls to South West Water to take action to address the problem to stop sewage overflowing the residential properties in future.

It was noted that at the time of constructing the sewer system, there should have been a sewer plan, and the systems were designed for sewerage, not surface water. The problem encountered in Carbis Bay was suggested to be a problem with surface water entering the sewer system.

Under Section 94 of the Water Industries Act, South West Water had a legal responsibility to ensure that the sewer system was fully and properly maintained.

The first step was considered to be opening dialogue with South West Water to establish what is being done to address the sewage complaints in the area.

RESOLVED – that the town council contacts South West Water to request that action be taken to address this problem as soon as practicable, and to request a response to the town council on what action has been taken and is planned to be taken (in relation to this particular complaint, and other similar complaints across the St Ives area). A meeting with South West Water was the agreed way of receiving feedback and starting dialogue. If a satisfactory response is not received, then OFWAT to be contacted, correspondence to OFWAT to be copied to the MP. Local residents to be advised to keep a record of all occurrences of this problem.

Councillor Garrod offered to draft a letter of complaint to OFWAT in readiness, should the response from South West Water not be satisfactory.

C&E.122 STREET TRADING REVIEW – CORNWALL COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Councillor Andrewes declared an Interest in this item for Question 10 (markets) due to his involvement in the Farmers Market, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that question.

Members considered the report circulated and whilst welcoming steps to restrict unauthorised street trading, it would remain too easy for people to gain that permission, and there were already existing difficulties with enforcement.

Councillor Garrod reported that the town council could implement its own byelaw to restrict street trading. The example was given of Padstow where a similar scheme had been

implemented.

With regard to the consultation questions:

1. Do you agree the whole of Cornwall should be designated as 'consent' with specified exemptions? Yes – support consent with specified exemptions
2. Agree that the whole of Cornwall should be designated as 'consent' apart from A and B roads being 'prohibited'? – yes
3. Retain Fore Street, St Ives, as a prohibited street, continuing the existing prohibition.
4. Activities to be exempt from requiring street trading consent? – support fetes, carnivals and community activities being exempted – community based
5. No response
6. Agree that trading in areas within the control of the listed Cornwall Council services be exempt from requiring street trading consent? Yes - agree
7. Town and parish council land should be similarly exempt.
8. No response
9. No response
10. All approved markets and events should be exempt from requiring street trading consent? Agree – should be exempt
11. Comments on fees? – too low (should reflect what business rates in shops have to pay)
12. Any other comments? The regulation is seen as essential and so stronger enforcement is necessary.

RESOLVED – that the consultation be responded to with the answers set out above, and that Councillor Garrod look further into the potential for the town council to implement its own byelaw (or similar) to restrict street trading (including research into areas where even pedlars have been prohibited) and also to investigate actions against advertising and A Frames.

C&E.123 BOLLARDS ON WHARF ROAD – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Members considered the report circulated, and

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.124 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Lait reported that the Independent Examiner was working through the paperwork, would visit relevant sites and would call upon people where information was needed – ensuring a totally independent examination.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.125 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Councillor Tulley reported that the next Free For All would be held on Saturday 3 October, any Councillors were welcome to help volunteer.

C&E.126 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C&E.127 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.128 PALEMON BEST – MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (Paragraph 3)

Members considered the Clerk’s report circulated prior to the meeting. During discussion the changing situation at Palemon Best was noted, with the town council becoming more active in carrying out works with town council budget and so the Clerk advised to switch to a management arrangement where the town council as Trustee would pass management responsibility to the town council. The recommendation included reference to legal expertise which could help ensure legal compliance and would also help resolve VAT questions.

Some concern was expressed at handing over operational responsibility and the legal costs of doing so.

**RECOMMENDED** – to Council that the Clerk seek a legal quote on establishing a new management agreement between Trustees and the town council, and also for the Clerk to check that the bank account arrangements are in line with new banking requirements for Trustees generally.

C&E.129 HEPWORTH ESTATE PROPOSAL (Paragraph 3)

Councillors Andrewes, Nicholls, Tulley and Williams each declared an Interest in this item due to their connections with the Tate St Ives and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item. Councillor Armstrong chaired the meeting for this item.

Following consideration of the proposal set out in the Clerk’s report, it was

**RESOLVED** – to agree in principle to the proposition on the basis that the item remains in St Ives and, if possible, would revert to being on loan to the St Ives Town Council if the proposed arrangement were to end at some point in the future.

C&E.130 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 29 October 2015.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Chairman

DRAFT