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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 11 June 2015 at 7.49 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Williams

Vice-Chairman – Councillor M Armstrong

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T

Parsons A

Lait R

Taylor L (until 8.50pm)

Nicholls C

Tulley R

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from the Assistant Clerk (attending a funeral away)

C&E.86 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor Williams be appointed Chairman of the Committee for 2015 / 2016

C&E.87 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor Armstrong be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2015 / 2016

C&E.88 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 12 March 2015

C&E.89 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

C&E.90 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

None

C&E.91 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE REPORT

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

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.92 PALEMON BEST IMPROVEMENTS AND LIAISON WITH USER GROUP

The Clerk circulated a written report giving an update on the recent meeting with the user group.

During discussion, Councillors expressed the wish to make an effort to tidy up the area at Palemon Best, to make it a more attractive place to visit. Items suggested for improvements in the short term included:

Fencing

Lines for football pitch (the football club may be able to assist)

New goal posts.

More benches (Councillor Nicholls to make enquiries)

It was stated that a huge amount was spent on facilities for visitors to the area and that the town council also had a responsibility to address the needs of the local residents, with proper budget provision needed in future to enable improvements to be achieved. It was noted to be frustrating that one of the recently installed benches had been ripped out of the concrete base and used on the skate ramps.

The value of the regular visits to litter pick and cut the grass was noted as a good way of maintaining the appearance of the area. Councillor Williams also gave an undertaking to pursue the installation of the new signage that had been offered some months ago.

It was noted that there was a budget for operational improvements to the Palemon Best Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED – that, subject to sufficient funds in the Palemon Best budget line, the improvements listed above be carried out (with first item to be the goalposts).

C&E.93 BUS AND LORRY PROBLEMS, ROYAL SQUARE – FROM CHAMBER OF TRADE EMAILS RECEIVED REGARDING INCREASED PROBLEMS AT ROYAL SQUARE THIS YEAR

It was noted that there had been two public speakers on this matter at the meeting of the Council preceding this committee meeting earlier in the evening.

Councillor Andrewes (as Cornwall Council ward member) reported that:

The Traffic Commissioners issue the licences for bus operators and so there is no local control over this at a town council or Cornwall Council level. Work was underway in considering changes to the road layout at Royal Square to accommodate the larger buses used.

Cornwall Council were requesting the Traffic Commissioner to impose a restriction on bus operators licences to restrict the number of vehicles they could operate on this route.

Regarding behaviour of drivers, obstruction of highway and similar complaints, these were policing matters and so had been reported to the Police for action. One bus

operator had indicated that they would no longer be running a service from Royal Square.

Councillor Andrewes offered to take up with Cornwall Council the issues raised regarding the Leisure Centre roundabout being used as a bus stop.

During discussion on this matter, the following points were raised:

- Concerned that local accommodation providers had reported guests leaving early, and that local residents had made complaints regarding pollution and noise.
- Calls for enforcement of the weight restrictions on the highway – with 9 tonne vehicles operating illegally and adversely affecting the legally operated 7 ½ tonne vehicles
- Acknowledged that with the volume of traffic and people using the location, there were difficulties in operating the buses at Royal Square
- Concern that there were plans to alter the road layout rather than enforcing weight limits / numbers and operation of buses.
- Questioned the legality of the banksmen helping the buses to reverse – questioned whether this would be classed as unnecessary reversing and whether this could be a police matter.
- Noted that people had also complained at feeling harassed at the touting behaviour of those encouraging people onto their buses.

Councillor Andrewes gave an undertaking to take up the matters raised with the relevant officers at Cornwall Council.

RESOLVED – that

- 1) A letter from the Mayor be sent to the bus operators to request that they abide by any regulations that may be in place regarding the operation of their bus routes, to be considerate to other road users and to ensure the safety of other road users and pedestrians at all times;
- 2) The Police be asked to take action against any flagrant abuses of the law by buses and delivery vehicles in Royal Square
- 3) To contact the Traffic Commission in support of the actions by Cornwall Council in seeking conditions on operators licences in view of the effects that the bus issue was having on the town.

C&E.94 RECYCLING SCHEME

Councillor Andrewes reported on a new Cornwall Council recycling incentive scheme for communities and will be inviting town and parish councils to apply to become pilot schemes to help promote recycling in their communities. There would be the potential for rewards for the increase in recycling that local communities are able to achieve (a share of savings in reduced costs when Cornwall Council deposit to landfill). The scheme had great potential to help address issues in St Ives (including trade waste being collected as domestic).

RESOLVED – that the town council agrees in principle to apply to become a pilot scheme area.

C&E.95 POTENTIAL STREET MARSHALL SCHEME

Councillor Tulley reported that the police had suggested a street marshal scheme to be the eyes and ears on the ground to alert the police to incidents, helping to fill a gap left by the cessation of the CCTV coverage in St Ives.

The Street Marshalls would be security registered personnel who's first role would be to encourage rowdy groups and individuals to calm down, and to alert the police if problems escalate. The hourly cost of the service would be reasonable and so there had been a discussion between representatives from the town council, BID and the Chamber.

Councillor Taylor spoke in support the scheme and suggested seeking financial contributions from St Austell Brewery, Police and St Ives BID. It was suggested that it could be brought in as a trial scheme to determine whether it brought a benefit to the area.

Some concern was raised at contracting a private company to carry out a service that should be carried out by the police as a public service. It would need a clear framework with a democratically accountable basis, with a suggestion that the contract should be with the town council and that the police should be involved in its implementation and supervision.

Under Financial Regulations it was understood that there would be a need to seek quotes from three companies for the provision of the service.

Councillors expressed the hope that the Marshalls would be able to contact the police more quickly than the public.

In view of the timescales involved in securing a service for this summer, it was agreed to convene a meeting of the Council to precede the Facilities Committee meeting on 18 June.

**RECOMMENDED** – to Council that

- 1) The council support a trial scheme of contracting in Street Marshalls (possibly to be called Community Safety Officers) to act in a supportive front line role for the police – diffusing situations and advising where possible, otherwise notifying police of the need for their attendance;
- 2) The proposed trial to run from July to the end of September on Fridays and Saturdays from 9pm to 2am;
- 3) Funding contributions to be invited from St Austell Brewery, St Ives BID and the police.

C&E.96 **GOOD FRIDAY CONSOLS BOATING (DECLINING MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSOLS POND ASSOCIATION)**

The Clerk had reported on declining numbers on the Consols Pool Association, and the risk that there might be a year when the weed could not be cleared.

Councillor Taylor stated that in view of the strong tradition that so many people enjoy, she considered that the town council should take on responsibility for co-ordinating the Consols Pond clearance for the Good Friday boating.

In addition to the annual pond clearance work, it was noted that the land belongs to a private land owner and so the lease would need to be reassigned, and that in the future the issue relating to the silting up of the pond would need to be addressed.

**RECOMMENDED** – to Council that the town council takes on responsibility for the Consols Pond, to ensure annual pond weed clearance for the Good Friday Boating tradition.

C&E.97 TOWN FUND – ADVICE FROM CORNWALL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Clerk reported on the service provided by Cornwall Community Foundation, in being able to distribute funds on behalf of funding organisations. It was considered that the service offered and the management fee was not the correct level.

Councillor Nicholls reported that the intention had been for the fund to be set up by the council but to operate as a separate charity fund, but maintaining high levels of transparency to help people in the town. Trustees would include the Mayor and one or two town councillors, and non-Councillor Trustees. An appointment had been made with a local solicitors to investigate setting up a charity fund in this way.

**RESOLVED** – to endorse the meeting with the local solicitors to progress the setting up of a Fund.

Councillor Taylor left the meeting at this point.

C&E.98 FAIR RENT FORUM

Councillor Nicholls expressed his wish for the town council to think more widely and more innovatively in order to take more of a role in the town. There was a risk of commercial properties becoming empty if commercial rents continued to grow at a fast rate, with risk of empty shops and loss of employment. This was a concern that he felt was shared in the town.

The same stood for rented accommodation, with the prices of rents increasing more rapidly than increases in earnings.

During discussion it was noted that whilst this was not a matter that the town council could address directly, the important issues around how people lived in the parish were relevant considerations for the town council.

A Fair Rent Forum was seen as a way of raising awareness and perhaps starting debate and initiating the opportunity for change in the area. Even down to the deposits for private rented accommodation, paying to join a register of interest, along with other charges which affected people even entering into private rented accommodation.

The alternative view was that the rents commanded by commercial and residential landlords reflected the success of the town and that the St Ives area was an attractive place to live and work.

The purpose of a Forum could be to be a voice for private tenants. Also to learn more about the social housing provision in the area and any issues to be addressed on behalf of tenants. It was noted that there were groups that could be called upon for their expertise and experience, such as the Neighbourhood Plan Housing Topic Group, the Community Land Trust, the Craze Hunkin Trust and others.

RESOLVED – that a working group of Councillors meet to decide how best to raise and address this matter. All interested Councillor to be invited to attend.

C&E.99 PARKING AT DYNAMITE QUAY, LELANT

Councillor Williams reported that Dynamite Quay is now owned by Corinthian and that TW and RL had met with three representatives of Corinthian:

Corinthian were willing to allow parking on Dynamite Quay if the council want it (there always used to be parking there and it alleviates the parking problems and traffic congestion at the Church and neighbouring roads). They had also advised that Corinthian were open-minded at this stage as to the future use of the quay.

RESOLVED – that the town council are in support of Corinthian providing public parking at Lelant Quay, and that Corinthian be advised of such.

C&E.100 FOOTPATH DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATION (LELANT) – WCA 551/552/568

Councillor Williams reported on three definitive map applications, two of which had been submitted by a member of the public, one submitted by the town council. The town council's application was the re-submission of an original application from 2003. Nicola Canon-Brookes had put in the two other applications and had met with Councillors Williams and Lait to call for the town council to seek to get the application re-prioritised to be higher up the list to at least join the applications for the adjoining footpaths. Councillors noted the lengths of time for footpath applications to be progressed, and previous discussions with Cornwall Council about the priorities for the Dynamite Quay path.

RESOLVED – that Mrs Canon-Brookes be advised that the matter had been discussed at committee, Councillors felt equally frustrated at the situation and to send a copy of the advice received from the Cornwall Council officer in March 2015.

C&E.101 HELICOPTER FLIGHTS – SUMMER FLIGHTS

Councillor Williams reported on the planned repeat of the helicopter summer flights this summer and their request for the town council to support their return. Members noted the previous concerns at noise nuisance and their landing / take off locations. Accordingly the company had been advised by Councillor Williams that the town council had a stated position of not welcoming the flights, and the Visit St Ives Information Centre would not be advertising or selling tickets.

It was noted that a local resident had raised the issue of a lichen which was claimed to be adversely affected by the helicopter flights, a matter best dealt with by the Environment Agency, Natural England or similar authority.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.102 NEW YEARS EVE ARRANGEMENTS -

The Clerk reported that the Risk Assessments and Road Closure application would be submitted in due course.

Members considered the notification from the St John Ambulance that a financial contribution would be sought to help maintain the level of cover provided to St Ives.

RESOLVED – that St John Ambulance be contacted to negotiate the level of contribution, to build into the budget for future years, and to seek a contribution from St Ives BID, with the intention that the town council would pay the remainder required.

C&E.103 TELEPHONE BOX AT TREGENNA HILL

Councillor Nicholls reported that a local painter / decorator had offered to maintain the phone box with the intention of enabling one or two adverts for local community groups.

RESOLVED – that the local volunteer be thanked for the work he had already carried out on the phone box and to encourage him to continue, giving consent for the painting and maintenance works and for the placing of a small number of community adverts, along with an advert for the volunteer's painting and decorating business if he so wished.

C&E.104 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE

It was reported that the plan had been signed off as being technically compliant and that the advertisement for the Regulation 16 (publication) consultation had been organised. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from 18 June to 30 July, to be advertised in the Cornishman and on the Cornwall Council website.

It was noted that with regard to some of the land allocations, this last period of consultation would help to establish if any of the land allocations should be amended.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.105 CORNWALL COUNCIL DECISION – CHANGES TO DOG CONTROL LEGISLATION (COMMUNITIES POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

Councillor Andrewes reported that the legislation which had enabled the town council to bring in Dog Control Orders had been replaced by Public Space Protection Orders, meaning that town and parish council will no longer have the powers to bring in legislation which would achieve the restrictions of dogs on beaches. There would be a transition time before new Orders would need to be brought in and any new Orders would only be able to be implemented by Cornwall Council.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.106 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

C&E.107 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.108 PALEMON BEST – MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (Paragraph 3)

The Clerk reported that there was a need to formalise the working arrangement between the town council and the Trustees in relation to each organisations responsibility to the recreation ground.

The quote from the current contractors for the site was awaited and would form part of the negotiation to either extend the contract or to seek alternative arrangements for maintaining the site.

With regard to the quote from Rhino Ramps for a replacement section for the 1.8m high quarterpipe at the skatepark, it was

**RECOMMENDED** – to Council that the replacement section of the quarterpipe be ordered from Rhino Ramps, to supply and install, to be funded from the Palemon Best earmarked reserve fund.

C&E.109 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3 September 2015.

Meeting closed at 10.04 pm

Chairman