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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 14 January 2016 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

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

Facilities Manager

IN ATTENDANCE

Community Link Officer (Cornwall Council)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none received from committee members. Councillor S Tanner had hoped to attend regarding the Consols Pond item and had given her apologies.

C&E.151 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 29 October 2015

C&E.152 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

C&E.153 POLICE TRAFFIC OFFICER

PC Saint and PC Mike Gamble attended to discuss traffic issues in the area as the local police had received a significant number of complaints, especially relating to speeding, parking, lorries and collisions. PC Gamble reported on surveys which had been carried out and advised that the data indicated that speeding was not a problem in St Ives. This was challenged by a ward member for Lelant and Carbis Bay, it was also noted that there had not been a speed survey of the Stennack. Traffic casualties were also reported on.

The Police highlighted the challenge facing those managing traffic, roads and parking due to the projected significant increase in traffic with the future completion of the Carland Cross to Chiverton and Temple sections of the A30. Their suggestions for St Ives included: rigid enforcement of traffic management; pedestrianisation; comprehensive one way system. The recommendation from the Police was for specific times for deliveries to businesses, if a way to enable this were possible and broadly acceptable to businesses.

The Police also noted complaints at too many taxi's in the vicinity of the taxi rank, and the issues associated with the buses in Royal Square. There were proposed changes to the layout of the road and build out in Royal Square to accommodate the larger buses.

During discussion with Councillors, the following points were considered:

- Responsibility and the ability to take action to improve traffic flows lay with Cornwall Council as the Highways Authority, the town council played an ancillary role.
- Proposals aimed at tackling traffic volumes included the plans for St Erth park and ride, and the Cornwall Parking Strategy.
- Any proposals to restrict delivery times would need to take into account services such as supermarket deliveries and online shopping deliveries
- Concerns that the 'Ignore Sat Nav' signs at the Tempest roundabout appeared to be largely ignored by visitors to the town .
- Need for better signage in various locations
- Junction next to the Harbour Hotel – concerns at visibility for motorists
- Speeding in Lelant – local residents have been enthusiastic about taking part in a speedwatch scheme. Concerns for pedestrian safety, lack of crossing points and speed of traffic, especially in the winter months. (Police provided the figures which demonstrated no speeding problem in Abbey Hill, Lelant.)

It was acknowledged that the pressure on traffic and parking was increasing and that it would not be easy to implement changes that would resolve all issues, but efforts could be made to make the improvements possible.

The Chairman thanked the Police for their attendance at the meeting.

C&E.154 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

The Community Link Officer reported that the Ward Member for Carbis Bay and Lelant had been raising speeding related issues for the Lelant area with Highways; a meeting to discuss the library consultation was being held the following day; a partnership working Flood Emergency Plan meeting was due to be held the following week; and that contributions had been agreed by local businesses and organisations which would enable the Blue Flag applications to be submitted.

C&E.155 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR AND OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

C&E.156 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE REPORT

With regard to the items on the Town Clerk's update report:

C&E.78 (dog sign at Trewartha) – corrected to note that the decision had been made in March 2015.

C&E.140 (allotments) – it was confirmed that the Allotments Association had been advised of the council's decision at the previous meeting.

C&E.141(street weeding) – requested to be referred to next meeting for full report

C&E.143 (waste incentive neighbourhood scheme) – the full application had been submitted to Cornwall Council, worked up by Councillors Andrewes and Williams. Cornwall Council had acknowledged the application and advised that there may be need for modification to align with their processes which were due to be finalised in the near future.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and that item C&E.141 (street weeding) be referred to the next meeting of the Committee for full report.

C&E.157 FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk presented the Finance Report, noting that the budget relevant to this committee (Services and Projects) should be monitored by this committee.

Questions raised by Members were answered by the Clerk:

- Underspend for dog enforcement – signage was due to a reduction in vandalism and so fewer replacement signs were needed
- The underspend in the In Bloom budget to be allocated to renewing plants, especially along the Harbour and possibly new planting at the Malakoff
- Potential for planting at Porthmeor, by the bowling club
- Increase the floral displays at the Guildhall
- The need to utilise the Palemon Best operational improvements budget allocation.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

C&E.158 THE SEWER SYSTEM OF ST IVES AND CARBIS BAY

Councillor Garrod spoke on his presentation (originally for the Gonwin Farm planning inquiry) on the sewer system of St Ives and Carbis Bay. Councillor Garrod highlighted the population and day visitors numbers for the summer months, and how these numbers have increased since 1996.

During discussion it was noted:

- The capacity of the sewerage system depended on the resident and visiting population in the St Ives and Carbis Bay area at any one time.
- Noted that the figures had been calculated using the best approximations available to Councillor Garrod and could be subject to further refinement (use of building regulation figures for water use per person, and a formula used by Visit Cornwall for visitor numbers).
- Concerns at the volume of sewerage being directed to the St Erth treatment plant from St Ives and other areas.
- Questioned whether the sewer system had overflowed due to excess surface water, or whether the system was adequate for the level of sewerage even without surface water.

Councillor Garrod's conclusion, having carried out this research was that the sewer system

was operating over capacity. Having previously met with South West Water and written to Ofwat and the MP, it was considered that no action was required until responses had been received.

It was noted that this issue had arisen following an overflow of sewerage at properties in Carbis Bay and that South West Water had reported on the measures taken with the aim of preventing the situation arising again. It was hoped that the matter had been resolved but this would not be clear until further time had enabled the system to prove its efficacy.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.159 RESIDENT CONCERNS – PARKING IN SALTINGS REACH DURING THE SUMMER SEASON

The Clerk reported on three letters received which set out concerns from local residents relating to parking on the roads in Saltings Reach associated with the parking for the train from Lelant Saltings station. Motorists were often either opting to park for free or using the roads as overflow when the car park was full. The parking in the area was reported to have a significant impact on traffic movements in the area.

It was noted that Lelant Saltings was not included in the current parking review.

The Community Link Officer reported on previous consultation on double yellow lines, with feedback that they were not wanted. Early consultation on residents parking scheme had been carried out and there were not sufficient numbers requesting such a scheme, comprehensive consultation had yet to be conducted.

Discussed and noted that permanent residents had presented a written request to the Cornwall Council Ward Member to request a residents parking scheme, although it was understood that no holiday properties were included. The Community Link Officer offered to follow this up with the Ward Member.

RESOLVED – that the town council appreciates the issues faced by local residents associated with excessive parking in the Lelant Saltings area in the summer months and to notify Highways of this, and to express support for introducing a residents parking scheme in the area.

C&E.160 CONSOLS POND AND GOOD FRIDAY BOATING

It was noted that there were two elements of organisation needed for the Good Friday boating – to clear the pond of weed and of silt.

Weed clearance from the pond would be organised by Councillor S Tanner who has agreed to organise volunteers and equipment. Time needed to be allowed after the weed had been removed, for the wildlife to return to the pool. The weed would then need to be removed for disposal as green waste.

The silt had built up over several years and so the ‘silt island’ would need to be either levelled or removed prior to the Good Friday event. The Mayor had made enquiries about the potential use of a JCB to carry out the silt removal.

It was necessary to talk to the Environment Agency, land owner, find the equipment (JCB), funding for the works, and consideration of the wildlife (early activity due to the mild winter).

Noted that there was around £1,000 to be transferred from the Consols Pond Association when it ceased to run, and that an adjacent landowner had offered £500 towards the clearance works.

The Facilities Manager agreed to co-ordinate the works to clear the pond ready for the Good Friday boating.

RESOLVED – that the Environment Agency be contact as a matter of urgency.

Councillors S Tanner, Tulley and Taylor to attend the site meeting.

RECOMMENDED – to Council to agree to cover the remaining costs of the weed and silt clearance (costs to be confirmed).

C&E.161 **CORNWALL COUNCIL CONSULTATION – PROPOSED DIVERSION OF A PUBLIC FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION WITH A PROPOSED PLANNING APPLICATION: LAND WEST OF MENHYR DRIVE, CARBIS BAY AND ENVIRONS**

Members considered this consultation and noted that the purpose of the preliminary consultation was to invite feedback concerning the changes to the Public Right of Way which was proposed should a decision be made to grant planning permission for a development west of Menhyr Drive.

It was noted that the public footpath had recently been created due to the hard work of a local resident. Whilst the diversion would vary the route, it would continue to offer a connecting route between two footpaths.

RESOLVED – that no objection be made, but should only be implemented if the associated planning application referred to is granted.

C&E.162 **UPDATE ON PALEMON BEST RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Williams provided an update on the recent meeting of the User Group:

- community orchard to confirm areas of land ownership used for the orchard
- a commitment has been made to the User Group that improvements would be made to this community recreation facility.

Facilities Manager reported on recent site visits:

- Potential for a fantastic facility in a location which could serve a significant number of local residents
- Skatepark in particular had been in place for a number of years and was dated and due for replacement. This project would be assisted if a group of users and/or residents could work on ideas and fundraising
- Section 106 funding was due to be approved for use of improvements of the facilities at

Palemon Best Recreation Ground (capital costs)

- Repairs to the existing play equipment were needed and costs were to be sought

The Clerk reported that the management agreement was due to be drawn up and that once in place should enable the VAT to be reclaimed.

It was noted that there were Open Spaces funds remaining which could possibly be utilised to fund the improvements to the play equipment – to be referred to the Devolution Panel.

RESOLVED – that costings be sought for the repairs to the existing play equipment, repairs to be carried out within budget and report back on any additional funds needed to complete the works.

C&E.163 COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTER

Councillor Lait reported that when considering this with Councillor Williams, there were a number of community buildings which could be considered at risk of being lost to the community if put up for sale. In drawing up the list, there was differentiation between community buildings and buildings which people may wish to protect for the area.

During discussion it was questioned whether it was necessary to add community buildings to the Community Asset Register, taking into account the usual practice of Cornwall Council to carry out consultation before disposals.

When included on the register, a period of up to 6 months would then be allowed to enable any potential community bids, before general sale. Community assets could be council or privately owned, provided there was a proven community use.

When considering the list to be added to potentially be added to the Community Asset Register, information gathered during the Neighbourhood Planning process had been taken into account.

The list of buildings considered were referred to, but not circulated.

No decision was made at this stage.

C&E.164 CONSENT STREETS

This item was deferred to next meeting pending the sending of the letter to the MP and receipt of the MP's response.

It was noted that the MP would be meeting with local businesses in early February to discuss local concerns.

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

C&E.165 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - UPDATE

Councillor Lait reported on the most recent meeting of the Steering Group and consideration of the response from the Independent Examiner and further advice from Cornwall Council's planning officers.

In particular there had been a proposed revision of the wording, with a revision to tighten Policy H3 as much as possible.:

1. Policy H3: 100% Affordable Housing is only viable in exceptional circumstances: requiring 100% would result in Affordable Housing schemes not being delivered. Revised wording to tighten it as much as possible:

The purpose of such developments must be to provide primarily affordable housing. The number, type, size and tenure of dwellings should reflect identified local needs as evidenced through the Cornwall housing register or any specific local surveys completed using an approved methodology. Where there is no evidenced local need, development will not be supported. The inclusion of market housing will only be supported where it is essential for the successful delivery of the development proven by detailed financial viability appraisal. Proposals should seek to deliver 100% Affordable Housing, and then only reduce the proportion of affordable units to ensure the development is viable. If viability appraisal demonstrates less than 50% Affordable Housing is deliverable, the scheme will not be supported.

The Affordable Housing Team had had significant input into Policy H3 and there had been an ongoing negotiation on the wording with the aim of meeting as many of the original aims of the Neighbourhood Plan as possible. Cornwall Council officers were continuing to provide their expertise on the wording and policies throughout the document.

The final amendments were needed in order to bring the document to its final stages in readiness for the referendum. It was noted that the funds of the council should only be used to encourage people to vote in the referendum, good practice was to not lobby for a yes or no vote.

The loyal and dedicated support from the community volunteers working on the plan was acknowledged.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and that clear guidance be sought for Town Councillors on what could be said / written by them in the lead up to the referendum and during the referendum period.

C&E.166 THREE YEAR BUDGET – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Clerk advised on the previous council decision to move towards a three year budget, a forward financial plan to link to the vision of the council, to help plan for future commitment and projects, assisting financial planning and budgeting.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to give this further consideration

RESOLVED – that this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the committee, to be the first item on the agenda.

C&E.167 CARBIS BAY RECREATION AREAS

Councillor Williams updated on a recent meeting of a working group of Lelant and Carbis Bay Ward Members, reviewing the recreation areas and potential new recreation areas in Carbis Bay and Lelant.

It was noted that recreation areas could be developed in a number of ways, including being part of a housing development, extension of an existing area, or a new play area in an existing site. Recreation areas can include play equipment or more information areas for play.

Areas identified with a potential for development as a recreation area were:

The funds of around £35,000 allocated by a section 106 agreement for Chy An Gweal Gardens could be utilised to improve disability access and the remainder could be used at the Menhyr Drive play area (if that development proceeds) or to Trewartha play area.

The green space at Higher Boskerris could potentially be improved, as could the Mike Peters Estate.

Lelant – a recreation area could be created in the park and ride area if not used for parking at a later date.

RESOLVED – that the ideas for development of recreation areas as set out above, be endorsed.

C&E.168 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.169 TRAFFIC CONTROL (Paragraph 3)

The Clerk advised Councillors that there was an existing vacancy for the post of Traffic Control Officer / Enforcement Officer / caretaker. The scope of the job could be reviewed at this point, prior to recruitment and the police training being arranged.

During discussion it was noted that the traffic control was perhaps most effective at the ‘Porthminster Junction’, to help avert traffic from entering the town centre area. It was agreed that there should be 7 days a week cover and that the post should be advertised as per the previous job description.

There was a request for the enforcement of illegal A Frames to be included in the job description of this post and the Clerk advised that a response was awaited from Cornwall Council on whether this power could be delegated to the town council.

RESOLVED – that the existing Traffic Control Officer / Enforcement Officer / Caretaker post be advertised for recruitment, with the addition of a duty: enforcement of illegal A Frames – if / when the town council is delegated the power.

C&E.170 REVIEW OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR LONGSTONE CEMETRY (Paragraph 3)

The Clerk advised that following complaints over the Christmas period, the security arrangements at Longstone Cemetery should be reviewed. It was noted that the town council carries out the locking and unlocking of the gates (a service contracted out), to help ensure the security of the cemetery after Cornwall Council ceased to do so in view of budget reductions.

It was noted that there had been recent suggestions for security improvements, as set out in the report of the Conservator, acting for the Hepworth Trust. A number of suggestions had merits, although Councillors did not wish to follow the floodlighting option.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED - to investigate reasonable ways to follow the security recommendations as set out in the report from the Hepworth Trust, Facilities Manager to lead on this work.

C&E.171 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 March 2016.

Meeting closed at 9.38 pm

Chairman