

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held in the Committee Room of the Guildhall St Ives on Thursday 7 March 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Williams
Vice Chairman – Councillor A Harris

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Henry R	Tulley R
Griffin J	Nicholls C	

IN ATTENDANCE

Mitchell A

OFFICERS

Town Clerk
Support Services Manager
Minute Taker

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors R Lait, K Arthur, S Tanner, K Messenger

C&E.66 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th January 2019

C&E.67 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Committee heard a report from the organiser (Tassy Swallow) of the Island Disco event which has recently been licenced by Cornwall Council for a third year. Ms Swallow explained that her priority was to stage a local community event for residents and families. She was happy to answer questions from the Council and listen to any concerns.

In response to questions from Councillors, Ms Swallow advised that:

- The overall site area had been shrunk to avoid conflicts with dog walkers and any events in the Chapel
- The fencing was necessary but there was greater publicity about the event and the fencing so hopefully more people would be aware
- The toilets would be provided by Biffa and there would be more this year
- Ticket sales had increased to 1,500 but, in an attempt to keep the event local, the organisers weren't looking for greater ticket sales in future years
- She recognised concerns about parking but it was hoped that the pay on exit parking changes would help queuing along Island Road.

Councillors confirmed that there had been complaints in previous years and welcomed attempts to address some of the issues. Councillors congratulated Ms Swallow on her initiative in organising and community event and willingness to come and meet with Councillors

C&E.68 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

An application has gone in for a blue flag award for Porthmeor beach, results were awaited. Pay on exit parking is being initiated at both the Island and Trenwith Car Parks. Because of the number of areas requesting speed radars, a Cornwall speed forum is planned for those areas forming Speed Watch groups. The provisional date of the first meeting is 14th May (to be confirmed). A briefing document was also being prepared on the use of radars.

Councillors asked about whether recycling bins in Trenwith carpark could still be accessed, when pay on exit is installed. Councillor Mitchell confirmed that a 15 minute grace period would be in place to allow access for recycling and school run trips. The length of time would be kept under review.

The Big Lunch will take place on the first weekend of June (weather dependent). This is a national initiative which encouraged local residents and community organisations to get together to share food.

To celebrate Cornwall Council's 10th anniversary, it had launched its own DIY S-O-S initiative with staff volunteering to complete community projects. Only one project could be funded in each community network area and the Link officer requested that information about the project and nominations was circulated to all Councillors. Councillors confirmed that information had been attached to the agenda.

C&E: 69 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

As the Council's representative on the Community Network Panel, Councillor Harris provided an update on the Community Network Local Highways Scheme event. A number of schemes in St Ives were prioritised by the Panel's meeting which took place on the 4th of March as follows:

- Lelant station hill - double yellow lines on the left hand side, ascending the hill
- Longstone cemetery: The creation of a footway from the bus stop to the cemetery. Councillor Harris advised that the estimated cost would be £6,000 not £3,000 as stated.
- A mobile speed radar reserved for the parish and kept in place on an 8 week cycle. There were several models of ownership/leasing for consideration and Cornwall Council would write to those parishes affected setting out the options. There were financial implications for the town council linked to the purchase, moving or maintenance of equipment. This would need to be considered by Council.

Councillors queried other schemes not on the long list including a pedestrian crossing at Penbeagle. Councillor Harris advised that there were other schemes still being evaluated by Cornwall Council which could come forward in due course.

The chairman confirmed that the Committee could resolve to support the schemes in principle whilst still awaiting costs.

RESOLVED – that the Committee support the schemes approved for St Ives in principle, subject to detailed costings being received and any schemes with financial implications referred to Council.

C&E.70 DECLARATION OF COUNCILLOR/OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

C&E.71 OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT

The report was noted.

The Committee requested an update on minute C.57 - Carbis Bay noticeboard. The Support Services Manager confirmed that the pharmacy were happy to accept the board but were leaseholders and this needed the approval of the site owner. She had written formally to the site owners but was yet to receive a response. She advised that it may be necessary to have an alternative option. Councillors suggested one option was the Longstone bus stop which was very busy with plenty of footfall and the other side of Carbis Bay from Tesco (which was already well provided for). It was also likely that the land near the bus top was Cornwall Council highway land. The Support Services Manager was asked to explore this.

RESOLVED – that the Support Services Manager explore the option of a notice board near Longstone bus stop, whilst awaiting a reply from the land owner of the pharmacy.

Restoration of Dual Form – the Chairman confirmed that the restorers would be undertaking the work during the week commencing the 11th of May. They had secured free accommodation for most of the stay but may need 2 single rooms for two nights.

The Chairman advised that the date of the annual electors meeting is now confirmed as 6pm on Monday 29th of April. The date needed to be advertised (website, press etc). The Annual Report would be circulated prior to the meeting. The Council would also invite community groups who had received a Council grant in the last year to talk about their projects. Committee Chairmen confirmed they wanted to continue to write the relevant section of the report for their own committee. The Committee agreed that it was important that Cornwall Councillors were also in attendance, given that many questions related to Cornwall Council services.

RESOLVED – that Committee chairmen would prepare draft text for their respective section of the annual report, to be submitted to the Support Services Manager. Arrangements for the meeting would be made by the Support Services team and reflect the recommendations of the working group.

C&E.72 DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE GWR TIMETABLE CONSULTATION: ST ERTH – ST IVES

Councillors debated the proposed timetable and the draft response. They noted that although the increase in stops at Carbis Bay from hourly to half hourly intervals was positive, there was no evidence to justify the comment in the consultation that “*most journeys end at Carbis Bay*”. Some Councillors suggested that it would potentially simplify and protect the timetable to propose that there was a regular stopping service at Carbis Bay and one Lelant station. It was further proposed that the Council state in its response that, rather than a half hourly service at Carbis Bay, both Carbis Bay and Lelant village benefit from an hourly stopping service. Following a 12 month period, the revised timetable should be evaluated to assess the impact of the changes.

RESOLVED – that the Committee submit a response to GWR proposing that there is an hourly stopping service at both Lelant Village (not the park and ride) and Carbis Bay with the impact of the new timetable being reviewed after 12 months in operation.

C&E.73 PSPO AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Support Services Manager introduced the report. She requested that the Committee consider the report, alongside the update report which proposed revised recommendations 3 and 4. The Council had only that week received a formal response from Cornwall Council's legal officer, hence the need for an urgent update report. The response was similar to previous informal advice which was that there were a number of relevant byelaws in place for the harbour area. Proactive enforcement of the byelaws could be just as effective as the granting of a PSPO. In addition, the case for a PSPO had to be evidence based and the legal officer did not feel that the town council had sufficient evidence as yet to demonstrate why the current powers did not work.

Councillors debated the issues raised by the report. Some commented that byelaws couldn't be effective because they needed to be enforced in the magistrates court. A breach of the PSPO was dealt with on the spot by a fixed penalty notice. The Committee felt that an enforcement officer working in the town over the Summer months could help collect the evidence by enforcing the current byelaws. An officer employed by Cornwall Council would be helpful. But there would need to be more discussion about exactly how it would be implemented.

The Committee considered some of the individual activities listed in the legal advice. Councillors agreed that there was no need for a PSPO to cover certain activities such as fires on beaches or seagulls. The Committee questioned whether a Cornwall Council enforcement officer, employed over the summer season would be responsible for traffic enforcement. The Town Clerk confirmed that Cornwall Council had not yet confirmed this but it would be useful to ensure that this was included in the job description and employ someone with the power to direct traffic even if this was not implemented.

A proposal to amend the recommendation to suggest that the person employed had the power to direct traffic, whether or not this was required, was carried.

RESOLVED – that

1. A broad timetable, for preparing a PSPO to be introduced for 2020/2021, is adopted which involves data and evidence gathering during the summer months of 2019 and the conclusions being brought back to Community & Environment Committee in October for any decision to proceed
2. A working group is established with the following tasks to:
 - i. Set out precisely the activities and geographical coverage (and any exemptions) of the proposed Order;
 - ii. Review the evidence supporting each one of the defined activities;
 - iii. undertake any additional evidence-gathering, as necessary;
 - iv. agree a programme of consultation and carry out early consultation with specific interest groups and key partners; and
 - v. make recommendations to the C&E committee for decision.
3. The Committee **RECOMMENDS** that Council
 - i. Enters into a joint funding agreement with Cornwall Council to support the

- recruitment of a Civil Protection Officer, whose duties shall include traffic enforcement, subject to a final detailed proposal being agreed and;
- ii. Existing funds within the 2019-2020 budget, earmarked for enforcement and PSPO consultation are used for this purpose

C&E.74 FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE AND AMENITIES WORKS

The Committee considered the two options proposed in the report. Councillors felt that the Council had made improvements in footpath maintenance and they did not want this work to be lost. There was a general agreement that option 2 was preferable. Some Councillors questioned the proposed approach at Palemon Best for “minimal management” after the hard work of the Council to improve the area’s appearance. Councillors were reminded that the maintenance contract with CORMAC would continue.

Councillors questioned whether a decision to approve funds from reserves would come quickly enough from Council to tackle re-growth. However, it was noted that there was an equivalent underspend on the street weeding which could be vired into the footpath maintenance budget without a call on reserves.

RECOMMENDED – to Finance & General Purposes Committee that the underspend within the current street weeding budget be vired into the footpath maintenance budget to enable the commission of external contractors to clear footpaths and the South West Coast Path up to a contract value of £3,000.

C&E.75 STREET WEEDING IN 2019

The Committee confirmed that the street weeding had been very effective in 2018. Councillors noted concerns about the use of glyphosate but as the Facilities Manager reported, it was highly effective when compared with other methods. A proposed amendment that “weeding of the islands and central reservations be continued” was carried.

Councillors commented that the companies running the contracts should be well used to taking the necessary precautions. It was therefore proposed that if glyphosate were to be used, companies tendering for the work would be asked to present their health and safety policies, method statements and risk assessments, particularly regarding exposure to hazardous chemicals.

RESOLVED – that the Committee approve another mini-tender to identify a company to carry out 2 weed treatments in the same streets as in 2018, with another to be carried out if required. The tender documentation should specify the inclusion of weeding of the islands and central reservations and request that bidders submit their health and safety policies, method statements and risk assessments, particularly regarding exposure to hazardous chemicals

C&E.76 DRAFT SINGLE USE PLASTICS AUDIT AND ACTION PLAN

The Chairman welcomed the audit report. Councillor Andrewes confirmed he had submitted the audit to Plastic Free St Ives and had received a very positive response and helpful feedback, primarily about sourcing replacement products. He had subsequently circulated this to the Support Services Manager.

The Chairman suggested that Councillors also embraced the action plan and those attending meetings also be mindful about not bringing takeaway drinks in disposable plastic cups. Councillors asked about the proposed expenditure on bins and their location. The Support Services Manager confirmed that bins in the concert hall were in poor condition and bins would also be located in the foyer and kitchen.

RESOLVED – that the Committee approve the 2019 single use plastics audit and action plan and **RECOMMEND** to Council that the waste reduction grant is earmarked to support the purchase of a water fountain, recycling bins and similar items to support the delivery of the action plan

C&E.77 FINANCE REPORT

Members considered the Town Clerk's report, setting out the actual versus budgeted expenditure for the cost centres falling within the responsibility of this committee.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

C&E.78 REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Members considered the report on the earmarked reserves held which fall under the area of responsibility of this committee, with a view to making any recommendations to the Finance & General Purposes Committee regarding movements in reserves in-year and at financial year end.

During discussion the following points were considered:

- Allotments. These funds were to deliver new provision. The additional allotments were still needed but progress had not been possible due to the proposed site not coming forward and limited staff resources. It was hoped that officers could progress this over the coming year.
- Bus shelters – it was agreed that there was expected to be a need for provision of more bus shelters and so the earmarked reserve was to be retained.
- Palemon Best play equipment. It was noted that this was a donation from the rotary club. Members questioned whether it could be used for maintenance of equipment (as the sum was unlikely to be sufficient to provide any new equipment on its own).
- Restoration of Dual Form – it was noted that at financial year end it would be necessary to create an earmarked reserve for the restoration costs of £2,100 plus expenses, agreed in this financial year to be funded from reserves.

RESOLVED – that

- i. the Committee **RECOMMEND** to Finance & General Purposes Committee that the earmarked reserves (including for the restoration of Dual Form) be retained
- ii. Councillor Symons seek to views of the Rotary club about the use of their grant for the maintenance of play equipment.

C&E.79 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Cornwall Council neighbourhoods overview and scrutiny report: approach to stakeholder consultation: review of dogs on beaches Public Space Protection Orders

The report was due to be considered by Cornwall Council's neighbourhoods overview and scrutiny committee on the 5th of March and the decision of the committee was awaited. It was anticipated that Cornwall Council would write to the Council as a stakeholder and consultation was proposed to take place during April – June. The Chairman noted that a special Council meeting may be required to agree the Council's response.

C&E.80 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence circulated prior to the meeting was noted.

Meeting closed 9:10pm