

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held in the Committee Room of the Guildhall St Ives on Thursday 30 May 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Williams
Vice Chairman – Councillor J Griffin

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Harris T	Nicholls C
Arthur K	Henry R	Tulley R
Griffin J	Messenger K	

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor A Mitchell
Vanessa Luckwell, Cornwall Council Community Link Officer

OFFICERS

Support Services Manager
Administration Support

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

C&E1 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 March 2019.

C&E2 The Mayor opened the meeting and invited nominations for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Williams be elected Committee Chairman and Councillor Griffin Vice Chairman.

C&E.3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

A representative from St Ives RNLI addressed the Committee regarding dogs on the Harbour Beach. RNLI were responsible for ensuring the lifeboat was launched into the sea safely and quickly. They were concerned about the number of dogs off their leads on the Harbour Beach. This was impeding safe and quick launch of the boat. Frequently, the dogs chased the wheels of the launch tractor. There was also a large amount of dog excrement around the slipway which the crew stepped in and walked onto boat. The speaker circulated a letter and asked that it be shared with all councillors.

A second speaker had asked to address the Committee in support of the current dog control orders. He was opposed to changing the terms of the order. However, suggested that access could be improved by redrawing the line between West Pier and Smeatons. This would make access to Lambeth Sands better for those with mobility issues. Extending the morning hours until 9am could be considered also.

The Chairman thanked them for their contributions.

C&E.4 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

Vanessa Luckwell confirmed that the next Community Network Panel meeting would take place on 4th June at Reawla community hall. Agenda items included the climate change emergency and the NHS community services review. A county speed awareness forum had been held which Councillor Harris attended.

She gave the Committee an update and information on forthcoming events as follows:

- St Erth multi modal hub opening on the 31 May 2019
- The Tate installation of Allan van Hoord '063 Urban Songline (Another Hurling of the Silver Ball)' will be moving through St Ives on Saturday 22 June 2019.
- Saints Board Riders' building at Porthmeor will be opening soon and the Town Council will be invited
- Porthmeor Beach has received a 'Blue Flag' beach award.
- The nationwide 'Big Lunch' initiative is taking place on the weekend of the 1-2 June. Towns and local parish councils are encouraged to support events where they can

There was also a discussion about events taking place on the Island and Councillors expressed concerns about the impact on the town. The Link Officer is meeting with Cornwall Council colleagues to discuss this issue over the next week.

C&E5 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

PRESENTATION FROM DAI LAWTON OF THE HAYLE YOUTH PROJECT ON FUTURE OPTIONS FOR DELIVERING YOUTH PROJECTS

The Committee heard a presentation from Hayle Youth Club. The club has been running for 20 years. It caters for two age groups 11-13 and 14-16 year olds. The club provided activities, breakfast clubs and sports groups and equipment but also offered meals, 1 to 1 mentoring and advice and counselling for a range of issues, for periods of 6 weeks up to 2 years. They were seeing mental health issues, incidences of self-harm and suicidal tendencies. The sessions were youth directed in a group setting run by mentors.

In response to Councillors' questions it was confirmed that:

- Any new centre in St Ives would need a working kitchen and would benefit from equipment but the Hayle service could also provide equipment.
- The Island Centre was a suitable location for access. There was also scope to run outreach / peripatetic sessions in the rest of the parish. A month before any service started the club undertook local promotion and visited main estates
- It was better if age groups were split between sessions.
- One session a week each year would cost approximately £6,000. They had the capacity to run 3 a week. But if there were to be more than one, it might for the Town Council to fund existing groups too.
- There was no scope to begin services before September

Points raised after the presentation were as follows:

- It was too early to make funding decisions without more work being undertaken
- There were two existing providers in the town and in exploring the options the Council should also consider working with them
- A range of locations should be explored to reflect where children and young people lived and also activities should appeal equally to boys and girls.

Councillors discussed the presentation but, as the item wasn't on the agenda it wasn't possible to make decisions at this meeting. The Chairman advised that a report could be developed to be considered at Council or a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

C&E.6 DECLARATION OF COUNCILLOR/OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

C&E.7 OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the clerk's update report and the following queries were raised and answered:

- Footpath clearance had commenced. The Council had re-employed a seasonal staff member who had received the appropriate training
- The fun run was managed by the Round Table and was a successful event with 36 competitors. Given this and the onerous risk assessment process for the Council in running the event, Councillor Messenger proposed that the Round Table be asked to take over the fun run permanently. A short report would be brought to the next committee.
- Restoration of Dual Form was complete. There had been many positive responses from the public, although some Councillors had mixed responses to the work.
- A meeting to consult the Palemon Best users group on a draft planting scheme was being arranged for later in June. There was also a request for the Council to consider housing a kiln from the Leach pottery on the site. This was at a very early stage and would need the trustees to raise significant funds. The Committee felt this was a positive proposal.
- The Committee thanked officers for completing a number of items on the update report.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

C&E.8 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS: RENEWAL OF EXISTING DOGS ON BEACHES RESTRICTIONS TO COME INTO EFFECT FROM APRIL 2020

The Chairman introduced the report. She explained that Cornwall Council were consulting the Council prior to the main public consultation taking place from August. The Council's views were being sought on the general approach and, in particular, whether changes to harmonise the approach across Cornwall might be appropriate.

The Committee debated the issue at length and a range of views were expressed. Some of the key points raised were as follows:

- Arrangements for the harbour should be discussed. The Council was aware that harbour users wanted wider restrictions. However, it was felt that controlling the hours of use had been a reasonable compromise. A proposal to extend an outright seasonal ban to the harbour was voted upon and defeated.
- Some Councillors remained concerned about extending access to the main bathing beaches.
- Although the seasonal times for the St Ives control order were out of kilter with other towns and villages, some Councillors felt that the timings worked better as they ensured full coverage over the holiday periods.
- The town should propose that the control orders must allow for local variation in approach, given the different scale and type of resort. St Ives holiday season started earlier than in other places.
- Councillors recognised that it was a divisive issue but expressed the wish that both sides debated it in a sensible fashion this time
- There is no dog ban in St Ives but access to dog-friendly beaches and times etc needed to be better communicated.

The Committee agreed that it was helpful for the Council to respond to the consultation and give an initial view. However, it was also recognised that many views would be expressed during the large scale public consultation due to take place. The Town Council considered the evidence from the consultation last time and weighed this up in making their response. It would retain an open mind to consider the evidence again. However, at this stage it was helpful to try to come to an initial view.

The majority view of the Committee was that it supported control orders remaining in place, however there may be some aspects of the orders where Cornwall Council might want to think again.

The Committee **RECOMMEND** that

the Council submit a response to Cornwall Council's consultation. The response should confirm that, at this stage of the review process, the Town Council is minded to retain the existing dog control order provisions but propose that Cornwall Council review specific arrangements in relation to the harbour and access routes to dog friendly beaches. To recognise the differences between coastal resorts, the Council continue to support locally based arrangements, rather than the harmonisation of the orders across Cornwall. The Town Council also recommend increasing the number of dog bins, improving signage and publicity information for the public. It also proposes that the Council explore if enforcement powers could be granted to other groups, for example lifeguards.

C&E.9 PSPO AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Support Services Manager introduced the report. She advised that as Cornwall Council was not able to deliver a service which included the direction of traffic, this would need to be taken out of the proposed role. Councillors confirmed that, were this to be the case, they still wanted to recruit a seasonal traffic officer, recognising that the time for recruitment and training was limited.

In terms of the proposal for a jointly funded Cornwall Council officer, the Support Services Manager gave the Committee a verbal update recently received from

Cornwall Council which confirmed the following draft terms:

- The Town Council would have a named officer for the period
- The role could commence on the 1st of July as the postholder had been recruited and was located in the parking enforcement team
- Parking enforcement work was not a priority, relative to the environmental protection duties
- The postholder would work on a fortnightly working pattern, working 22.2 hours and 14.8 hours on alternate weeks for a fixed price sum, including transport.
- The rotas and line management would be Cornwall Council's responsibility but would include variable hours and some week-end working.
- The postholder would take an advisory approach to the existing by-laws but would not be taking enforcement action.
- Data on all interventions would be collected and shared with the town council.

Councillors supported the overall proposal but remained concerned that enforcement of the by-laws was the most essential part of the role and questioned what form the *advisory approach* would take. It had the potential to be ineffectual. However, it was recognised that unless data were collected to demonstrate that the by-laws were not effective, Cornwall Council would be unwilling to progress a PSPO.

It was requested that, should the arrangement go ahead, an early meeting would be scheduled with the parking enforcement manager to discuss the details.

RESOLVED – that

- i) as a variance to the existing Council resolution, officers be authorised to make all necessary preparations, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Staffing Committee, to recruit a seasonal traffic officer as a matter of urgency. Preparations to include reviewing the job role, advertising, interviewing and ensuring CSAS training and accreditation with the police.
- ii) officers continue to conclude a detailed arrangement with Cornwall Council for purchasing part time civil enforcement officer hours including enforcing the by-laws along the harbour and Wharf Road and the dog control order.
- iii) a detailed proposal be brought back to Council on the 13th of June for final approval.

C&E.10 COMMUNITY NETWORKS HIGHWAY SCHEME

The Chairman introduced the item, explaining that the Cornwall Council funding would fund the use of the mobile speed device and a maintenance package for four years. The Committee were invited to identify up to 8 locations between which a device might be rotated over a period of a year. During the debate, the Community Link Officer advised the Committee that the package cost for one device had increased. At £19,000, the inclusive cost of one device was now far greater than the proposed budget of £5,000 allocated to each town and parish council. Either the Council would, therefore, need to share the device with other towns and parishes or would need to make a financial contribution.

Councillors expressed concern that the funding arrangements now had significant

financial implications for the Town Council and were very different from the original proposal. It was, therefore, proposed that the Town Council did not pursue this option any further at this time.

RESOLVED – that the Council withdraw from any discussions regarding a mobile speed activation sign as long as the financial arrangements remained unchanged.

C&E.11 TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE BOARDS

The Committee welcomed the identification of a proposed location at Carbis Bay. They considered options for the design of the noticeboard and agreed that, for durability and reduced maintenance, steel boards were preferred. It was proposed that the design of the boards be delegated to officers in consultation with the local Councillors, subject to the preferred design being within the overall budget. Councillors also emphasised the need to ensure that the content of the boards was regularly maintained.

The Committee **RECOMMEND** that Council fund the purchase of two steel noticeboards with a maximum cost of £4,000 to be funded from reserves and that the chosen design be finalised in consultation with the local Councillors.

C&E.12 TROWAN ALLOTMENTS – REPLACEMENT WATER TANKS

The Committee supported the funding request of £1000 to assist the allotment association to replace five water tanks. However, concern was expressed that the proposal was to fund this from the allotments income and expenditure budget, given that the rental income was factored into the Council's overall budget for 2019-20. It was therefore proposed that the Committee recommend to Council that this be funded from general reserves.

The Committee **RECOMMEND** that Council finance the purchase of five replacement water tanks for Trowan allotments at a cost of £1,000, to be funded from reserves.

C&E.13 FINANCE REPORT

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

Meeting ended at 9.26pm