

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 10 January 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Williams
Vice Chairman – Councillor A Harris

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Messenger K	Tulley R
Henry R	Nicholls C	Lait R
Tanner S	Griffin J	

OFFICERS

Facilities Manager Minute Taker

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors H Garrod & J Symons.

C&E.52 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 October 2018.

C&E.53 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The committee heard a report from a representative of Action Against Foxhunting and was shown a signed petition that includes the words, “We also contend that no public dignitaries representing the office of Mayor or councillor should entertain or act in any manner that promotes [the Western Hunt].”

C&E54 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

No update was received.

C&E.55 DECLARATION OF COUNCILLOR/OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

C&E.56 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was agreed that tabled correspondence from Cornwall Council, which is seeking views regarding changes to off-street parking by February 1st, should be considered as an urgent matter.

C&E.57 OFFICER’S UPDATE REPORT

The report was noted.

Councillor Tulley reported that Councillor Robinson has this week submitted a file of numerous complaints about obstructions in the streets of the town centre to Cornwall Council and is awaiting a response. When the Support Services Manager is in post, a meeting can be held to agree next steps and which activities should be included in a PSPO.

Councillor Griffin stated that she would be happy to represent the council on the Fairtrade Steering Group but noted that the matter has yet to be discussed in a formal meeting. The Chairman thanked Councillor Griffin for her offer.

RESOLVED – that representation on Fairtrade Steering Group be formally decided at the next meeting of this committee.

Clerk's note: appointments to outside organisations are made by Council rather than committee, and so this item will be included on the agenda of the next scheduled meeting of the Council.

In response to a question from Councillor Lait about the working group looking at revamping the Annual Electors Meeting, the Chairman said that a meeting will be convened.

Councillor Harris noted that the action in relation to the noticeboard in Carbis Bay was incorrect. The Facilities Manager commented that he believed that the Community Link Officer had suggested approaching Tesco for a contribution towards the cost of a noticeboard.

RESOLVED that the update report be amended to remove the reference to the Community Link Officer contacting Tesco.

Councillor Andrewes reported that Plastic Free St Ives has signed up over 220 businesses as plastic-free champions and has organised beach cleans, the next being on 22nd January. It was agreed that the Town Council should audit its use of single-use plastics and work out how this can be reduced.

RESOLVED – that staff undertake an audit of single-use plastics and report back to a future meeting.

C&E.58 **THE WESTERN HUNT AT THE FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS**

The committee discussed the presence of the hunt at Feast Day. Councillors said that they were opposed to hunting and any form of cruelty inflicted on animals for sport and entertainment; that trail hunting as a stimulation to recreate the thrill of the chase was disgraceful; and that the hunt's stated support for the repeal of the law against hunting with dogs was insupportable. It was said that hunting is an anachronism and that new traditions should be developed for the town. It was noted that the character of the parish had changed from one dominated by a rural economy. Members felt that, instead of bringing the community together, the hunt brought division and is inconsistent with the town council's Animal Rights Charter and the refurbishment of the mayoral gowns. The words of the public speaker and the petition signed by approximately 5000 people were noted.

RECOMMENDED – to council that the Western Hunt should not attend Feast Days until invited by the town council, and that this resolution should be added to the town council's Animal Rights Charter.

C&E.59 **FUN RUN**

The Facilities Manager said his report was written to highlight some confusion about the responsibilities the council would have if the 2019 Fun Run is organised by the Round Table. He reported that he, Councillor Williams and Councillor Messenger had met before the meeting and agreed that the Round Table would take responsibility for the run but would probably ask council

to provide 6-8 marshals for the event. References to the town council on the posters advertising the run would be removed. The Facilities Manager said that he would also arrange for council noticeboards to be used to advertise the event, and for application forms to be available in the Guildhall and library. He will forward his risk assessment and the Health and Safety Executive guidance on organising fun runs to Councillor Messenger. Councillors were asked to note that the day of the run is Saturday 11th May. The Chairman expressed the committee's thanks to Councillor Messenger and the Round Table for stepping in to organise the event.

RESOLVED - that the council's responsibilities are sufficiently clear, to support the Round Table by helping with marshalling and advertising the event.

C&E.60 **CLEARANCE OF CONSOLS POOL**

The Facilities Manager's report was noted. He stated that he was not prepared either to clear weed from the pool, nor to ask his team to do it, unless the high level of silt, gravel and debris in the pool is removed. He stated that the work is dangerous, cold and exhausting, and staff are not sufficiently protected by wearing waders. He reminded the committee that the Environment Agency would demand that regulations relating to the clearance of silt from the pool be followed. Councillors debated whether the owner should pay for the clearance but noted that he would have no incentive to do so. It was agreed that the work should be carried out as soon as possible to minimise the effect on wildlife. It was also agreed that approaching the Environment Agency to pay for the work would not be fruitful. Members agreed that the Good Friday event had a lasting popularity and was an important tradition for the parish. It was mentioned that local businesses would probably be happy to contribute to paying for the clearance.

RECOMMENDED – to council to fund the clearance of Consols Pool from reserves, and that the Facilities Manager seeks three quotes to ensure that value-for-money is achieved and Financial Regulations observed.

C&E.61 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

The Chairman introduced the paper. The committee discussed the extent to the level of action and ambition that is appropriate for a small town council like St Ives. Councillors felt that the ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030 is important, while acknowledging that other bodies would have to facilitate this. That Cornwall Council will now have to develop a plan was noted, although the town council has no details on when this will happen nor what links will be made to town and parish councils. It was agreed that the proposed motion was too onerous for the town council to commit to at this time, and that action should be aligned to the Cornwall Council plan. It was proposed that the town council should write to the local authority, stating that, "St Ives Town Council is committed to the need for a climate change plan and feels our natural partner in this is Cornwall Council. We look forward to the local authority report and will then consider whether we can adopt this."

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Cornwall Council expressing that the town council's goal is to be carbon neutral by 2030, that it wishes to work with Cornwall Council to help achieve this, and to find out when the local authority plan is likely to be published.

C&E.62 **CHANGE TO ANIMAL CHARTER**

The Facilities Manager summarised his brief report by saying that the amendment proposed at the last meeting to the Animal Charter required one paragraph in the Charter to be replaced. It was

also noted that the decision not to invite the Western Hunt to Feast Day should also feature in the Charter, if adopted by council.

RECOMMENDED – to Council that the Animal Charter be changed as noted in the report, and that it be further amended to reflect the council’s position, if council resolves not to invite the Western Hunt to future Feast Day celebrations.

C&E.63 OFF STREET PARKING CONSULTATION – CORNWALL COUNCIL

The local authority wishes to make changes to regulations pertaining to its car parks across Cornwall, most of which already prohibit the overnight parking of motor homes. It wishes to extend this to several car parks across Cornwall, including Porthrepta, Carbis Bay and West Quay. Councillor Andrewes reported that Cornwall Council is seeking an across-the-board increase in parking fees for all public car parks in Cornwall in line with inflation and noted that the fees in St Ives are already significantly higher than other places. He also said that far-reaching changes to reserved parking permits are also proposed. He proposed that a town-based response to the imposition of increased parking fines should come collectively from BID, SiTA, PASTI and the town council, although councillors may also respond individually.

RESOLVED – that the town council will chair a meeting of the above bodies to formulate a town-based response to Cornwall Council regarding the imposition of increased parking fees in the parish.

C&E.64 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 matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

C&E.65 RESTORATION OF DUAL FORM (Paragraph 3)

Referring to the report, the Chairman reported that the Hepworth Trust has offered to pay a substantial amount towards the cost of restoring *Dual Form*. She noted that the conservators have not specified all of their costs but said that she could offer free accommodation to them to defray the costs to the council. Members discussed the extent to which the natural weathering process should be reversed, and it was agreed that the conservators are experts in these matters, are supported by the Hepworth Trust and can be relied on to carry out the required work.

RECOMMENDED – that council be asked to release funds from Reserves to allow the restoration to take place, including reasonable costs for accommodation, if the conservators are unable to take advantage of Councillor Williams’s offer of free accommodation.