

127. DECLARATION OF MEMBER/OFFICER INTERESTS

Town Clerk and the RFO & Corporate Services Manager declared an interest in the report on the outcome of job evaluation. At that point they would therefore leave the meeting. Councillor Arthur had agreed to take over hosting the meeting for this item.

128. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

129. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 January 2021.

130. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT

117: Co-option to a casual vacancy – Council confirmed Councillor Rogers' membership of the Planning and Facilities Committees.

118: Covid Update iii) Cancellation of Feast Ceremonies - The schools had responded and stated that they would like to postpone the delivery of the saffron buns until schools have resumed after half term.

121: Proposed heads of terms for a commercial lease - The Town Clerk confirmed this item related to the Island Centre.

100: Outcome of external audit – The Town Clerk confirmed that the challenge correspondence was now resolved and external auditors had signed off the accounts for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

109: Replacement of retiring LIS Manager – The Chairman confirmed that an interview panel met on the 17 February and with assistance from key stakeholders, they have appointed Emma Gibson to the role, who would begin on the Tuesday 6 April.

108. Relationship with the Acorn. In response to a request for an update, the Town Clerk confirmed that a team from the Acorn and Council were meeting fortnightly, new terms and conditions had been drafted and finalised for bookings, a bar has been designed and was being built and equipment specified. There were already 6 potential bookings for a late spring programme from the end of May with a covid secure venue. Also, the RFO was looking at a ticket solution to enable tickets to be purchased through the website.

77: Skate park project update – The Town Clerk agreed that a funding update would be taken to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

101: Consols Pool - A member asked for an update, including whether the event could go ahead this year. The Town Clerk advised that the pond needed de-silting and the cheapest quote was around £10,000 (subject to the Council deposing of the silt). In order to agree a way forward, The Clerk proposed a short consultation exercise to seek the community's views on paying for the de-silting. It may be that there was scope to consider other options, as the origins of the event were 1,500 years old and linked to communities sailing model boats out to sea for protection. Community views on all the options could be reported back to the Community and Environment Committee meeting with delegation for the Committee to make a final decision.

RESOLVED – that subject to the above comments and amendments, the report be noted.

131. SELECTION OF MAYOR DESIGNATE 2021-22

The Town Clerk introduced the process and confirmed that there were two nominees, Councillor Mitchell and Councillor Arthur. She explained that as it was a Zoom meeting, voting (which was usually held via secret ballot) would be through a ZOOM on-line poll. As the poll was launched to everyone in the meeting, it would be necessary to exclude the press and public at that point. It was confirmed, however, that the press and public could be present to hear the presentations made by the candidates.

Each candidate gave a 3 minute presentation and answered a member question about the time each would be able to dedicate to the role alongside their other jobs and duties.

At this point, members of the press and public left the meeting, during the on-line polling.

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the outcome of the poll, in which 9 votes were cast for Councillor Arthur and 6 for Councillor Mitchell.

RESOLVED - that Councillor Arthur be confirmed as Mayor Designate for the year 2021-22.

Members of the press and public were readmitted to the meeting.

132. PROGRESS TOWARDS A PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Councillor Tulley introduced the item. He stated that all Council members were aware of concerns raised by some activities on Wharf Road and the seafront each Summer (ticket selling, hair braiding, A boards etc). Many of the activities contravened historic bye laws. But enforcement was ineffectual and costly to administer through the courts. Other local authorities with similar issues had found that a public spaces protection order had been effective. This prevented certain activities from being carried out and the remedy for breaching the order was a fixed penalty fine, which would be more effective. The Town Council had been lobbying for this approach for some time. It was only now, however, that Cornwall Council had agreed to consult on an order and had prepared a draft. Local elections would delay progress but it was proposed that the draft order would be considered at the first meeting of Cornwall Council's neighbourhood Committee after the elections. An order would then be consulted upon and could be in place for late Summer 2021, staying in place for up to 3 years. The draft order simply stated that Council approval was required for three types of restricted activity.

In response to members' questions, the Town Clerk confirmed that

- Enforcement resources were in the existing 2021-22 budget for the Summer but further discussion was needed with Cornwall Council on what resources they were able to offer. There was also an in-principle commitment by BID to jointly fund enforcement officer time.
- The administering council was Cornwall Council. It was hoped, however, that they would be working in partnership with the Town Council agreeing conditions and a policy for the approval of activities.

Members thanked Councillor Tulley and the Town Clerk for their persistence and hard work on this issue.

RESOLVED - that the Council

- i. Endorse the draft order, as appended and approve it for consultation by Cornwall Council at the earliest possible opportunity
- ii. Note the possible future implications for staff and financial resources.

133. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

The Town Clerk introduced the report reminding Council that it had recently agreed terms of reference for the Chairmen's meeting. The most recent meeting had considered three proposals as set out in the report and had requested that they be considered by Council.

- i. To adopt a programme of councillor induction, which would be crucial for this year for the new councillors.
- ii. To adopt a 12 month work programme for the Committees. This would not bind the new Council which would have its own priorities but it was essential for the future of the Council that there was an interim programme of work which took forward the committees' activities, so that work didn't just stop after May.
- iii. The Council adopts a member/officer protocol. This was best practice setting out how they worked together and ensured clarity on roles and responsibilities. The proposed draft was NALC (National Association of Local Councils) standard policy.

Members discussed the items. A number of queries were raised in relation to the proposed work programme and it was confirmed as follows:

Work in relation to the voluntary sector would be considered at the next Community and Environment Committee meeting

The Community and Environment Committee meeting should also include the development of an Emergency Plan within the work programme, as recommended to Council under minute C&E 42.

RESOLVED - that the Council

- i. Approve the members' induction training plan, as set out
- ii. Approve the Council work programme for 2021-22 subject to any amendments agreed at the Community and Environment Committee and including the preparation of an emergency plan in accordance with the recommendation C&E42
- iii. Adopt the member-officer protocol as set out

134. RESOLUTION TO WAIVE THE 6 MONTH RULE- SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED - that the Council approve the request on behalf of Councillor Symons to extend the period prior to automatic disqualification until the May elections.

135. DARK SKIES DESIGNATION

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council had previously supported an application for a dark skies reserve to be designated in West Penwith and had sent a letter of support. Since then, Cornwall Council had been advised that the reservation area was too large and would take a number of years to achieve. It had, therefore been decided, that the application be limited to a park which was more limited in size and would cover only the West Penwith AONB area (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). It was noted that, as such, St Ives town was outside the area. The Town Council was asked to write a letter of support and, should the designation be successful, to give its in principle agreement to fund signage within the parish, explaining the Dark Skies designation. It was noted that the designation would have an impact on future policies such as planning and street lighting.

Members supported the initiative and expressed disappointment that it didn't extend further but it was understood that the aim was to establish the initial area and concept and then expand later. At this stage, the request was for the Town Council to confirm its support.

RESOLVED - that the Council

- i. Endorse the dark skies park bid by submitting a letter of support and;
- ii. Confirm in principle a contribution to future signage, subject to further details and costs being submitted and agreed at a future date.

136. TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Chairman introduced the report stating that this was a recommendation from the Staffing Committee (ST.37) for the development of a policy for training and development for all councillors and employees. He explained that, whilst an annual training budget was in place, the Council hadn't focused on training and development in recent years and budgets had been underspent.

RESOLVED - that the training and development policy be adopted.

137. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) Staffing Committee 22 January 2021
- 2) Community & Environment Committee 21 January 2021
- 3) Planning Committee 7th January, 13th January and 4 February 2021
- 4) Finance & General Purposes 28 January 2021
- 5) Committee Recommendations

Decisions made in response to recommendations from Committees: the development of an emergency plan (C&E.42), a training and development policy (ST.37) and a proposed pay and grading structure (ST.40) were all dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

RESOLVED – that the minutes and recommendations of the committee meetings set out above be received.

138. ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

The Town Clerk stated that it was a statutory requirement for local councils to hold an Annual Electors Meeting between the 1 March and the 1 June each year. This year, there was no exemption due to COVID. The Council, therefore needed to agree a date for the meeting. The selected date would affect the form the meeting would take. Were it to be held after May elections, it was possible that physical meetings would have been re-introduced (as the Government regulations on physical meetings were being lifted). A meeting before the elections was an opportunity to showcase the work of the Council and to welcome possible candidates but would require a remote meeting via ZOOM.

Members discussed the preferred dates and meeting formats. It was noted that an early meeting had clear benefits in terms of promoting the role of local councillors and, if possible, should be held prior to elections. This would require all Committee chairmen to contribute to the preparation of an annual report within limited timescales.

RESOLVED - that the Annual Electors' Meeting be held virtually at 6pm on Monday 15th of March and, in order to meet this deadline, to delegate the preparation of an annual report to officers, in consultation with committee chairmen.

139. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None

140. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None

141. CORRESPONDENCE

None

142. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED – that

- i) Payments made since the last meeting totalling £187,550.54 be approved
- ii) Credit card payments made since the last meeting totalling £6,151.88 be approved
- iii) Receipts of £340,506.15 up to 11th February 2021 be noted, and
- iv) The accounts listed totalling £8,988.36 be paid.

At this point, a representative from South West Councils joined the meeting. The Town Clerk and RFO declared an interest in the report and left the room for consideration of this item.

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matters on the grounds that they involve information of a confidential nature.

143. OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL'S JOB EVALUATION AND PAY GRADING REVIEW

The Council received a presentation from SW Councils following their completion of a pay and grading review on behalf of the Council. The report's conclusions set out three options for a new pay structure. Each had cost implications and strengths and weaknesses which were explained. The report had been received by the Staffing Committee and its recommendation was that the Council adopt Option 1. (ST.40). Following a discussion the Council resolved to adopt the Staffing Committee's recommendation.

RESOLVED – that the Council

- i) Adopt option 1 as the basis for staff consultation on a new pay and grading structure and
- ii) Subject to staff being in support, delegate all necessary actions to the Staffing Committee in consultation with the Town Clerk to implement the structure from the 1 April 2021.

The Town Clerk and the RFO re-joined the meeting

144. STENNACK CLUB HOUSE

The Council considered a request from Cornwall Council to confirm whether it was interested in acquiring the relevant property under devolution arrangements. The Clerk confirmed that the property had already been considered by the Town Deal Board and a number of local and community groups which had no use for it at present. On that basis, the Town Council were asked to confirm whether it had any use for it or whether it could be marketed for sale by auction.

RESOLVED – that the Council had no use for the asset currently and supported its disposal by auction.

145. G7 BRIEFING

The Town Clerk introduced the report. It had been the first opportunity for the Town Council to debate issues surrounding the summit including security arrangements and concerns and the proposed legacy programme. Council discussed a number of issues and, in particular, concern was expressed about a lack of engagement with the Town Council, the flow of information and

involvement in legacy discussions. It was noted that the Council had now been invited to attend the programme board, which should result in a better flow of information through the Town Clerk. The Council also considered the types of legacy projects being explored by Cornwall Council which included transport and digital infrastructure. The Council agreed that it was important that the Town and parish were seen to benefit directly from legacy investment as the communities most likely to be affected by the summit. It supported proposals for IT infrastructure and green investment, especially ambitions for all carbon to be offset and for a plastic free event. The process was likely to include making the case for local investments aligned with those being sought by Cornwall Council through a direct approach to the programme legacy board. The Council debated the idea of a working group to be established but resolved instead that the Clerk draw together a note on possible investments to be discussed with Cornwall Council officers leading the process.

RESOLVED – that the Council note the report and that the Clerk update Council from her attendance at the programme board and seek a dialogue with the legacy board, preparing a note on possible asks and benefits for the St Ives area.

Meeting closed at 8.42

Chairman