

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, St Ives Town Council held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Williams

Vice Chairman – Councillor P Burton

COUNCILLORS

Arthur K

Harris A

Nicholls C

Dale A

Messenger K

Tulley R

Henry R

Wells J

IN ATTENDANCE

Lait R Rogers L

OFFICERS

Town Clerk; Project Officer; RFO & CS Manager

C&E.32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

C&E.33 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed members that the Community Orchard would be inviting councillors to visit, to see their progress and hear about their future plans.

C&E.34 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 October 2020.

C&E.35 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None

C&E.36 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

None

C&E.37 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

None

C&E.38 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR/ OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Wells declared an interest in the report 'Website Update' as he worked for Meor Design, the company producing the website.

C&E.39 OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the update report and comments and clarifications were made as follows:

C&E 25: Committee budget 2021-22 – No response had yet been received from registered social landlords (LiveWest and Coastline) regarding a contribution to the

play equipment at Palemon Best.

C&E 9: Helicopter Flights – the Chairman mentioned she had received a letter from Derek Thomas with similar content to a previous letter the Council had received stating that the Secretary of State could not assist with the Article 4 Direction and to pursue the issue with Cornwall Council. The Town Clerk added that letters had been drafted to Cornwall Council and logos and signatures received recently from Towedenack Parish Council would enable the letters to be sent.

C&E 73: Dog Fouling in St Ives – A member of the Support Services Team has taken on the anti-dog fouling initial monitoring at Ayr Field for the Cornwall Council ‘We are Watching You’ Campaign due to the Community Ambassador not being well enough to start the project. 49 incidences of dog fouling were found. The monitoring had been postponed due to the current lockdown.

A member stated that there were also a large number of reports in Carbis Bay. Another member also mentioned Lelant and the walk from the church to Porth Kidney Sands.

The Chairman stated that all reports of dog fouling should be reported to Cornwall Council and, if known, the details of the owner as the dog warden is happy to knock on the offending dog owner’s door. The Town Clerk agreed that officers will investigate if another site can be added to the campaign e.g. Carbis Bay

A member queried where the bags had gone from the entrance to the Lelant/ Porth Kidney Sands walk and was informed that the bags and grabbers, provided by ‘Love Lelant’, were removed during the pandemic as they were a form of transmission. Another point was made that dog mess bags were being left on paths and in hedges. These points will be discussed at the next ‘Dog Action Group’ meeting.

C&E 74: Palemon Best Skatepark Project – A member questioned whether the s106 contribution had been received yet as it was needed for the Park. The RFO & CS Manager confirmed that the Council had needed to apply to draw down the funds by detailing a proposed scheme. Funds are paid out once expenditure is confirmed. The Town Clerk emphasised that the funds were included in the skatepark project as match funding and this in turn was a condition accelerator grant funding. Match funding would help deliver a number of elements, for example floodlighting, water stations, benches etc.

C&E 24: Palemon Best Planting Scheme – The Chairman stated that a member of the Palemon Best Users Group would like to have another meeting which will be arranged in the near future via Zoom.

RESOLVED - that subject to the above amendments, the update report be noted.

C&E. 40 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Peter Lefort, a member of Cornwall Council’s Climate Emergency Team presented an introduction to their Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Members asked a number of questions and responses were as follows:

- Data in the presentation on carbon emissions was Cornwallwide and not specifically Cornwall Council’s own emissions.

- There was concern about the methodology and reliability of completed carbon audits. A lack of audit or uncertainty about the study data shouldn't inhibit action.
- Individual household actions could make a difference. Some actions took place at the very local level, others required change at local government, government or international level.
- Cornwall Council didn't have the ability to reduce bus fares but had the means to apply to the Government for funding to subsidise bus fares to those that apply and use the service regularly. If the council determines that this is a priority and a barrier to carbon reduction in the area then they can apply for funding.

A member commented that Cornwall Council could re-invest income from services, such as parking, or charge higher parking fees to subsidise other forms of transport, such as rural community bus routes.

The Committee also discussed the role of the planning system. People should be incentivised to insulate their own homes. In addition, there were planning powers to require additional action by developers towards zero carbon. It may be possible to achieve this through the neighbourhood plan review.

Mr Lefort explained that national planning policy limited what could be achieved in local planning documents. The current planning policy proposals on climate change and renewables went as far as was possible.

The Committee thanked Mr Lefort for his presentation, which was highly informative and he left the meeting.

The Committee continued to debate the matter and what direct measures the Council could consider to tackle climate change. Some members were concerned that the carbon audit was externally validated in order that it could then act as a benchmark. Also, whether the Council should complete its own audit, before beginning an action plan.

In response to a question, the Town Clerk clarified that the St Ives Carbon Audit was discussed in a limited way at the August 2020 meeting but not debated in detail. The Committee had resolved that

- i. The St Ives Carbon Audit to be promoted online
- ii. A member of Cornwall Council to come to this committee
- iii. A Town Council working group be set up as the issues cut across many areas of the Town Council.

It was also noted that Councillor Dale was keen to lead work towards an action plan. The Clerk proposed that the Committee might consider proceeding to establish an action plan group but to include validating the carbon audit as one of its early tasks. It would also be possible to complete an audit of the Council's own emissions and invite the author to contribute to the working group.

RESOLVED – that the Council set up a Climate Change Working Group which would consider evidence from the carbon audit and develop a range of measures which the Council could take. Interested councillors and also members from external groups would be invited to take part.

C&E. 41 PALEMON BEST: ENHANCEMENTS AND LANDSCAPE PLAN

The Project Officer presented the plan, which had been circulated as part of the agenda. The aim of the plan was to detail a set of proposed enhancements to the Park which could be undertaken alongside the skate park project.

Members discussed the plan and the following points raised:

- An open rather than covered cycle storage area was preferred, given its impact on the landscape
- Would a concrete bench design be in keeping? Other more sustainable materials might be appropriate. It was confirmed that the concrete bench was to complement the skate park, other benches in the park could be more sensitive to their setting.
- The carparking area shouldn't be increased at the expense of the planting scheme, although the project officer explained that tidying and re-configuring it could create more spaces.
- There might be elements of work that the users group to assist with and help fundraise for. This may create more buy in from the community

In response to questions about how the plans would be funded, the Town Clerk advised that the Skatepark Project has funding from a number of sources. Match funding for the Government's accelerator funds, included the skatepark group's fundraising, funds from section 106 planning payments and the Palemon Best Trust. Some of the funds may be released from the works contract and could be utilised. In addition, there was scope for additional fund raising.

RESOLVED – that the Council adopt the Enhancements and Landscape Plan for the Park and use it to direct future management, maintenance and fund raising activities.

C&E. 42 PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

The chairman introduced this item. She stated that the preparation of an emergency plan had been considered previously but not pursued. However, given events of the past year, with a number of safety issues in the town, it was proposed that the Council review its decision. Members agreed that the preparation of a plan was timely. However, they emphasised the need for local buy-in and community support in order to secure its success.

Councillors Harris and Arthur volunteered to become representatives on the group.

RESOLVED - that the Committee RECOMMEND to Council that it lead the development of a community emergency plan for the parish and that the Committee oversee the establishment of a multi-agency working group, in order to complete it for 2021 with Councillors Harris and Arthur the named councillor representatives.

C&E. 43 GREEN ENERGY SUPPLIERS

The Chairman stated that she fully supported the report, which was a very direct way in which the Council could show its commitment to action on climate change.

The Town Clerk explained that the Council had made use of an energy broker to investigate the market. Ecotricity was the only supplier they recommended both in terms of price and quality. Members wished to ensure that any green supplier chosen relied on genuine generation from renewable sources and not on carbon offsetting. The

Town Clerk confirmed she would investigate this and prepare information as part of the recommendation to Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED – that the Committee RECOMMEND to the Finance & General Purposes Committee that it switch to a 100% green energy tariff for the next two years, accepting that there would be an adverse impact on the Council's 2021-22 energy budgets.

C&E. 44 ACTION PLAN FROM THE YOUTH SUMMIT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Arthur introduced the report. She explained that the summit and the work leading up to it had been very successful but, unfortunately, work had not been progressed due to COVID. The event was attended by 60 stakeholders and they workshopped survey findings from young people, identifying priorities, barriers and solutions. She had met with officers in November to identify the next steps. The first action identified was the development of an information / what's on/ events on line resource, for young people run by young people.

The Town Clerk explained that the actions recommended for year 1 reflected what could be achieved within current resources. It was also noted that many other actions identified by the summit were or could be led by other agencies, for example initiatives around mental health. The Town Council could play a co-ordinating role but some actions would be delivered by others.

The key proposal in year one was to utilise funds identified in this and next year's budget to fund the development of an information resource. There were a number of options for doing this, it did not necessarily mean a person employed directly by the town council.

Members discussed the report and the proposal. There was some concern that the original funding was for youth clubs, although it was noted that these had not been prioritised by young people answering the survey. It was also confirmed that this would be a year one action, which it was hoped would underpin a number of future actions as the plan was rolled out.

RESOLVED - that the Committee

- i) Approve the final report of the summit
- ii) Note the progress to date
- iii) Support the proposal for the development of an information platform for young people, utilising as necessary, the relevant committee budget for 2020-21 and 2021-22 with a detailed proposal brought back to a future meeting of the Committee for final approval
- iv) Adopt the year one action plan, as set out.

C&E. 45 CYCLING AND WALKING STRATEGY

The Project Officer informed the Committee that there had been a very positive first meeting of the group. An action had been to follow up funding opportunities for the development of a cycling and walking strategy. Since writing the report, officers had received the positive news that Cornwall Council would be willing to fund 100% of the costs of the study, up to £10,000. This would mean an amendment to the recommendation as no match funding was now required.

Members stated that a bike rack should be installed outside the Guildhall and supported future meetings of the group in order to commission the work.

RESOLVED – that the Committee accept the offer of grant funding from Cornwall Council and the commission of a cycling and walking strategy with options being reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

C&E. 46 WEBSITE UPDATE

At this point Councillor Wells declared an interest and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

The Town Clerk gave members an update on the project. As a result of a decision to update the website, Meor Design had been appointed. The Committee welcomed a representative from Meor Design to the meeting to share the initial concept and designs.

Meor Design explained the main brief which had been to develop a modern, clean and stylish design which had strong functionality to manage the large amount of content on a local council website. The aim was to ensure that it was easy to navigate and find Council services quickly. New websites also had to comply with government accessibility guidelines which gave strong direction to design elements such as colour and legibility. Sample landing pages were shown for the home page, weddings and events and the Guildhall and content for one of the wedding pages. It was explained that there were two options for the home page design, which drew inspiration from the Barbara Hepworth Dual Form sculpture outside the Guildhall. This was an important part of the Guildhall's identity.

Members discussed the design. They gave positive feedback on the design elements and were pleased with the overall modernisation of the site. They had a number of questions about content and navigation. Meor explained that the designs were influenced by the fact that 80% of engagements with websites were now on smart phones and not desktops. The Town Clerk further explained that this early discussion was to ensure the Committee were happy with the feel and design of the site. Now there would be a concerted effort to populate the site with content which would help shape it further.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that the site would include a number of interactive elements, for example: tickets could be booked on line, forms downloaded and room bookings submitted. E-commerce elements for the LIS shop had not been developed at this stage but there was scope to include this.

RESOLVED – that the Committee

- i) Note the progress to date and support the overall design concept.
- ii) Receive a further update when the site had been built in full and populated with content.

C&E. 47 FINANCE REPORT

The RFO and Corporate Services Manager presented the report. In response to questions from the Committee, he advised that

- Yes, there was a waiting list for allotments
- The Amenities Officer had undertaken a considerable amount of work at the allotments, tidying the area, re-laying new paths, new site numbers and a noticeboard.
- Funds for the PSPO enforcement were needed next year. This included the cost of consultation and employing Cornwall Council to enforce dog control orders in the Summer.

RESOLVED - that the Committee note the report

C&E. 48 TOWN TWINNING

Councillor Tulley was thanked for providing an information update on town twinning. Progress to date would be an item for discussion on a future committee agenda.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

4th March 2021

Meeting ended at 9.20pm

Chairman