

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, St Ives Town Council held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 4 March 2021 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Williams

Vice Chairman – Councillor P Burton

COUNCILLORS

Arthur K

Messenger K

Tulley R

Dale A

Nicholls C

Wells J

Harris A

IN ATTENDANCE

OFFICERS

Town Clerk, Project Officer, RFO & Corporate Services Manager & Admin Support Officer

C&E.49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Henry

C&E.50 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

C&E.51 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2021.

C&E.52 PUBLIC SPEAKING

A Penbeagle resident raised concerns over parking issues in relation to the new Skatepark. She stated that in the past, a residents parking scheme was proposed but was rejected due to the cost and the low income of residents.

Members stated they appreciated the problem but that a number of attractions in St Ives (for example the Tate) had no parking. They emphasised the importance of a travel plan which promoted public transport and offered to assist residents in seeking a permit scheme if there was local support.

C&E.53 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

None

C&E.54 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

None

C&E.55 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR/ OFFICER INTERESTS

None

C&E.56 OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT

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

C&E24: Palemon Best – playground equipment – The Town Clerk confirmed that she had received responses from neighbouring social landlords. Coastline had confirmed a small contribution from their residents’ small grant budget. LiveWest were interested in making a financial contribution and welcomed further discussions. These contributions would be for wider enhancements as the skate park was fully funded.

C&E28: Palemon Best – café proposals - The Town Clerk confirmed that she had received an initial response from the Charity Commission. They would require an application for a new scheme in order to consider a café on the site. This was in progress but would require a further submission with the 30 working days timescale for the Commission’s on line system.

C&E29: Palemon Best – tree report - The Chairman proposed that the underspent budget for the tree works is carried forward. This was seconded and passed.

C&E9: Helicopter Flights – The Chairman stated that a meeting with Cornwall Council was taking place on the 5 March.

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

C&E. 57 PRESENTATION FROM CO-CARS – SCOPE FOR A ST IVES PILOT

A representative from CO-Cars gave a presentation to the meeting. She explained the principle, that CO-Cars was a ‘not for profit’ social enterprise based in Exeter with a mission to provide shared/ on-demand mobility. They offered bikes and car hire by the hour. They had a network of cars and bikes throughout the South West up to Salisbury. All of the booking is online. She outlined the different services they offer:

**CO-Cars:** Members join the club by paying £25 annual membership fee which is for a household. You can then book via the app from 30 mins to a week. Members are charged by usage and mileage – starting from £4 an hour and an 18p mileage charged. There are currently cars in Truro and Falmouth. Cars are hybrids but they are looking to offer electric cars in the future.

CO-Bikes - ebikes. This is currently running in Exeter, £1 for 20mins.

CO-Delivery – ecargo bike hire.

CO-Charger – Car charging facilities for electric cars.

If St Ives was interested in hosting a co-car vehicle, the first step was to commission a feasibility study to gather evidence of interest and demand. Data would be collected from the area e.g. population, demographics, current public transport options, via an online survey. Should the outcome be positive, Co-Cars would then be able to offer a pilot vehicle to trial for a period.

Members confirmed that the concept of a transport hub at the station was part of the Town Investment Plan and this could link in. Had work been done to consider details, such as where the vehicle might be parked?

The CO-Cars representative explained that this was the first phase of the process. She suggested a group from the Town Council and community come together to explore the options and collect the information. She stated that 30% of the members live outside of Cornwall and that people generally join a car club through word of mouth

and seeing a car in a visible place.

A member stated that, although this had been looked at a few years ago, the public interest in such schemes and more sustainable travel had increased and it should be re-visited. In response to a question about cost, the representative confirmed that there was no initial outlay for the Town Council in considering feasibility, although the cost of a vehicle would need to be funded for the scheme to go ahead and administration for the first year.

Members made the point that, although the survey work was crucial, there were several providers interested in rolling out a car sharing scheme, thereafter. It was proposed and seconded that the scheme would be discussed further at the Town Council Climate Change Working Group. Co-Cars were thanked for their attendance.

RESOLVED – that the proposal be discussed further through the Town Council Climate Change Working Group, scheduled for April.

#### C&E. 58 CONSOLS POOL – RESULTS FROM THE CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk introduced the report, giving members a verbal update of the results from the community survey, as follows:

99 responses had been received via the online survey and email of these:

- 86.8% said the Good Friday boating tradition should continue
- 71% said it should continue even if the de-silting costs were £10,000
- 55% were willing to pay for this from Council tax (ie raising the precept)
- 76% said the event should stay at Consols.

The survey had been published on noticeboards, in the Times & Echo newspaper, and promoted via the website and Facebook. There was clear support for the event to continue in its current form.

The Committee discussed the findings and a number of comments were made, summarised as follows:

- The previous Consols Pond Association had applied for and received capital funding for building the jetty but there were limited funds for maintenance.
- The age profile of the association was older and it was difficult for them to continue the weeding and desilting on their own.
- Weed clearance needed to take place annually and the desilting is required approximately every 3-5 years.
- It had been hoped that the Environment Agency would be willing to assist, given that the pond contributed to flood prevention in the area, it drained the surrounding land into the pond, to the Stennack River to the sea.
- What measures had been recommended to prevent the silt from building up so quickly in the future?

Given the strength of community support, it was proposed that the pond was desilted in the Autumn and the Council engage with members of the public who had shown their support and willingness to be involved.

The Town Clerk advised that, were the Council to commit to the desilting, then a key

objective would also be to consider preventative work which hopefully would reduce the cost and frequency. The silt trap was a recommendation from the environment agency in the method statement from 2012. They had a number of recommendations which could be considered. Decisions following the outcome of the consultation had been delegated by Council to the Committee.

RESOLVED – that the Council

- i. Ask Officers to carry out all necessary steps to complete the de-silting of the pool in the Autumn of 2021 and any further remedial action to reduce the silt build up in the future, as recommended by the Environment Agency and
- ii. Explore scope for the future involvement of community groups and any in-kind contributions from local contractors

**C&E59 VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUPPORT PROPOSAL**

Councillor Harris gave an update on his involvement with the voluntary sector. As members would be aware, he had made this a commitment for his two terms of office as Mayor. Local groups had identified several key concerns and three priority areas of focus for future work:

- i) The need for additional funding for the voluntary sector
- ii) The loss of volunteers in key positions
- iii) The benefits of the sector in working together and collaborating

As a result and, working together with the Community Network Officer, he had organised two grant funding workshops. These had been attended by 23 voluntary groups. Following the workshops, a number of them had since submitted grant applications and received funding. A recruitment fair was also organised. Unfortunately, others planned had to be postponed, due to the pandemic. Many local organisations were represented and over 100 members of the public attended with 23 new volunteers identified.

There was also an agreement with BID that a voluntary organisation could be mentored or coached by a local business in a skillset that the organisation needed (for example accounting, marketing, social media).

Finally, there was an ambition in the sector to establish a network to enable it to have a single voice and co-ordinate and combine their efforts. This could also assist with joint training (the Mayor had been exploring this with Volunteer Cornwall and scope for locally tailored workshops) and would ensure the resilience of the sector and improve their capacity for self-help.

Given the ambition of the sector, Councillor Harris proposed that the Council play a role in supporting the establishment of a network and a single voice for the sector, working alongside them with BID.

Members thanked Councillor Harris for the presentation and welcomed the concept.

RESOLVED - that the Committee

- i. Note the report

- ii. Endorse the actions taken to date and
- iii. Approve the continuing intention to give the voluntary sector a unified voice
- iv. Include this workstream within the current Committee work programme

C&E.60 KNILL CELEBRATIONS – UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS

The Town Clerk explained that work was being progressed by Mrs Wood in the Support Services Team and she had made considerable progress towards the event, as set out in the report and provided as a verbal update to the Committee.

Councillor Tulley welcomed the report and the progress made to date. He had been mayor in a Knill year in 2011 and noted that a number of practical measures needed to be put in place, as follows:

- The dancers needed to be trained and a trainer identified.
- Officers ought to contact the previous widows, fiddler and master of ceremonies to ask if they would like to be involved this year
- Confirmation on the lunch arrangements (on previous occasions it was free for participants and partners and other councillors were asked to pay).
- Inform the local media to cover the event
- Maintenance staff needed to go up to the area to clear the paths.
- An official road closure should be explored.

A number of Councillors expressed their willingness to assist with the event including Councillors Tulley, Rogers and Harris. It was hoped that every effort would be made to make this a successful day, being the first large civic event following lockdown.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Times & Echo were also seeking approval for the preparation of a programme, in line with the arrangements followed in previous years. That was, the payment of a design and commissioning fee and the equal sharing of the proceeds of sale between the organisations and a chosen charity.

RESOLVED – that the Committee

- i) Note the report and progress made to date
- ii) Confirm Councillors Tulley, Rogers and Harris as volunteers to assist with event planning and preparations.
- iii) That additional preparations be made in accordance with members' comments during the debate
- iv) Approve the commission of a commemorative programme on the same basis as in previous years.

C&E61 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

A member thanked the Town Clerk for the report. The Clerk explained that Council had approved the work programme in principle but had proposed that individual committees consider them and amend and update as necessary. The Committee considered each of the individual activities and progress as follows:

**CE 2: revitalising the user group for Palemon Best**

The project officer confirmed that the users group had recently met. He stated it was very positive but the attendees were concerned they didn't have the capacity to organise the administration. It was proposed that this was either organised by the Council or additional volunteers were sought.

**CE 9 Charter Group for the voluntary sector forum.** It was proposed that the wording be amended to replace reference to Charter group to “appropriate groups”.

**CE 6: Youth Summit**

It was proposed that the wording was changed from recruiting ‘youth event co-ordinator’ to better reflect the nature of the project and moved to green to reflect the progress made.

**Climate Emergency Group** it was agreed that as a cross cutting activity, this would report to Council.

RESOLVED - that subject to the approved amendments, the Committee adopt the work programme as a working document to direct its future work over the next 12 months.

C&E.62 REQUEST TO ACCEPT A PAINTING OF A FORMER MAYOR

The Town Clerk explained the background to the request and stated that it raised a wider question about how all requests for such assets and bequeaths were treated. There was very little display space for additional items. There was scope to create loftspace storage but it seemed inappropriate to accept an item for display which would then be permanently stored.

Members debated the issue and the following points were made:

- With such a long history, the Town had many former mayors and it would be impossible to display the portraits of them all.
- The Council could accept the gift but explain that it was unlikely that it would be on permanent display.
- As a permanent bequest, the Town Council would be responsible for its insurance but, given the level of cover and existing assets this would be a negligible cost

RESOLVED – that the Clerk be asked to extend the Council’s thanks for the offer of the bequest but explain that this would not be possible, due to limited display space and propose that the family may wish to approach the museum.

C&E.63 MP’s LETTER; REQUEST FOR THE COUNCIL’S SUPPORT FOR RE-ROUTING OF THE A30

The Chairman explained that she had asked that this be added as an item for decision, given the importance of the issue. She explained that the Council had received a letter from the MP, Derek Thomas requesting that local councils support the proposed road scheme to improve connectivity on the A30 between Camborne and Penzance. The proposal would dual the A30 and create a bypass around the villages of Crowlas, Cockwells, Rose-an-Grouse, Whitecross and Canon’s Town. The letter proposed that the project would offer opportunities for a green corridor and introduce cycling and walking routes.

The Committee discussed the letter. Several Councillors expressed objection to the proposal, citing the previous decision of the Council not to support such a scheme. In addition, they observed that

- There was no evidence that the scheme would result in less noise or a greening of the area
- The road had been congested for decades and empirical evidence showed that increasing the capacity of roads did not reduce traffic
- Government and local authorities had declared climate emergency and major road schemes conflicted with these goals
- The emphasis should be on public transport and millions had been invested in the St Erth multi modal hub

However, a majority of Committee members expressed support for the proposal and the work of the action group. Whilst there was strong support for environmental considerations, it was felt that life had become intolerable for many residents living along the route which was permanently busy. More information on how the route could be greened, carbon emissions minimised and the footpath network protected would be welcomed. It would not, however, be possible to consider questions of financial support, given how near the Council was to elections and the proposal still being at a very early stage.

RESOLVED – that the Council write to the MP expressing support for the proposal.

C&E. 64 FINANCE REPORT

RESOLVED - that the Committee note the report.

As the last formal meeting of the Committee and with the departure of the Chairman, members thanked her for being an excellent and fair Chairman and for her commitment to the Committee's values during her longstanding chairmanship.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

27 May 2021

Meeting ended at 8.37pm

Chairman