

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, St Ives Town Council held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 27 May 2021 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor Dale  
Vice Chairman – Councillor Hodson

COUNCILLORS

Arthur K Beveridge J	Harris T	Messenger K Ryall J
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IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mitchell

OFFICERS

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

C&E.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Councillors Rogers, Bradford, Tanner

C&E.2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- i) They advised new councillors about the protocol of not having to stand to speak at a committee
- ii) They asked that the Committee hold a moment of silence for the sad news of the passing of former long standing councillor Joan Symons which as duly done, with condolences being sent to her family.
- iii) She encouraged new members to participate fully in the meeting and take the opportunity to speak if they wished to do so.

C&E.3 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Councillor Dale be appointed as Committee Chairman for the year 2021-22

*The Mayor congratulated Councillor Dale and handed over the chairmanship of the meeting*

C&E.4 RESOLVED - that Councillor Hodson be appointed as Committee Vice-Chairman for the year 2021-22

C&E.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 March 2021.

C&E.6 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None

**C&E.7 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)**

None

**C&E.8 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

The Manager of St Ives BID gave the following updates:

- i) BID have been working hard to produce the G7 Business Directory. It will be a pdf document emailed to those attending the G7, posted on the official G7 website and potentially sent to the Cabinet Office. It has proved to be a useful endeavour and will be an annual publication. It includes information about accommodation, retail providers, food outlets, carparking, toilets and local information.
- ii) BID are working very closely with the St Ives Tourism Association to update their website. Meetings with the Cultural Services Manager have been very positive.
- iii) Following confirmation from their Levy Payers that their priorities were appearance, safety and security, a number of actions have been pursued including bunting, and working with the Town Council to arrange for planters along Wharf Road.
- iv) Commercial waste remains a key concern. The fire brigade have requested that this be resolved urgently as the amount of flammable waste in town remains a serious fire hazard. BID were learning about best practice from a visit to Bath where there was one commercial waste contract for the town. BID will be working with business and the Town Council to find solutions.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that commercial waste contracts should consider both holiday lets and the need for additional recycling. The Town Clerk advised that she would co-ordinate a meeting with BID and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to explore the options.

**C&E.9 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR/ OFFICER INTERESTS**

None

**C&E.10 OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT**

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

C&E40: Climate Emergency Action Plan – Climate Change Working Group has met and the membership needed to be refreshed, following elections. Members agreed that the next meeting should be set and all councillors be invited to attend.

C&E9: Helicopter Flights – The Town Clerk reminded members of the recent developments of this action including meeting with Cornwall Council Head of Development Management. The update proposed closing the item on the basis that no further avenues could be pursued.

Members expressed the desire to keep it in the update report, as the issue hasn't gone away and continued to affect residents on an annual basis. A member asked if there is any fire precaution at the site? Councillor Mitchell stated that they have declared that this isn't an issue.

It was resolved that the Clerk write again to the Civil Aviation Authority and also to prepare a position statement for the website outlining the Council's stance.

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

C&E.11 PROPOSALS FOR A PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – TO CONSIDER AN UPDATE ON THE PSPO AND ENFORCEMENT AT WHARF ROAD/HARBOUR

The Town Clerk outlined the report. She explained that this proposal had been the policy of the Council for some years and took the Committee through the detailed report for the benefit of new councillors.

She explained that Public Spaces Protection Orders could be introduced under criminal law to address persistent anti-social behaviour. (This was currently used to regulate other activities, such as dogs on beaches and street drinking. The aim was not to ban but better regulate all the activities along Wharf Road and the Harbour as there were a number of hazards and safety issues in relation to the highway and the Council received a number of complaints each year. The issues specifically relates to ticket sellers, tattoo artists, hair braiders and the predominance of A boards.

There were bye-laws in existence but these had proved to be an increasingly outdated remedy, because the legal process involved a court summons is issued, with a limited penalty fine.

Evidence had been collected over the last two years to demonstrate the number of issues and the inability to pursue enforcement. Cornwall Council have finally agree to consult on the order, which is a legal requirement. The 4 week consultation ends in early July. Should Cornwall Council decide to introduce an order, it will be in place for three years and then reviewed. The consultation and the draft order state that the following activities can only take place with Council permission:

- The use of A boards
- Temporary Tattoo and Hair braiding
- Ticket selling and unsolicited advertising flyers

A fixed penalty notice will be issued of £100 for non-compliance.

Members debated the report and made the following points:

- Enforcement will be key
- A code of conduct for the ticket sellers as welcome
- BID supported the proposals and will be assisting with the issue of businesses using advertising boards.
- Tribute was paid to the tireless work of Councillor Tulley in driving this forward
- The Smeaton's Pier pop-ups were raised - the pizza and the ticket selling vans including concerns of emergency vehicle access and railings being installed on the listed pier.

The Town Clerk confirmed that these were on harbour land, over which the Town Council did not have jurisdiction. Pop-up sites were advertised every year by Cornwall Council for sites across Cornwall. Planning permission was not required for pop up

sites. The harbour could be included within the jurisdiction of the PSPO but only with the harbour board's agreement that the measures could be aligned with their own by-laws.

Councillor Mitchell confirmed that the harbour was now within his ward and he is looking forward to working with the harbourmaster and harbour users will try to be the bridge between the Harbour Users Group and the Town Council.

There was a question regarding street sellers being included in the PSPO. The Town Clerk explained that peddlers had historic statutory rights to trade but did need to move on regularly.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the progress to date and, subject to the outcome of the consultation being an agreement by Cornwall Council to issue an order, to

- i) Work with Cornwall Council to agree an approval process for activities, with a draft approval policy to the next meeting of the Committee, or full Council for adoption.
- ii) Negotiate an SLA to ensure an appropriate level of enforcement activity for the first year.
- iii) Ask the Town Clerk to liaise with the Harbour Master about issues on Smeaton's Pier.

**C&E.12 SPONSORED DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS – TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO SUPPORT A ROLL OUT OF FREE DISPENSERS AT KEY LOCATIONS**

The Clerk introduced the report.

A member stated they wanted to publicly thank the business owner of Rocky's for give the Town Council the resources. Members were in support of the installation and recommendations and publicly thanked the business for this community initiative.

Following a member request, the Clerk confirmed that she would ask Rocky's to consider an additional site at Lelant, St Uny Church path to Porth Kidney as this is the site of the Cornwall Council 'We are watching you' pilot monitoring campaign. The Town Clerk emphasised that, as they were mainly Cornwall Council sites, installation would be subject to their agreement.

RESOLVED – that subject to Cornwall Council approval for the proposed installations, the Council support the initiative, raising no objections to the location and design of the units and encouraging use by responsible dog owners living in and visiting the town.

**C&E.13 CORNWALL COUNCIL SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS – TO CONSIDER THE USE OF AGREEMENTS AT TOWN COUNCIL SITES FOR  
i) WASTE COLLECTION  
ii) PLAY EQUIPMENT/ PLAYING FIELD MAINTENANCE**

The Town Clerk introduced the item by stating that the Council had a number of a quasi legal agreements with Cornwall Council referred to as Service Level Agreements (SLAs). There was an SLA currently for Palemon Best Recreation Ground to:

- Inspect the play equipment

- Cut the grass
- Remove the waste

The Town Clerk explained that officers had received an estimate from a private sector company to provide the service more cheaply.

In addition, she explained that, as a result of new waste contracts with BIFFA, Cornwall Council have identified that they are collecting commercial waste on land which local councils own and for which a charge will now be made. Palemon Best bins is one such site. A decision is awaited but members are advised that there is likely to be an additional budget requirement for this service in the future.

**RESOLVED** - that the Committee

- i. Authorise officers to give notice to CORMAC of an intention to end the current grounds maintenance SLA and that, subject to satisfactory contract terms and references, the Council enter into a 12 month arrangement with an alternative contractor to secure an enhanced service at an equivalent or lower cost, in consultation with the Committee Chairman.
- ii. Note the likely outcome of the Cornwall Council waste review of private collections and undertake research into alternative providers in order for a price and quality comparison to be made.

**C&E.14 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY PAYMENTS AND S 106 UPDATE**

The Town Clerk advised that this was a comprehensive report and she was happy to take questions upon it.

A member asked about how the funds were collected and spent and the general process for agreeing expenditure. The Town Clerk stated that funds were collected from the planning system. For the historic system – s106 contributions, funds were paid to the Planning Authority at key times in the development programme. Different service departments at Cornwall Council dealt with payments differently. For example, open spaces had developed a strategy and local groups and councils were able to apply for project funding. The Affordable Housing team identified how payments could align with schemes being progressed in the housing capital programme, but usually did this in consultation with local towns and parishes. Highways and Education had their own capital programmes. Funds through s106 needed to be allocated to a programmed piece of work within 5 years of receipt.

The s106 payments agreed, paid and allocated were set in the attached appendix. Councillors could see that a number of affordable housing contributions had been secured against sites in St Ives but either not collected yet, not allocated or spent.

The Community Infrastructure Levy was a relatively new system where the Planning Authority instead took cash payments based on the square meterage of development. There were thresholds and local councils with a neighbourhood plan were eligible to receive a share. This was paid over twice a year. Receipts to date had been very modest, just over £10,000 as set out in the report

Members discussed how the funds might be applied to community infrastructure for example open/ green spaces, Climate Change projects, bus shelters. The Town Clerk

suggested that members could develop their priorities to decide where it was spent.

Members supported the proposal to establish an Infrastructure Reserve in which future CIL (and any s106) payments could be transferred to support community infrastructure projects to be managed by the C&E Committee. It was also agreed that a member of the Affordable Housing Team be invited to attend the next meeting of the committee meeting to explain how schemes and investments were being progressed in St Ives.

RESOLVED – that the Committee

- i. RECOMMEND to Council that it establish an infrastructure reserve for community infrastructure projects into which S106 and CIL payments be paid with priorities for future investments considered by the Committee.
- ii. Note the level of S106 payments in the parish
- iii. Invite a member of Cornwall Council’s Affordable Housing Team to the next meeting of the Committee to provide more detail about their work in the parish

C&E.15 THE ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION

Members agreed that this was a positive community event and should continue. Given their previous contribution it was also proposed that former Councillors Rita Lait and Tamsyn Williams be invited to take part in the judging.

RESOLVED - that

- i) The Annual Garden Competition be held in 2021
- ii) Former Councillors Rita Lait and Tamsyn Williams be invited to take part in arrangements and judging

C&E.16 REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk explained that the former Council had developed a work programme a sought confirmation that the Committee wished to continue with the annual work programme, and if so, she sought comments and amendments on the current programme appended to the report. It was understood that new projects would be added and some removed over the life of the Committee.

RESOLVED - that the Committee adopted the work programme as set out, as a working document to direct its future work over the next 12 months.

C&E.17 BUS SHELTER EARMARKED RESERVE

The Town Clerk informed members that this had been put on the agenda by Councillor Taylor. A bus shelter in Carbis Bay needed a canopy and had requested that the Bus Shelter earmarked reserve be re-instated for such projects.

The Town Clerk explained that there had been a £5,000 EMR but that this budget line had been removed following a review of unspent earmarked reserves during the pandemic.

Members discussed the item and a number of points were confirmed:

- The reserve had remained unused for some time
- £5000 was unlikely to be enough for a complete bus shelter.
- The Town Council owned a bus shelter but not the one in question

- This could be a suitable project for the infrastructure reserve agreed above

RESOLVED – not to re-instate the bus shelter earmarked reserve and to consider to consider any such investment from the infrastructure reserve alongside other projects.

C&E.18 GRANT REQUEST: CORNWALL PRIDE

Members discussed the report. It was confirmed that the Pride tour had taken place in previous years and was seen to be a way to raise awareness in smaller towns which would not otherwise have a Pride celebration. The previous tour had visited the town for a short period during the day with flag and celebration on harbour beach and then moved on. Members expressed a range of views in relation to the request.

The recommendation was voted on and was carried. Councillor Messenger asked that his name be recorded as voting against.

RESOLVED – to award a grant of £500 to Cornwall Pride for 2021 to be funded from the cultural and community events reserve established in 2020.

C&E.19 FINANCE REPORT

The Responsible Finance Officer introduced the report stating that there has been very little activity yet as it was an early stage of the financial year.

The RFO confirmed that he would report back in response to a query about the receipt of a £1000 payment for civic hospitality.

RESOLVED – that the committee note the report.

C&E. 20 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None

C&E. 21 CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

26 August 2021

Meeting ended at 20.13pm

Chairman