

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

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor Dale  
Vice Chairman – Councillor Hodson

COUNCILLORS

Beveridge J	Messenger K	Ryall J
Harris T	Rogers L	

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mitchell

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

C&E.45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors K Arthur, L Arthur, S Tanner, R Bradford

C&E.46 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 August 2021.

C&E.47 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that, following the recently held Free For All event, the next one was planned for the weekend of Friday 25 - 26 March 2022.

C&E.48 PUBLIC SPEAKING

None

C&E.49 UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER (CORNWALL COUNCIL)

An email update was circulated to committee members. In response, councillors:

1. Welcomed the positive steps proposed to improve the shelters at the Pedn Olver Steps, through leasing them out.
2. Agreed that there was a need to convene a meeting of the St Ives Emergency Plan Group
3. Resolved to extend their thanks to the emergency services team, which attended the fire at the Balcony on the early hours of 20<sup>th</sup> October.

RESOLVED – that

- i) Thanks be sent to the emergency services
- ii) A meeting date be scheduled for the St Ives Emergency Plan Group

C&E.50 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

None

C&E.51 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR/ OFFICER INTERESTS

None

C&E.52 OFFICER'S UPDATE REPORT

The Town Clerk presented the update report. The following comments were made:

**C&E. 32: Memorial benches – proposed town council policy**

The Town Clerk explained that officers were now proposing a different approach. It has been envisaged that a series of bench designs would be circulated for consultation. However, based on discussions with the Cornwall Council Bench Officer it was proposed that a single bench design be selected for all benches in the parish: wrought iron ends and poly wood boards. Members queried costs and it was explained that replacement bench costs would be considered as part of the scale of charges report to Facilities Committee.

Some members expressed concern about the use of plastic, but it was explained that polywood was made of recycled plastics from waste collection, compared with using wood and chemicals (paints varnishes etc) and was therefore a sustainable option.

The Committee RESOLVED – that the Council adopt a single Georgian-style bench design with a wrought iron ends combined with a recycled polywood product.

**C&E. 37: Re-introduction of a town crier**

Members discussed the above proposal following a positive social media consultation (55 post likes and 39 positive comments). A number of questions remained, for example, whether there would be any payment, the cost of the uniform, whether a code of conduct was necessary, insurances etc.

The Committee RESOLVED – that a full report, which addressed these issues, be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

**C&E.39 & 44 Affordable Housing Delivery in St Ives**

The Town Clerk informed members that representatives from the Cornwall Council Affordable Housing Team had not been able to attend.

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

C&E.53 ILLUMINATION OF THE ST NICHOLAS (ISLAND) CHAPEL – TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR THE ILLUMINATION AND SCOPE FOR A POLICY FOR IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER REQUESTS

The Town Clerk informed members after the recent illumination of the Island Chapel to support a campaign for organ donation, there have been further enquiries for similar good causes. A specific request, raising awareness of suicide and mental health had been circulated to the Committee. As a result, it may be prudent for the Committee to consider a set of policy principles for future requests. Members discussed the request and considered the policy principles set out in the report. There was a consensus that illumination for good causes was positive but it should not be carried out to such an extent that it lost impact.

Members expressed the preference that, as far as possible, illumination should not be carried out using a diesel generator. The Clerk confirmed that she would explore this.

Members agreed the recommended policy principles as set out for future requests.

**Purpose:** that requests for illumination only be considered for good causes, consistent with the Council's policies and not for commercial enterprise

**Frequency:** That some limits on frequency be introduced to ensure that illuminations remain impactful, generally no more frequent than once a month

**Timing:** between dusk and 11pm

**Design:** that illumination should be a simple static light without noise or motion

**Health and Safety:** to ensure that all activity is carried out safely, it is proposed that the illumination is undertaken by an approved contractor – the Council works with a suitably qualified lighting company who undertook the NHS work.

**Cost:** that all costs are met in full by the organisation

**Approvals:** whether, if all the above conditions are satisfied, the Committee wish to delegate approval to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

**Power Supply:** As far as possible, organisations should avoid the use of diesel generators to power the illuminations.

RESOLVED – that the Committee approve:

- i) The specific request for the illumination of the St Nicholas Chapel as set out
- ii) Future requests, subject to their compliance with a general policy on illumination of the Chapel in accordance with the principles set out in the report.

#### C&E.54 CLIMATE EMERGENCY DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The Town Clerk introduced the draft action plan. She explained that it had been developed through meetings of the Council's working group and reflected the members' priorities. The Committee welcomed the comprehensive nature of the plan. Some members were concerned that the Council direct its efforts initially to the Council's own carbon footprint within its own control. The commission of a carbon audit was proposed, as it was agreed that this would provide a baseline for future actions. It was agreed that solutions to move to zero carbon should be considered, once the audit was complete.

The Clerk also pointed out that the action plan had been developed in isolation and it was important that the Council begin an early dialogue with other groups and organisations locally to explore synergies and avoid duplication.

RESOLVED – that

- i) The Committee RECOMMEND to Council that it adopt the action plan as a draft for consultation and that
- ii) A series of meetings and consultations be arranged with key local stakeholders to discuss the draft document and any possible improvements or alignment with other plans or action plans.

#### C&E.55 CYCLING AND WALKING STRATEGY FINAL DRAFT REPORT

The Project Officer introduced the report, explaining the detail of the project. In response to questions, he confirmed that the Town Council had received a grant from Cornwall Council of £10,000 to carry out a study. The working group drew from the community, business and councillors and had undertaken a detailed consultation with local residents and schools. The next steps were to continue dialogue with Cornwall

Council and the Town Deal Board about how the proposals fitted with a wider transport plan for St Ives and to investigate further funding.

Members discussed the report. Some were concerned about the artist's impressions of the proposed routes and surface colour and whether there was evidence of the need for additional bike stands. Others asked about longer term priorities for changing key road routes.

The Project Officer explained that the drawings were for illustration only and that the study itself did not have the ability to address road routes. These were ideas which would need to be fed into the wider Cornwall Council Transport strategy. It was not the case that the consultation had been overly negative. Negative social media comments were focussed on the colour illustrations but, the central principles of the study had been positively received in the questionnaire and exhibitions. There would be a feasibility study to consider the locations of bike stands. This study's remit was cycling and walking in St Ives, not the wider changes to the transport and travel arrangements in the Town.

The Clerk explained that a wider multi-agency Transport Strategy group had been created and the role of the Council in this group and headline actions would be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

The Council considered amendments to the recommendation and agreed that rather than adopt the study, as a scoping study, it be used to inform future work.

RESOLVED - that the Committee

- i) RECOMMEND to Council that it uses the scoping study to inform wider work on transport issues within the Town
- ii) RECOMMEND – that the budget makes provision for cycle storage and benches as the report's short-term measures
- iii) Continues to work with Cornwall Council transportation officers and other local organisations to consider how other measures can be implemented within the parish.

**C&E.56 A SINGLE COMMERCIAL WASTE CONTRACT FOR ST IVES - UPDATE**

The Town Clerk provided an update on the project. She advised that positive discussions had been held with three waste providers. One provider had submitted a proposal, which could be discussed in the confidential section of the agenda. The concept was to use a single contractor to achieve better value for businesses but also drive service improvements and innovation. Increasing collections to 2 or 3 a day, would enable smaller vehicles (potentially electric) to be used and increase recycling rates. Cornwall Council is involved in trying to identify a suitable waste transfer site.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the progress to date and support the actions as set out.

**C&E.57 PALEMON BEST SKATE PARK AND PARK IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

The Town Clerk advised that a progress report had been given to the Palemon Best Trustees meeting and was repeated for the Committee:

1. Floodlighting was working and was currently switching off at 9pm. Motion

- sensors ensured that it switched off if the park was empty.
2. A date will be arranged for Councillors to visit the park to view progress once the new play equipment and benches have been installed.
  3. The contract with Maverick has a 12 month retention on the final payment for any snagging issues. There are issues with expansion cracking which need filling. There is also a need to discuss whether a sealant be applied to the surface. Budget provision had been made for this in 2022-23.

There was scope to review the switch off time of the lights in the future.

RESOLVED - that the Committee:

- i) Note the report
- ii) Assess the need for the application of sealant to the Park, in consultation with the contractor and user groups.
- iii) Develop a maintenance plan for the park
- iv) Make arrangements for a site visit, once all enhancements were in place.

C&E.58 TOWN TWINNING: PROPOSALS FOR A CAMARET 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It was confirmed that the recent Camaret 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> had been well attended by local residents. There was positive support for a St Ives invitation to Camaret to celebrate the 40 years of friendship. The group had requested funding from the Town Council to support a commemorative visit with associated events.

Members debated the principle of twinning and the funding. The Town Clerk advised that the Committee had reviewed its position recently in relation to twinning and the agreement to host a anniversary celebration was the one of the agreed actions.

Members stated that the last visit had been to Camaret at their invitation and their very generous hospitality had not yet been reciprocated. In addition, twinning members had offered to accommodate visitors in their own homes at their own expense.

RESOLVED - that the Committee

- i) Support the twinning meeting's decision to host a visit for 2022
- ii) RECOMMEND – that the Council give its full support and commitment to the celebration and in the light of the significance of the 40 year anniversary, the Committee budget for 2022 include a sum of £2,500 to support the hosting of the visit and associated costs.

C&E.59 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION 2022

Members noted the previous report and decision of the Committee from 2020, circulated as part of the agenda. It was agreed that it was not necessary to review arrangements again at this stage, simply to implement the proposed changes and review their impact after 2022.

RESOLVED – to proceed with the previous recommendations in relation to the future hosting of the awards, including that the awards be so named and run in partnership with BID with three award categories.

**C&E.60 REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A PLAQUE FOR TALLAND HOUSE (VIRGINIA WOOLF)**

The Town Clerk advised that the Committee had considered a proposal for a heritage plaque scheme in October 2020 and not supported it. One of the proposed plaques had been to commemorate Virginia Woolf's residence at her family home of Talland House and this had been rejected as part of the wider decision. However, the Council had received further requests from the Virginia Woolf society, and these were supported by Cornwall Council and the local MP. On the basis that the installation of the plaque would be cost-neutral, the Committee were asked to re-consider its position.

Members agreed that the request should be supported on the terms set out. In addition, the Committee requested that a further report on the principle of a scheme be brought to the next meeting (including an update from Cornwall Council regarding their black plaque scheme).

**RESOLVED** – that

- i) The Committee support the request for a commemorative plaque to Virginia Woolf to be erected at Talland House and
- ii) A further report on the costs and principles of a black plaque scheme be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

**C&E.61 PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2022-23 BUDGET**

The RFO introduced the budget report. He advised that a number of budget headings had been amended and narrative in the report explained the justification. These included increased multi-skilled enforcement costs for the PSPO, maintenance costs for the skate park and, in response to the Committee's recommendation, an additional one off cost of £2,500 for the Town Twinning Camaret 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

**RESOLVED** – That, with the addition of a budget for town twinning, the draft Committee budget be **RECOMMENDED** to the Finance and General Purposes Committee as part of their deliberations in setting a 2022-23 budget for the Council.

**C&E.62 FINANCE REPORT**

The RFO informed members that the report set out the headline issues and the current budget position with the detailed income and expenditure report attached as an appendix.

The Town Clerk raised the issue of Christmas tree lights. The Committee funds four Christmas trees for the villages of the parish. Carbis Bay had requested that the Council assist in purchasing a set of replacement Christmas lights, in addition to their tree.

**RESOLVED** – that the Committee note the report and approve the purchase of replacement Christmas lights for Carbis bay from the existing Community budgets.

**C&E. 63 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

None

C&E. 64 CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk introduced a consultation exercise received from the Department of Transport, seeking views on enforcement action in relation to the dangerous use of recreational and personal watercraft. Whilst not on the main agenda for decision, under standing order 10a. the Chairman proposed that a small sub-committee meet to consider a response.

Members agreed that the matter was increasingly relevant to St Ives, given the growing number of jet skis and pleasure craft operating in the bay. It was proposed that comments from interested members were sent to the sub-group, consisting of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and Councillor Harris in order for the Clerk to co-ordinate a response.

C&E. 65 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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.

C&E. 66 COMMERCIAL WASTE CONTRACT

Members discussed the detailed submission from an individual waste contractor. In response to comments, the Town Clerk confirmed that

- the business was already operating in the town and had a considerable market share
- The contract would not replace individual commercial waste contracts which were required in law
- In other innovative schemes, the BIDs had led on the contract
- Businesses were to be incentivised both by the price and the level of service

RESOLVED - to note the progress.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

13 January 2022

Meeting ended at 21.02 pm

Chairman