

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE
PARKHOUSE CENTRE, BUDE ON TUESDAY 27TH May 2014**

Present: Cllr F. Partridge (Mayor) – Chairman

Bude-Stratton Town Council: Cllrs I. Bartrop, J. Bryson, L. Deeley, L. Moores, H. Partridge.
Cllr N. Tucker
Andrew Morgan – Promotions, Marketing and Events Officer.

Cornwall Council: Cllr. D. Parsons N. Pearce.

Bude Police: Sgt. Jez Theobald

Cleaner Seas Project: Ian Saltern

Other Attendees: 1 elector

Luke Smith (Devon and Cornwall Post)

The Mayor opened the meeting by thanking everyone attending and explaining that he would be taking the minutes as the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk were not available.

1. Apologies

Cllr P. Dolphin - Cornwall Council

Cllr P. Moores - Bude-Stratton Town Council

2. Minutes: consideration and approval of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 9th May 2013

Copies of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 9th May 2013 had been distributed by the Town Clerk.

Resolved: That the minutes were a true record and they should be signed by the Mayor

3. Bude-Stratton Town Council

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming those present and expressing his disappointment that only one elector was present. He referred to the video which had been showing on the platform screen prior to the commencement of the meeting. This was 'Passport to Bude' a cine film donated to the archive and digitised as part of a grant funded digitisation project. The project team are working with museums across Cornwall and includes photos from the castle archive. The cine film, accompanied by softly playing music, was well received by all those present.

1) Newly elected Councillors

Two new members, Cllrs J. Heard and P. Curtis, had been co-opted to replace Cllrs P. Dolphin and J Creasey.

2) report by the Mayor of Bude-Stratton Town Council regarding BSTC matters over the past year and projects for the forthcoming year.

The Mayor gave details of the significant number of advances that had taken place since last May:-

Replacement of the old work unit with a new facility, now owned by the Council.

Work on the new cricket pavilion had been finished and the new facility was to be officially opened next weekend.

The bandstand, which had become unfit for purpose had been resurfaced.

Free entry had been introduced at the Castle Heritage Centre , 'the jewel in the Council's crown' with Café Limelight up and running.

Work was on-going to open up the old Forge to the public.

It was hoped that restoration work at the Helebridge Barge workshop would be completed within two to three months.

The Mayor outlined the Council's initial talks with Cornwall Council regarding devolution of services and emphasised that any extra services devolved to the Town Council would have to be cost-effective. It was hoped to achieve savings for the County Council with a neutral effect on the Town Council's finances. It was thought that the Town Council would be more cost effective and be able to react to problems far better than the County Council The Mayor highlighted the grass cutting contract which was very successful and a model for the future.

It was known that there were a number of services that could be devolved to the Town Council and it was to be hoped that progress could be made with Cornwall Council to make this effective within the next 12 months. Problems existed where the Cornwall Council service was not statutory and an income stream would not be provided.

The Mayor gave details of the 0% increase in the Town Council's precept. A figure achieved whilst most other Councils had increased their precepts. It was thought a similar 0% increase could be achieved in the following 12 months.

The Mayor also reminded those present that Bude and Stratton had received a Royal visit during the previous summer which had been the highlight of the summer. The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall had visited Bude and Stratton and it had been a highly successful visit.

The report was enhanced by a series of photos projected onto the stage screen to show the various projects as they were outlined by the Mayor.

The Mayor thanked Andrew Morgan for his professionalism in preparing the video, music and the montage of photographs.

4. Cornwall Council

Report by Cornwall Council members regarding CC matters relating to the Bude area over the past year.

Councillor Nigel Pearce gave an update on the latest situation regarding the toilets managed by Cornwall Council including the financial costs and possible funding.

Councillor Pearce also gave details of the costs of car parking at Summerleaze Beach car park during the off peak winter months in a designated area.

Councillor Pearce gave an update on 'affordable homes' in the Bude and Stratton area and Cornwall as a whole.

Councillor David Parsons also referred to affordable homes.

He gave details of meetings he had attended as a member of the Health Committee with North Devon Healthcare and future prospects for Health provision in North Cornwall.

Councillor Parsons gave the latest update on the present condition and possible future use of the Tripos building.

He also updated the meeting on the latest position regarding the beach huts at Crooklets and Summerleaze beach owned by Cornwall Council and felt that there was an opportunity for the Town Council to have some involvement in provision and management.

Councillor Parsons gave details of McCarthy and Stone's interest in the Cornwall Council home at St. Hillarys

He gave details of the possibility of the 24 hours provision of the Cornwall Air Ambulance and the provision of the helicopter landing pad at Derriford Hospital.

5. Cleaner Seas Project: update by Ian Saltern – Project Manager

Mr. Saltern gave details of his involvement as project manager in the Cleaner Seas Project and what it hoped to achieve in the long term. He explained that water quality guidelines would be stricter in 2015. He explained the consequences of not achieving the water standards in that failure to meet the criteria would result in signs being put up effectively advising people not to enter the water. He gave details of his farm visits encouraging farmers to be careful regarding effluent 'run-off' into water courses which eventually ended up in the sea. Fifty local businesses have also signed up to the cleaner seas pledge campaign re training off staff in correct disposal of fats and grease. A hundred accommodation providers had been supplied with leaflets regarding laundry management. A successful beach clean had been held in February with fifty people helping. He also made mention that Davidstow Dairy Crest were 'on board' with their suppliers who were in the catchment area.

Mr. Saltern answered questions on farm run-offs, attenuation ponds and the Environment Agency.

6. Bude Community CCTV Project – Report by Chairman

Councillor David Parsons gave a detailed review of the Community CCTV Project. He referred to the lack of grant funding and that of volunteers. At present there were four camera locations but he was hopeful that this number would be increased to six. The Crime Commissioner was to be approached for funding but he was not hopeful that this would be successful.

7. Bude Police Report – by Sgt Jez Theobald

Sgt. Theobald gave the current crime statistics for Bude. 518 crimes had been reported in the Bude, Stratton and surrounding area, this being a drop of 11.5% on the previous years. Of the crimes 286 or 52.5% had resulted in ‘positive outcomes’ meaning the offender had been brought to justice. He stated this was the best figures in the Devon and Cornwall area. He gave details of the Police Station front office closure and said that the decision had been taken ‘at a very high level’ and was a response to the economic situation. He explained there was a finite funding resource but urged the public to report ‘everything’. He gave details of the various methods which could be used by the public to contact the police and that there was an answering machine that gave access to the local neighbourhood policing team.

Sgt. Theobald answered questions on the 999 and 101 call system, PCSOs, enquiry office closure, the staffing of the police station, crime figures being down due to the inability of the public to report crimes, alcohol ban in the town centre, the custody centre at Launceston and the future of policing in Bude and area.

8. Neighbourhood Plan – Report by Chairman Councillor Lea Deely.

Councillor Deely gave an update on the work of Common Places, the consultants working on behalf of the steering group. She explained the working groups that had been put in place to address certain aspects of the final report ranging from open spaces to affordable housing. She urged that local people should engage with the consultations to make the final report representative of the views of the local population. Communication with the local residents would be the key.

Councillor Deely gave the steering group’s view, based on evidence from the consultations, that organic growth of 20 – 25 housing units a year would bring the required number of houses under the projected numbers required by Cornwall Council’s core plan. It was to be hoped that the neighbourhood plan would almost be ready for publication by the end of the year but this would be dependent on a number of factors not least Cornwall’s overall plan for the County being published. Councillor Deely then answered a question raised on the infrastructure of the town.

9. Questions

There were no further questions. The mayor expressed his thanks on behalf of the Council and the town to County Councillors David Parsons and Nigel Pearce, Mr. Ian Saltern, Sgt. Theobald, and Luke Smith, reporter, for their attendance and reports. He reiterated his disappointment in only one resident attending but this may have been down to communication problems. He again thanked Andrew Morgan for his efforts in providing him with the presentation and his assistance throughout the evening.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed.....Dated.....