

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE  
WILLOUGHBY GALLERY. THE CASTLE, BUDE ON TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2015**

**Present:** Cllr F. Partridge (Mayor) – Chairman

**Bude-Stratton Town Council:** Cllrs L. Bartrop, A. Biggs, J. Bryson, L. Emo, L. Deely, P. Moores, L. Moores, H. Partridge, P. Tilzey. R. Willingham.

**Cornwall Council:** Cllr. D. Parsons

**Bude Police:** P.C. Steve South

**Other Attendees:** 5 electors  
Ryan Cox (Devon and Cornwall Post)

The Mayor opened the meeting by thanking everyone attending and explaining that he would be taking the minutes as at the last Annual Town meeting. The Town Clerk had taken early retirement and that vacancy was yet to be filled and the Deputy Clerk was on sickness leave.

**1. Apologies**

Cllr. Nigel Pearce, Cllr. Paula Dolphin, Cornwall Councillors  
Cllr. Tucker, Cllr. Hemmings, Cllr. Curtis, Cllr. Watson - BSTC.

**2. Minutes: consideration and approval of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2014**

Copies of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting had been distributed.

**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 and was pleased to note that there was fivefold increase in the number of electors attending.

**1) Newly elected Councillors**

One new member, Cllrs Lesley Watson had been co-opted to replace Cllr. C. Couch.

**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 informed the meeting that the Council was currently recruiting for a Town Clerk following Ms. Christine Kett's early retirement and it was unfortunate that the Deputy Town Clerk is off work at present. He said that without the input of both Clerks for a considerable amount of time during the last year it had been challenging but progress had been made.

The Council had appointed a fulltime Responsible Financial Officer and this will allow the new Town Clerk to concentrate fully on Council matters, progress projects and to deal with matters in a proactive manner.

He reiterated the Council's thanks for Christine Kett's years of service to the Council and wished her well on behalf of the Authority.

The Mayor thanked Andrew Morgan the Promotions, Marketing and Events Officer, whom he described as his 'right hand man', who had taken on many tasks beyond his job description and hopefully he would carry on until the new Town Clerk was appointed.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

Planning permission had been obtained to replace the old Pitch and Putt and work should commence in the autumn.

Helebridge barge workshop had been re roofed and will be open during selected Sunday afternoons during the summer courtesy of the Bude Canal and Harbour Society.

The Cricket Pavilion had been officially opened.

The new Conservatory at the Castle should be completed and opened for Whit Monday. The Castle shop had been moved into Café Limelight and the shop re opened as The Cone.

The Castle tearooms was now subject of a 5 year lease and it was hoped that the successful applicant would be able to reopen the tearooms in June,

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

Cllr. Partridge gave details of a carriage ride that the Council had given authority to operate from the Castle on set days and hours throughout the summer season. It was hoped that the carriage pulled by two horses would be a successful venture and an asset to the tourist season.

He gave details of the 0% increase in the Town Council's precept. This was the third year running that figure had been achieved whilst most other Councils had increased their precepts.

Councillor Partridge then invited Councillor Deely to give an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Deely reported that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was being finalised after three and half years of work by the Steering Group and the Town Council. The Steering Group should finalise the draft in May and then it would be put out to statutory consultation in June. Following a successful consultation period the draft plan would be submitted to Cornwall Council for consideration

The Mayor thanked Councillor Deely and her steering group for the considerable amount of effort they had put in to the Plan. He said he had attended many meetings of the group and was impressed by their enthusiasm and dedication.

#### **4./5. Cornwall Council and Bude CCTV Project**

##### **Councillor David Parsons**

Councillor Parsons gave a broad outline of his ongoing commitment to the Bude CCTV Project and the latest topics of interest to the local residents which included the toilets, library and the beach huts. He explained the lack of cash that was common to all Councils and in particular how it affected Cornwall. He urged Bude-Stratton Town Council to get involved in talks with the devolution of the library. The library facility was at risk and now was the time to ensure its future.

He gave details of the arrangements with Cornwall Council which had been agreed as a way forward to keeping the toilets open by a levy on the car parking but now he had been informed it was no longer possible. He was hopeful that a solution would be found to keep the toilets open.

The funding for the new beach huts at Summerleaze and Crooklets was now in place.

Councillor Parsons gave a full update on the state of the existing CCTV system. He gave details of his latest endeavours with the Chief Executive of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office attempting to secure funding for two high resolution cameras. He recorded his thanks to two local residents for funding and mounting a new camera on their property. He also explained the need for further funding to train CCTV operatives

He responded to questions raised regarding the town's toilets, Premier Inn. B.T., recycling, the roundabout at Hillhead and the Tripos building.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Parsons for his report and his ongoing commitment and endeavours on behalf of the residents.

#### **6. Bude Police Report – by Constable Stephen South**

Constable South gave details of the reductions to the neighbourhood policing team by two PCSOs, leaving himself and one PCSO in situ. Despite the reduction the team had achieved some notable results. They had apprehended the person responsible for graffiti in the sea pool area which resulted in the issue of the first Community Behaviour Order in Devon and Cornwall. They had also dealt with a number of offenders resulting from alcohol related anti-social behaviour which led to bans being imposed from licensed premises. He reiterated that we live in a low crime area with recorded crime being down 5% and anti-social behaviour being down 4% in Bude town area and 3.5% for crime and 13.5% for anti-social behaviour in rural Bude.

Constable South gave the current crime statistics for Bude. 514 crimes had been reported in the Bude, Stratton and surrounding area. These included violence, vehicle crime, drug offences, criminal damage, sexual offences, shoplifting, burglaries and public order offences. Of the crimes 42% had resulted in 'positive outcomes' meaning that just less than one in two crimes are solved. He gave examples of crime and asked for the residents help and support

in employing simple crime deterrents regarding bicycles left insecure, surfboards being left unattended, insecure premises, sheds and outbuildings, and mobile phones going missing.

He gave reasons why an alcohol free zone would not be supported and covered frequently raised questions regarding the police station closure and the future of Launceston Custody Centre.

Councillor Partridge thanked Constable South for his comprehensive report and said that a detection rate of 42% was an excellent result in difficult circumstances.

A member of the public expressed her thanks to Constable South and his colleagues for doing such a good job with so few police officers.

**7. Questions**

There were no further questions. The Mayor expressed his thanks on behalf of the Council and the town to County Councillor David Parsons, Constable South and Ryan Cox, reporter, for their attendance and reports. He reiterated his disappointment that only five residents had attended. He again thanked Andrew Morgan for all his assistance over the past months.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

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