

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2015

Present: Cllr F Partridge - Mayor

Cllrs A Biggs, J Bryson, P Curtis, L Deely, B Dixon, P La Broy, L Moores, P Moores, H Partridge, B Willingham

Mr A Morgan – Acting Town Clerk

Ms A Weare-Gifford – Responsible Finance Officer

Absent (no apologies received): Cllr L Bartrop, L Emo

Cllr Partridge opened the meeting and requested that item 14 on the agenda be moved forward to follow Mayors Remarks. The Council voted to allow this.

C/025/15 **To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Cllrs J Heard, I Hemmings, P Tilzey, N Tucker

C/026/15 **To receive declarations of registered and non-registered disclosable pecuniary interests and non-registerable interests**

Cllr F Partridge declared a non registerable interest in item 16

Cllr H Partridge declared a non registerable interest in item 16

C/027/15 **Dispensations: to consider requests for dispensations (for which a 'Dispensation Request' form must have been completed and submitted to the Proper Officer at least 3 working days prior to the meeting)**

None

C/028/15 **Minutes: to receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 January 2015**

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record and they be signed by the Mayor

C/029/15 **Minutes: to receive, confirm and sign the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 January 2015**

Resolved: That the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record and they be signed by the Mayor

C/030/15 **Minutes: to receive and consider reports and minutes of the following committees (acting under delegated authority) and to consider the adoption of any Recommendations contained therein:**

(i) Planning Committee – 8 January 2015

(ii) Properties Committee – 15 January 2015

(iii) Staffing Committee – 15 January 2015 recommendation SC/07/15

(iv) Planning Committee – 22 January 2015 recommendation PL/187/14

(v) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 22 January 2015

Resolved : To note en bloc the minutes of committee meetings held between 8 January and 22 January as listed.

To adopt recommendation SC/07/15 the reinstatement of members questions

To adopt recommendation PL/187/14 to seek grant funding towards the Neighbourhood Plan

C/030/15

Mayors remarks

- The Mayor informed the Council that the Bude Canal and Harbour Society AGM would be held on Sunday 22nd February at 2.30pm in The Efford Room, The Falcon Hotel. All Councillors are invited.
- The Look Group, Bude has worked with the Royal Cornwall Museum, the Tate St. Ives and others to bring over £70,000 of art to The Castle. The "Your Art" exhibition and associated workshops have been a fantastic success with over 8 local schools visiting, excellent visitor numbers and an overwhelmingly positive response from all that have been. The Mayor thanked all those involved for their hard work in achieving one of the initial aims of The Castle, bringing work by internationally renowned artists to Bude.
- The Mayor also informed the Council of road closures in Stratton with further details circulated at the meeting. The closures are to install high-speed broadband in Stratton.
- Lastly the Mayor gave an update and shared a leaflet with regards to the honours system. Cllr Deely had attended a briefing in Truro on the honours system and gave details on how to nominate people.

C/031/15

Update from Cllr Curtis regarding disabled access to St. Michaels Church

Cllr Curtis gave an update regarding the lack of disabled access into St. Michaels Church and the potential for access to be improved via the private road to Efford Manor. There is currently public access along this road and it could be improved to allow disabled access. Funding has been discussed with Cllr David Parsons. Cllr Curtis informed the Council that he had an interest in that his disabled father used the church. Cllr Curtis is seeking permission to act as a Councillor of Bude Stratton Town Council in his efforts to improve access.

Resolved: That the Council fully supports Cllr Curtis in his objective.

C/032/15

Correspondence Received – for information: copied to all cllrs unless stated otherwise

(i) Cornwall Council: Consultation on disposal of land adjacent to 33 Berries Ave - 29 January 2015

A discussion took place on the consultation and questions were asked with regards to the surrounding area. A proposal was made to say that there were no objections to the disposal of land. A vote was taken and the majority were against the proposal.

Resolved: That Bude Stratton Town Council object on the grounds of loss of amenity and the loss of green open spaces.

C/033/15

Maximum 15 minutes for electors present to put questions or make observations concerning the business of the current Council

None

C/034/15

Members Questions

Cllr Bryson asked if it could be minuted that democracy and transparency have returned to parts of the Council.

A councilor remarked that they felt these had not left.

C/035/15

Opportunity for Cornwall Councillors present to discuss Cornwall Council issues relevant to BSTC

- Cllr Parsons informed the committee that as councillors they had reached the same conclusion with regards to Berries Avenue.
- Cllr Parsons also updated the Council with regards to recent comments that Cornwall Council have £200 million in reserves that should be spent. The actual figure is £180 million and £100 million of that is reserves for schools which it would be illegal to spend. The external auditor, Grant Thornton, reported that Cornwall Councils reserves are too low. Of the £180 million £25 million is an available resource. As an example the storm damage last year cost £20 million and if the government had not paid for the repairs this fund would have been used.
- Cllr Parson gave an update on the beach huts saying that there had been a meeting to get things going and there is a target of 100 beach huts. These will be in 3 designs with a small, medium and large hut at a range of prices. The start will be 20 beach huts at Crooklets Beach including some of each design.
- Cllr Pearce gave an update on powers being devolved to Cornwall Council.
- Cllr Pearce then gave an update on affordable housing and how he has written to various people regarding the rules requiring no affordable housing on developments of 10 or less.
- Lastly Cllr Pearce gave an update on cycle routes in Bude connecting the current cycle route to the bridle way in Stratton. He requested that any ideas on extending cycle routes be sent to him.

A question was asked regarding the cycle route though Helebridge and on to Holsworthy however there were problems with use of the viaduct and with ramblers. There is the potential to start again with a new route and suggestions should be made to the Neighborhood Plan.

C/036/15

Opportunity for Bude Neighbourhood Beat Manager to discuss Policing issues relevant to BSTC

PC Steve South was not available and no questions had been submitted from Councillors. PC South sent an update regarding the 2 year Criminal Behaviour Order given to David Moore on the 26th January 2015.

The terms agreed are:

- 1 Not to be found drunk and incapable in a public place in Bude (as outlined in the map attached to the application); (copy of map att')
- 2 Not to be drunk in a public place save for on-licensed premises (which will include beer gardens). It will be the responsibility of any landlord to ensure he stops serving the defendant when he has had too much to drink;
- 3 Not to use or threaten unlawful violence towards any person;
- 4 To attend fortnightly meetings with your appointed Addiction worker unless you have a reasonable excuse acceptable to your allocated or any other Addiction worker.

As per 2. Mr Moore is on Bude Pub watch and is banned from licenced premises.

C/037/15

Presentation by Debbie Cousins – Bude Works

Debbie Cousins presented information about Bude Works, an initiative funded by the Bude Job Centre to help unemployed people. Bude Works is in the second phase and Debbie gave information on the Business Forums, workshops such as digital skills and the Bude Business Showcase held on the 3rd March in the Parkhouse Centre.

C/038/15

Co-Option to fill vacancy for Councillor (Stratton Ward): applications received from D Rouse, L Watson and J Holden copied to all cllrs and personal statement from those candidates who wish to make one

All 3 candidates were present and presentations were made by Mr J Holden and Mrs L Watson. A written ballot was called and the ballot process explained.

Resolved: That the co-option is conducted by written ballot

Ballot papers were circulated and the Acting Clerk informed the mayor that one candidate had received more than 50% of the vote.

Resolved: That Lesley Watson be co-opted to fill the vacancy for the Stratton Ward of Bude-Stratton Town Council

Cllrs F Partridge and H Partridge left the meeting

C/039/15

Consideration of a Pay Policy as required under the Localism Act 2011 including a pensions policy copied to all cllrs

The RFO gave an update with regards to the pay policy and the requirement under the localism act. Questions were asked in relation to various aspects of the policy.

Resolved: That the pay policy be adopted.

Cllrs F Partridge and H Partridge returned to the meeting

C/040/15

Consideration of the formation of an Audit Panel and selection of councillors copied to all cllrs (Internal Audits – Discussion Document)

The RFO presented a draft document relating to the formation of an internal audit panel. Aspects of the document were discussed at length including changes to allow all councillors to be on the panel. The RFO was keen to stress that as Councillors are responsible for ratifying the financial statements and that the Council complies with annual governance statements there should be an internal process to confirm this. Based on the feedback given a formal policy will be produced and reviewed by the Council with a view to setting up the audit panel in May however volunteers were sought to carry out an initial audit on an area this financial year. Cllrs Bryson and Willingham volunteered for the initial audit.

C/041/15

Financial report on The Castle including Café Limelight

A financial report on The Castle and Café Limelight was presented to the council. Apologies were given that the report was not available before the meeting however it was completed that day. The Acting Clerk suggested that any questions in relation to the report could be raised as an agenda item at meetings and some areas of the report such as staffing will be discussed in depth as part of the restructure. Information was given on the current action plan to reduce costs and increase income. Cllr Biggs suggested that a chartered account could be sought to create of a business plan for The Castle and to help identify areas of cost saving and revenue increase. The Acting Clerk confirmed that this suggestion would be added to the FGP agenda for further discussion.

Resolved: That the report is noted.

C/042/15

Financial Report:

(i) Schedule of Payments already made 17 January 2015 to 30 January 2015 copied to all cllrs

Resolved: That all payments already made (VO1314 – VO1321 inc: - £566.47 be approved

(ii) Schedule of Payments to be made 6 February 2015 copied to all cllrs

The RFO informed the committee that an error had been made with regards to a credit on the report and read out the correct figures.

A question was raised with regards to VO1334 and it was confirmed that the services being paid were for the current financial year.

Resolved: That all payments to be made (VO1322 – VO1335 inc: - £2,114.93 be approved

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9:03pm

Signed..... Date.....