

**MINUTES of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Tuesday 29 September 2020 (via Zoom)**

**Present:** Cllrs Bill Leach (Chairman), Sue Leach, Richard Hallows, Sue Osbrink, Malcolm Neill, Peter Tombs, Nick Foster

**In attendance:** Julie Larter, Clerk; 2 members of the public

**(19/265) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Trudy Reynolds and Cllr Tom French CC

**(19/266) Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 September 2020**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020 be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**(19/267) Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest and no declarations of gifts and hospitality.

**(19/268) Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman said that a meeting of the Regatta Working Party had been held on 22 September at the side of the Pattern Hall on land which he thought was part of the highway. The Chairman has since ascertained that this is a private drive for residents of Pattern Close and he apologised to Cllr Osbrink for any inconvenience or disturbance caused to residents.

**(19/269) Public Participation**

The Chairman invited the members of the public present to speak when the agenda item for the Regatta Field was discussed.

**(19/270) Charlestown Regatta Playing Field**

The Chairman said that papers had been previously provided to members setting out the background to the current situation and it was important to expedite the matter with Wicksteed in case the price increases. He said that members of the working party were pleased with the willingness of Cornwall Council to offer a transition period and agree a condition statement before the parish council considers taking the field on. He said that it is important to ensure that the Regatta continues and nothing should be done to prevent it.

Cllr Foster asked for clarification on the S106 money and where it could be spent. Cllr Osbrink explained that originally it was intended that a childrens' play area be installed in

Foundry Parc but this did not materialise, and an off-site contribution was made by Wainhomes.

Cllr Neill explained that the Regatta Field is one of only a handful of recreation fields in Cornwall that are managed by Cornwall Council. In most cases the town or parish council has responsibility for such resources. Cllr Neill went on to say that Cornwall Council has to make significant savings over the next 4 years and most of their budget will need to go on social care. The freehold of the field remains with Wainhomes and it will be necessary to get their general agreement as to what may happen. Cornwall Council will be approaching the company for this.

The Chairman said that Cornwall Council will not release the S106 money without the Parish Council's agreement to take over the field.

Cllr Tombs said that Cornwall Council is pushing the parish council to take over the field. It may be necessary to access other pots of money as the quote that had been previously agreed did not include the construction of a footpath to the toddlers' play area.

Cllr Neill said that it was clear that Cornwall Council wanted to offload responsibility for the field and have tried to persuade the parish council in the past. Over the years the Regatta Committee have been dissatisfied with the level of service they have received from Cornwall Council and Cormac, in particular the frequency of grass cutting. If the parish council takes on the field the council in partnership with the Regatta Committee can appoint their own contractor.

Cllr Hallows expressed the view that this was a win/win situation offering improved local control.

It was **RESOLVED that St Austell Bay Parish Council will accept the lease of the Regatta Field from Cornwall Council from the date of this meeting provided that Cornwall Council agrees to provide a 2 year transition period towards the transfer of all costs including all insurances (as agreed at the joint meeting held between the two parties on 22 September 2020) and on condition that both parties agree now to the completion of a full condition survey at the time of the transfer upon completion of work agreed.**

**St Austell Bay Parish Council will guarantee the same rights of access to the Regatta Committee as under the existing lease and agrees that the field will be jointly managed by a working party of the parish council and the Regatta Committee constituted as at present. Both parties will make an annual contribution to the upkeep of the field as agreed by both parties.**

**This agreement shall be for a 30 year period in the first instance.**

**The field will remain a public open space accessible to all.**

A member of the public who represented the Regatta Committee said that Regatta Committee is meeting tomorrow evening to discuss the outcome of this meeting.

It was noted that at the Working Party meeting held on 22 September, a Cornwall Council officer had agreed a 3 week timeframe to come back to the working party with further information.

**(19/271) Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings**

15 October, 19 November, 17 December 2020

**Future meetings will be held virtually until Government advice changes**

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm

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Chairman

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Date

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