

MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2021 at 6.00pm (the meeting was held virtually)

Present: Cllrs Bill Leach (Chairman), Sue Leach, Trudy Reynolds, Sue Osbrink, Malcolm Neill, Peter Tombs, Nick Foster, Nigel Chatterjee, Richard Hallows

In attendance: Cllr Tom French CC, Julie Larter (Clerk), 2 members of the public

(19/375) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

(19/376) Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 February 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 February 2021 be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

(19/377) Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

(19/378) Matters to Note

The Clerk reported that the Charlestown Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan consultation continues until 30 March.

Cormac has been working on footpaths and at The Battery all week. Selected felling will be undertaken at The Battery to remove dead and diseased trees and to create viewing points. The Herras fencing that has been there for years will be replaced with a palisade fence. Tension cracks in the route of the old SWCP have developed further and the area continues to be monitored on a weekly basis.

The public are still breaking through the closed section of SWCP at Duporth and barriers and signage are inspected regularly. The Countryside Officer is to ask Cornwall Council if it will commission a drone survey of the cliff between Charlestown and Carrickowel Point

Cornwall Council will be advertising the tender for the east cliff stabilisation work in the next few days. Following concerns from Cornwall Council's engineer about the undercut cliff edge, a small permanent path diversion has been created just up from the kissing gate and woodchip will be laid here, the lower end of Footpath 26 and the new east cliff diversion.

(19/379) Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman expressed his concern about recent storm damage to the harbour which had attracted a huge amount of interest but he was delighted with the speed of repair work. He said that he was saddened to learn of the abuse directed at harbour staff and contractors as a result of trolling because of the CCTV camera on The Pier House. On the advice of the Harbour's health and safety consultant, harbour staff had temporarily covered up the CCTV

camera and this had upset some people. Cllr Hallows as custodian of the camera reported that he has subsequently liaised with the Harbour, the Rowing Club and St Austell Brewery and he has asked the Brewery to temporarily turn off the camera. The situation will be reviewed every 2 weeks. The Chairman thanked Cllr Hallows for dealing with the matter. All councillors supported this course of action.

(19/380) Public Participation

No members of the public wished to speak.

(19/381) Planning Applications and Related Matters

(i) PA20/08476 – 179 Charlestown Road: Proposed loft conversion to form a bedroom with a balcony

The Clerk reported that an amended plan is to be submitted which will address concerns outlined by the WHS planning officer. The Planning Officer has agreed an extension of time and the application will be considered next month.

(ii) PA21/00475 – 1 Barkhouse Lane: Works to trees under a Tree Preservation Order

It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk should respond to the Planning Authority (Cornwall Council) stating that the parish council will concur with the Tree Officer's recommendation.**

(b) Update on the following outstanding applications

(i) PA20/09731 – 4 Garden Walk: Construction of single storey extension with new sun terrace above and alterations to existing property

No update was available.

(ii) PA19/08174 – Land Off Mill Lane: Residential dwelling to include associated site works and alteration/formation of vehicular/pedestrian access

The Planning Officer is waiting for the applicant's response to the WHS Planning Officer's comments.

(iii) PA20/02256 – Rashleigh Arms: Retrospective Listed Building Consent for the proposed external works to Grade II Listed Building

The matter is in the hands of the Planning Officer's Manager.

(19/382) St Austell Bay Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Sue Leach reported that she has not heard anything back from the Examiner. Electoral Services has ruled that neighbourhood plan referendums will not be held at the same time as elections in May due to complications with Community Governance boundary reviews – they are likely to take place in the early summer and it is hoped that the Plan will have passed all the pre-referendum stages by then.

(19/383) Cornwall Councillor's Report

Cllr French reported there has been a rise in Anti-Social behaviour in St Austell. The Chief Executive of Cornwall Council has received a large number of complaints regarding homelessness in the county. There are currently 570 people in temporary accommodation which is a 100% increase on the pre-Covid number. There are 78 people in temporary accommodation in St Austell and Cllr French stressed the need for adequate support to be in

place. Cornwall Council is to purchase 250 properties across the county in the next 6-9 months in order to address the homeless problem in the county.

(19/384) History Working Party

Cllr Neill reported that the working party met on 9 February to consider a response to Paul Holden's comments regarding proposed listing on the Cornwall Buildings at Risk register.

Porthpean Sunday School Room: It was **RESOLVED to ask the Cornwall Buildings Group to add the building to their At Risk Register and through their contacts with Historic England to pursue its listing on their register of buildings at risk. Furthermore the parish council will apply for the building to be listed with Historic England and will apply to Cornwall Council under the Community Right to Bid to have the building added to the Council's List of Assets of Community Value.** The Clerk was asked to ensure that the Truro Diocese was fully informed before any actions are taken.

Polmear Mine: It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to Cornwall Council's Archaeological Unit, the World Heritage Site office and the Cornwall Buildings Group asking for advice on the best way forward to investigate and better understand the remains of this important historical asset.** The Clerk was asked to write to the Trustees of The Western Block Discretionary Trust 2017 who are the landowners seeking permission for the working party to access the site.

Rashleigh Car Park: It was **RESOLVED to make an application to Historic England for the last remaining ore floor in Charlestown to be listed.** The Clerk is to inform St Austell Brewery of the Council's intention.

The Chairman enquired about the makeup of the History Working Party as he wanted to ensure there was a balance of councillors and residents. The group comprises 3 councillors and 3 members of the public.

(19/385) Regatta Playing Field

The Clerk reported that the trees and stakes are now on order and it is planned that parish council staff members will plant the trees next week. Cllr Reynolds is to plot exact locations on a plan which will be sent to the Regatta Working Party.

Cornwall Council is in discussion with The Duchy over liability for the drainage issue and the matter is ongoing.

It was noted that year's Charlestown Regatta has been cancelled.

(19/386) Policy Review

It was **RESOLVED to adopt a new Equal Opportunities Policy. The following policies were reviewed without amendment: Grant, Broadcasting and Social Media, Communications Protocol, Complaints, Information and Data Protection, Disciplinary, Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions, Grievance, Media and Publicity, Model Publication Scheme, Risk Assessment and Risk Assessment Policy Statement, Safeguarding.** It was noted that the Complaints policy had not been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED that the Meetings Protocol should be amended as follows:**
3. Meetings with External Partners

The first paragraph to read “Where possible the Chairman will attend together with the Clerk. If the Chairman is unavailable, the Vice Chairman will take the lead. A ward member and any councillor who has specific expertise will be invited. If it felt appropriate , the Cornwall Council divisional member may be invited”.

Referring to the Communications Protocol, Cllr Hallows felt that there was insufficient information on some agendas for the public to fully understand what was to be discussed and he asked that the policy should be followed more closely.

(19/387) Highways Matters

Concern was expressed about litter bins around Charlestown harbour. Cllr French was asked to speak to Cornwall Council and ask the council to request takeaway outlets to provide their own bins.

Cllr Foster has received complaints about speeding motorists along Bay View Road. The road is currently unadopted therefore Cornwall Council will not take any action. The Clerk has contacted PCSO Carpenter and will prompt her again.

Cllr Foster also expressed concern that there could be another potential parking issue on Duporth Road in the summer and asked whether anything could be done about yellow lining. The Clerk explained that nothing had been set aside in this year’s budget and the cost was prohibitively high.

(19/388) Financial Matters

(i) The Council’s Asset Register was reviewed and found to be in order and members were satisfied that insurance renewal documents provided an adequate level of cover.

(ii) Current balances were noted and the following payments were authorised:

Method	Payee	Purpose	Amount
DD	Cornwall Council	Business rates for toilets	£77.00
DD	SWW	Water for hall	£27.50
DD	Lloyds Bank	Credit card	£109.91
DD	BT	Telephone and internet	£61.67
DD	ITEC	Monthly printing charges	£6.19
DD	Blenheims Estate and Asset Management	Monthly estate charge	£12.00
BACS	SSE	Electricity for hall	£393.68
BACS	Staff	Salaries and oncosts	£2069.52

The Clerk reported that the fridge in The Pattern Hall was no longer working and an electrician had attended today and deemed it uneconomic to repair. It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk should purchase a replacement fridge.**

The Clerk reported that she had applied to the Reopening the High Streets Safely Fund and had been awarded a grant of £1,375.51 to purchase additional pavement signs, a new directional arrow template and marker spray and a hand sanitising unit to be placed outside the public toilets. The Clerk has asked Cormac to erect “keep left” signs at either end of Barkhouse Lane.

(19/389) Meetings/Training Attended

28 January – The Clerk attended a virtual Action with Communities in Rural England presentation “How your village hall can contribute to a carbon zero future”

9 February – History Working Party meeting

12 February – All councillors and the Clerk attended an informal meeting with the developers of the former Lovering Clay Dry

(19/390) Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been previously circulated and the following had been received since publication of the agenda:

- Invitation from Cornwall AONB Unit to attend events and courses
- Invitation to attend the film premier of Cornwall’s Climate Stories
- Notice of maintenance and resurfacing work on B3273

(19/391) Dates for the Diary

11 March – St Austell and Mevagissey Community Network Panel Meeting

(19/392) Dates of future Parish Council Meetings

18 March, 16 April (Also the Annual Parish Meeting), 20 May 2021 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council).

All future meetings will be virtual until guidance changes.

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

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Chairman

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Date