

MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 15 July 2021 at 6.00pm in The Pattern Hall

Present: Cllrs Sue Leach, Nick Foster, Nigel Chatterjee, Jackie Bull, Richard Hallows, Trudy Reynolds, Mike Norris

In attendance: Cllr James Mustoe CC; Jacob Parry, Activities Officer, Cornwall AONB Unit; Helen Nicholson, CC Community Link Officer; Julie Larter (Clerk); 7 members of the public

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Jackie Bull, Vice Chairman, Chaired the meeting

(21/043) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Leach.

(21/044) Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 June 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 June 2021 be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

(21/045) Matters to Note

The Clerk reported that she is still waiting to find out when the Charlestown Character Appraisal and Management Plan will be signed off by Cornwall Council. The replacement "Michael's bench" was installed today in Church Road and Keith has started to treat some of the benches around the harbour. The Clerk went on to say that although Covid restrictions were planned to be lifted on Monday, she has set out a protocol around the use of the hall which she will provide to hirers. The Clerk then read out the protocol.

(21/046) Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

(21/047) Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

(21/048) Cornwall Councillor's Report

Cllr Mustoe tabled the following report:

The last few weeks have been particularly busy as we look to head out of lockdown restrictions and towards what promises to be a busy summer season, despite annoyingly having to self isolate for the last week and a bit.

I reported a fallen tree to Cormac on the path from Mill Lane to Porthpean Road which was subsequently cleared within 48 hours. I also have asked them to cut back the vegetation where the path ends on Porthpean Road, as it is growing out into the road and obscuring the vision of people who need to cross the road into sometimes oncoming traffic. They have done some of this by hand and will come back later and do the rest with the flail. I have had

an area of the permitted right of way between Trenarren and the back road to Pentewan reported to me by the Ramblers Association and have gone back to the Parish Clerk who says this is a long term issue that she has been trying to get movement from Cormac on. I am happy to give support to the parish on this as it is crucial that we don't lose any of this network.

I was delighted to see progress with the repairs and rerouting of the Duporth coastpath - thank you to Cormac, Cornwall Council and Duporth Bay Residents for working together on this - I have been in regular touch with Cormac, Cornwall Council and some residents and am pleased to see this progress.

Regarding the hybrid planning application that was discussed at last month's meeting, I have had several conversations with the planning officer about this. She has concerns over the application but has yet to reach a recommendation. I will provide an update when I can.

Thank you also to the Chair and Cllr Leach for meeting with me to discuss the St Austell Bay Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is an excellent document and one that I hope will help me use planning guidance tailor made for the area to argue over planning applications and get the right results for the parish in the future. I look forward to the referendum.

I met with Cllr Foster about traffic issues on Duporth Road/Brick Hill immediately before this meeting.

I have had a number of contacts recently regarding anti social behaviour around several places in the division. In every case I have referred to the police, and in particular I am pleased to have reassurance from them today that they are using 'Beach Patrol' funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office to resource additional patrols around the coastal stretch from Crinnis to Gorran Haven over the summer months. This is down to the local work put in by the St Austell area Sector Inspector and his team and I thank him for listening and taking action here. In any case where there is a potential crime being involved, and I am not going to mention specifics, as there are ongoing investigations over several of the incidents that have been reported to me, the first point of call should be to contact the police, both to report any issues that require urgent attendance via 999 or via 101 or the email at 101@dc.police.uk. It is only by reporting issues to the police that they are able to form an evidence base and take action, so it really does need to be done. It should go without saying that all forms of antisocial behaviour, particularly some of the reprehensible activity I have seen or been told about over the last few days, is unacceptable but it does need to be reported appropriately so the relevant agencies can do their jobs and investigate and take further action.

(21/049) Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Monumental Improvement Project

Jacob Parry reported that since the last presentation to the council, a bid for lottery funding has been successful and work has started on the development stage of the project. Cornwall Archaeological Unit has been commissioned to survey the 40 sites (which includes Black Head) in order to create a management plan for each site. Woodfield Ecology has been engaged to undertake a habitat walk-over survey to provide constraints maps and to identify controlled or protected species. 40 volunteers have been trained and they have given up 800 hours of time. The project will commence the delivery stage in March 2022 and the Unit is working on a further Lottery Fund bid. The intention is to deliver an extensive activity

programme to engage more people in heritage and the project supports social prescribing, community groups and volunteers. The intention is to also create 2 apprenticeship places and to undertake education and outreach at the sites to encourage more people to visit heritage sites. Funding has been secured with Cornwall Council, Cornwall AONB and confirmation is awaited from Historic England and the National Trust.

Cllr Reynolds stated that the Trustees of the Penrice Estate have put the Ledrah up for auction and this was causing concern amongst residents. One of the main access routes for Black Head is across the Ledrah. Jacob asked the Clerk to pass his contact details on to Cllr Reynolds and he would alert the AONB planning officer. Cllr Mustoe offered to arrange a face to face meeting between one of the Penrice Trustees and concerned residents.

Cllr Bull thanked Mr Parry for his informative talk and suggested that he contacted the social prescribing nurse at St Austell Healthcare as she felt she would be keen to support the project.

(21/050) Public Participation

The Chairman said that she would take comments from the public when the relevant agenda item was being discussed.

(21/051) Planning Applications and Related Matters

(a) There were no planning applications to consider.

(b) An update was provided on the following planning applications

(i) PA21/01311 – Full planning application for proposed two units of affordable housing at land adjoining 31 Duporth Road in conjunction with outline application for 6 open market housing on Duporth Road and proposed off road parking on Crinnis Road, Carlyon Bay
Cllr Mustoe had given an update on this in his report.

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

This application has been approved.

(ii) PA20/09731 – 4 Garden Walk: Construction of single storey extension with new sun terrace above and alterations to existing property
No update was available.

(iii) PA19/08174 – Land Off Mill Lane: Residential dwelling to include associated site works and alteration/formation of vehicular/pedestrian access
No update was available.

(21/052) Wainhomes Land Ownership in Charlestown

It was noted that a survey was posted out to all households on the Electoral Register on 14 July. Cllr Leach explained that she had initially drafted the document which every councillor had fed into and wording for the final version had been agreed by all councillors. Cllr Leach went on to say that the protocol agreed for analysing neighbourhood plan questionnaires would be used to evaluate responses.

A member of the public stated that he represented 6 other people and they were disappointed that an analysis of the pain/gain of the proposed land transfers had not been undertaken and asked what the process for arriving at a decision with Wainhomes would be.

A member of the public felt that entering into any proposed land transfer was a risky venture and enquired whether the council had a budget for future liabilities should the transfer go ahead.

Cllr Bull said that no decision would be made until the results of the survey were known and that the council would not take on something the parish is not happy about. She said that the process will be transparent and when planning applications are submitted, full discussions will take place. Cllr Leach added that ultimately the decision on the planning applications would be made by the planning officer.

(21/053) South West Coast Path

The Clerk reported that Cornwall Council has now reached agreement in principle with all affected landowners to roll back the path. Cormac is hoping that work can commence before the legal formalities have been signed in order to speed things up. Affected landowners are now being consulted on types of fencing and planting they would like. The Countryside Officers are hopeful that the path will reopen next month.

Work to East Cliff, Charlestown is still scheduled for September.

(21/054) Regatta Playing Field

The Clerk reported that all the play equipment has now been installed and the new paths completed. The equipment has been safety inspected and Cornwall Council is happy for the area to be opened. The Regatta Working Party will be meeting on 19 July and will decide on an opening date.

Cornwall Council is in the process of costing various options regarding the drainage problem and once this has been done, will be meeting with The Duchy.

(21/055) Environment and Climate Change Working Party

The group met on 6 July and Cllr Reynolds reported that Cllr Bull attended to outline the work carried out by residents of Chandlers Walk in creating their community garden. The group discussed how something like this could be rolled out across the parish and it was suggested that it would be nice to do something similar on the approaches to Charlestown from Carlyon Bay and also Duporth. The triangle of land at the end of Crinnis Road was suggested. The group would like to compile a list of volunteers within the community to undertake environmental projects and the Clerk will hold a database. Cllr Bull is to join the working party.

(21/056) History Working Party

The group met on 5 July and Cllr Reynolds reported that several visits have been made to South Polmear mine, including with Graeme Kirkham who has been very helpful. The next step is to consider commissioning a measured survey with archaeological support – this is

likely to cost around £10,000, and would need permission from landowners. Funding streams will be considered and a report will be put to the parish council for consideration.

Cllr Reynolds reported that the background information needed for the application to list the Rashleigh car park has been sent to the Clerk and she will submit the application when her workload permits.

Cllr Reynolds said that at the working party meeting Andy Trudgian had reiterated that no discussions had taken place with the Atalaya Trust regarding linking work to The Battery with any planning application and that the only finance discussed related to an offer from the Trust to instal a flagpole. It is intended that a number of improvements be made at The Battery, the first of which would be to submit a planning application to remove some trees which are in danger of undermining the wall but the loss of the trees will be mitigated by planting hedgerow trees along the new footpath. Following this, undergrowth will be cleared and a flagpole will be erected. Further work planned is for a replica cannon and interpretation boards to be installed and eventually hold guided walks and exhibits.

It was noted that some attention needs to be given to The Leats and it may be advisable to submit an enhanced Listing application to Historic England.

The group have talked about getting the 1999 Charlestown Archaeological Report updated at some stage.

(21/057 Tree Warden

Cllr Reynolds has checked on saplings planted in the spring and they appear to be doing well. There have been a few losses in the Regatta field and replacements will be needed in the autumn.

The landowner affected by the re-routing of the SWCP from Charlestown to The Battery and work undertaken on the Polmear farm path has agreed to some hedgerow planting.

Each parish in the country is being offered a free tree as part of the Landmark Tree Scheme and it was **RESOLVED to apply for a small leafed lime to go in the Regatta Field as this year is the 50th anniversary of the revival of Charlestown Regatta. The council will purchase 2 additional trees, one for each ward. It will also purchase a selection of spring flowering bulbs to be planted on the Crinnis Road triangle. £150 has been allocated for the total project.**

(21/058) Charlestown Public Toilets

The Clerk circulated a report prior to the meeting outlining difficulties with the current paying mechanisms at the toilets. A discussion took place on whether to make the toilets free to use, but this idea was dismissed and it was **RESOLVED to accept a quote of £8,219 from Healthmatic to install 3 new entry systems, 2 of which will be contactless and 1 that will accept cash and contactless payment.**

(21/059) Highways Matters

Following the removal of Covid restrictions, it was **RESOLVED that the one way pavement signs should remain in place, although yellow arrows will not be repainted. This**

matter will be reviewed in October. The 20MPH advisory temporary speed limit signs were felt to be ineffective and Cormac is to be requested to remove them.

Parking on Duporth Road continues to be an issue and Cllr Mustoe is to arrange a site meeting with himself, Cllrs Foster and Bull the Highways Manager and concerned residents. The Clerk will send Cllr Mustoe previous correspondence on the matter.

(21/060) Financial Matters

(a) Clerk’s request to attend the Society of Local Council Clerks Annual Conference
 It was **RESOLVED to agree to the Clerk’s request to attend the SLCC Annual Conference in October and the cost will be shared with Carlyon Parish Council**

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

| Payee | Purpose | Amount |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| SWW | Water for hall | £ 27.50 |
| SWW | Water for toilets | £ 103.50 |
| Lloyds Bank | Credit card | £ 218.23 |
| Fintec | Quarterly Lease on Photocopier | £ 136.91 |
| BT | Telephone and internet | £ 83.28 |
| BT | Clerk’s mobile phone | £ 24.00 |
| Duchy Defibrillators | Annual monitoring fee Church Hall and Porthpean | £ 384.00 |
| Lyreco | Toilet supplies and printer paper | £ 280.80 |
| Blenheims Estate & Asset Management | Monthly estate service charge | £ 12.00 |
| Biffa | Annual litter bin servicing – Trenarren | £ 280.80 |
| Staff/CPF/HMRC | Salaries and oncosts | £ 2,833.12 |

It was noted that Cllr Chatterjee has checked the bank reconciliation and receipts relating to expenditure on the credit card.

(21/061) Parish Councillor Vacancies

It was **RESOLVED to co-opt Sandra Tilsley to fill the vacancy in the Charlestown ward.**

(21/062) Meetings/Training Attended

22, 23, 24 June – Cllr Chatterjee attended Cornwall Council’s introduction to planning training.

5 July – History Working Party

6 and 15 July – Environment and Climate Change Working Party

(21/063) Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been previously circulated

(21/064) Dates for the Diary

19 July – Regatta Working Party

20 July – Environment and Climate Change Working Party

(21/065) Dates of future Parish Council Meetings

16 September, 21 October, 18 November, 16 December 2021, 20 January, 17 February, 17 March, 21 April 2022

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

DRAFT