

MINUTES of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL held on FRIDAY 18 JANUARY 2019 at 9.00am in THE PATTERN HALL, CHARLESTOWN

Present: Cllrs Bill Leach (Chairman), Sue Leach, Trudy Reynolds, Malcolm Neill, Steve Morris, Richard Hallows, Sue Osbrink, Peter Tombs, Dave Nicklin
In attendance: Julie Larter (Clerk); 31 members of the public.

The Chairman apologised that the meeting had been called before the Regatta Committee had the opportunity to respond to action points raised at a meeting held on 16 November with Cornwall Council. He said that he felt that the meeting was premature but it had been called in response to a written request from some parish council members.

(18/167) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

(18/168) Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

(18/169) Public Participation

A member of the public spoke on behalf of Charlestown Rowing Club and said that the rowing club had been a beneficiary of money, time and effort from the Regatta Committee since the club's inception. He said that the rowing club couldn't operate without the Regatta Committee and that it was firmly behind the Regatta Committee and what they do. He said that on a personal level he appreciates how difficult it is to get Cornwall Council to do anything. He asked the parish council to work with the Regatta Committee as there would not be full finance from Cornwall Council. His final comment was "be careful what you wish for" in respect of taking over the field.

The Chairman of the Regatta Committee said that he was surprised that the meeting had been called. He said he felt that the Regatta Committee, the parish council and Cornwall Council were negotiating and he didn't understand what the meeting was about.

A member of the public read from letters received by the Regatta Committee in 1989. One letter stated that the Regatta field was being gifted for the benefit of the community and the second suggesting a management agreement with Regatta to provide a playing field for the future benefit of people living in the area.

Cllr Tombs said it was not his intention to overturn the Regatta Committee, the purpose of the meeting was to see if the parish council wanted a role in managing the field. He said that Regatta Week is fantastic. The problem was with the unitary authority and we need to look at how we might improve their role. He said it should be what the parish council wants not what the Regatta Committee wants.

A member of the public said there is nothing wrong with the way the field is run.

A member of the public said that it has taken since 2016 to get the new play equipment installed and the work done. When the toddlers' equipment was installed a few years ago it was paid for 50/50 between s106 money and the Regatta Committee. At the time Cormac didn't install the correct fencing and how it looks now is down to Cormac. He said that the Regatta Committee and the parish council working together should produce a good field.

(18/170) Charlestown Regatta Playing Field

Cllr Sue Leach said that she didn't feel the parish council should make a decision today – it needed a lot of answers and the ultimate decision should be up to the Regatta Committee.

Cllr Osbrink said that the parish council should wait for the Regatta Committee to make their decision.

Cllr Hallows said that this was a legitimate discussion and was not against the Regatta Committee. He said that he supported Cllr Tombs.

The Chairman of the Regatta Committee referred to Cllr Tombs' suggestion of control and said that the word 'control' was absolute and suggested a takeover and that is why there are so many people here today.

Cllr Nicklin said that assuming control was the wrong way to put it.

Cllr Morris said that the matter needs discussion but this was premature. Assets can become a liability. He said that if there is no funding it would be a costly inheritance. He said that what goes on in the field outside of Regatta Week might need exploring.

Cllr Tombs said that maybe his wording was wrong, perhaps to have some input/shared participation was a better way to put it.

The Chairman said that it is emotive to speak of taking control. He said that there would be no devolved funding from Cornwall Council if the parish council took over the lease and the parish council needs to be careful it doesn't pick up more that it can handle. He said that at the November meeting, attendees were talking of partnership.

Cllr Neill said that it was nice to see so many friendly faces. People were upset. Charlestown Regatta Committee is part of the glue that holds Charlestown together. He said that the Regatta Committee had given the parish council money to site the anchors around the village. He said that informal discussions should continue to be the way forward.

Cllr Nicklin suggested carrying out a SWOT analysis. He said we would be stronger if we work together and that partnership was the way forward. We needed to get more interest from Cornwall Council. The threat was that he was shocked at the amount of money spent. We needed to identify a niche for the Regatta Committee.

Cllr Hallows said that there was no public election to the Regatta Committee. This was strongly refuted by the Chairman of the Regatta Committee and by other members of the public.

Cllr Neill said that there are 25 members on the Regatta Committee of whom 14 live within the parish – 56% of the committee, and an additional 8 members, although outside the parish, have been members for decades.

The Chairman of the Regatta Committee said that if we are going to be constructive, we need to look forward.

Cllr Tombs said that this was the first time the parish council had sat down to discuss the matter.

The Chairman said that in 3 years' time, Cornwall Council would receive no money from central government, it would all have to come from the precept and business rates. There is no magic

formula and by working without Cornwall Council, there is no money. Cornwall Council has some money and responsibility so we don't want to lose that.

Cllr Neill asked the Chairman of the Regatta Committee how he saw the way forward. The Chairman replied 'by working towards a partnership agreement.'

Cllr Sue Leach proposed, Cllr Osbrink seconded and it was **RESOLVED that the parish council should continue to contribute to ongoing discussions into the possibility of working in partnership with the Regatta Committee.**

Cllr Neill suggested that there should be a series of informal meetings which should be reported back to the respective bodies. He said that the Chairmen of both organisations should choose a small group to achieve that aim.

A member of the public asked why Charlestown councillors weren't involved in the November discussion and said that she would like Charlestown councillors involved in future discussions.

Cllr Neill proposed, seconded by Cllr Osbrink and it was **RESOLVED that the informal discussions should continue between the Regatta Committee and the parish council and that the Chairman of each body should choose representatives to attend the meetings. Cllr Hallows voted against the proposal saying he would prefer the parish council to decide the representatives.**

Cllr Morris said that a partnership needed trust and that decision-making arrangements should be put in place.

The Chairman of the Regatta Committee suggested that a legal agreement could be drafted between the Regatta Committee and the parish council.

Cllr Osbrink thanked the Clerk for the extra time she had put in around this meeting.

(18/171) Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings

21 February, 28 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 22 August, 19 September, 17 October, 19 December 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.46 am

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Chairman

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Date