



Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2AT

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Town Mayor: Cllr Ms D L Reeve

Town Clerk: P B Bennett

Minutes of a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council Amenities Committee held virtually and
remotely on Monday 11th January 2021

Present: Cllr Ms D Reeve
Cllr S Barnes
Cllr H Biscoe
Cllr Mrs A Biscoe
Cllr A Bishop
Cllr P Broad
Cllr M Brown
Cllr Mrs J Davidson
Cllr Mrs B Ellenbroek
Cllr C Garrick
Cllr Ms C Page
Cllr I Thomas

Chairman
From the point mentioned

In attendance: Mr P B Bennett
Mrs J Pascoe
Mr A Webb

Town Clerk
Administrative Assistant
Facilities and Contracts Manager

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

1386.1 **To confirm members can communicate with others at the meeting and to receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Tregunna (unwell).

1386.2 **Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this Agenda.**

Cllr Thomas and Cllr Broad declared an interest in Items 14 and 15 on the Agenda.

1386.3 **To suspend Standing Orders to allow the public to speak**

Unanimously RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the public to speak [Proposed Cllr Ms Page; Seconded Cllr Bishop]

1386.4 **To allow the public to put questions to the Council on any item on this agenda**

Mr Thomas advised those present that he wished to speak as a member of the public in relation to two issues regarding his own business interests. Emails from Mr Thomas had been circulated to the Members prior to the meeting. Firstly, he advised his communication of 1st January was a result of the Tier 3 regional lockdown which closed his café and other settings in the town. This being prior to the national lockdown announced on 4th January, it was appropriate the Council now consider his request for a waiver of the licence fee as a collective one. The lockdown plunged businesses into uncertainty and financial difficulty, and although there were promises of Government

support nothing was certain or guaranteed. Rent was not the only expense faced by tenants with others such as staff or loan payments to be met. Mr Thomas quoted from the A&AG committee meeting held on 19th October 2020, where the Town Clerk had stated regarding Market Way “when in lockdown rents were suspended, then charging 50% to the end of the calendar year, and 100% from January 2021”. The Town Mayor had also stated at that meeting “we took the right call as none could trade – it would look incredibly unfair if we charged rent”.

Secondly, Mr Thomas spoke over the disparity with the Market Way café licence fee and other units. The café was charged at £600 per calendar month which he stated was disproportionate and unfair. He had written to the Council and had been advised by the Town Clerk the level had been set by the former landlord and not been reviewed in the last four years, despite increased costs to the Council including lock/unlock and toilet cleaning. Mr Thomas stated landlords were responsible for communal toilets, and he had approached Redwood Estate Agents for some rent comparisons. They had advised a similar café in the town, which had the capacity for more covers than the Market Way cafe was being charged a lower amount. Mr Thomas stated he was not asking for any favours but wished for an application of fairness, and thanked the Members for allowing him to speak.

1386.5 **To reinstate Standing Orders**

Cllr Barnes joined the meeting at this point.

Unanimously RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders [Proposed Cllr Garrick; Seconded Cllr Ms Page]

1386.6 **To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 2nd November 2020**

1386.6.1 RESOLVED by Majority to accept the Minutes of the Committee held on 2nd November 2020 as a true and accurate record of proceedings [Proposed Cllr Thomas; Seconded Cllr Garrick]. Cllrs Mrs Biscoe, Biscoe, Bishop and Ms Page abstained as they had not been present at the meeting.

1386.7 **Town Clerk’s Report**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted.

1386.8 **To receive correspondence**

Denise Jacka – Litter Bin request at Church Lane, Redruth

Emails had been circulated prior to the meeting. A discussion took place and it was stated there had previously been issues in that area, but with litter bins already installed in Lovers Lane and Church Lane there was little that could be done. Cllr Brown stated the Town Council did not deal with waste removal, and the cost of providing and maintaining a litter bin was too great, but suggested the Cornwall Councillor for the ward looked into the problem. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas would take up the matter, and the Administrative Assistant would provide further details to Cllr Thomas.

Derek Simpson – Redruth Community Centre

An email had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk advised that Mr Simpson was a previous Chair of the Redruth Community Centre. Cllr Barnes advised at a forthcoming Cornwall Council meeting on 2nd February Redruth Councillors would discuss their allocation of S 106 money, where an opportunity would arise to ask for some to go to the Redruth Community Centre. Cllr Garrick suggested other funding routes should be investigated. Cllr Mrs Davidson advised there were efforts going on to obtain funding for the Community Centre through HSHAZ, which the Manager of the

Community Centre was aware of. A survey of the building had been undertaken and the front part of the building had problems with damp and flooring. It was thought there would be enough funding to cover these costs when it was available to bid for after the Covid 19 pandemic crisis. Cllr Broad advised that Cornwall Community Foundation awarded grants up to £1000 for projects and could be followed up after the pandemic. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek stated she was disturbed by and objected to the comments in Mr Simpsons letter that Councillors were not trying. The Town Clerk would write to Mr Simpson advising him of the current position, the efforts made by Councillors and would provide examples where S 106 funding had been previously spent in Redruth.

1386.9 **To receive a report on the work of the Facilities Departments Work**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. In response to a query from Cllr Ms Reeve about Clock Tower funding, the FCM advised there had been an informal agreement with Cornwall Council liason that a figure of around £60000 would be available, on which basis Redruth Town Council had proceeded with the project to refurbish the Clock Tower. He was in contact with the Community Link Officer and would be persisting to obtain the funds. He acknowledged the delay may have been due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and if a more formal approach was required he would bring the item back for Councillors to consider. Cllr Ms Reeve advised she would provide her support in the matter. With reference to item 16.0 Allotments, Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek advised she would make enquiries with Coastline being the owner of the properties. Cllr Thomas stated that the School Crossing Patrol was used not only by Primary Schools but also Secondary Schools, and provided a safe place for other pedestrians to cross. The FCM advised it was difficult to find someone who would take the role due to the small number of hours and specific times required. He was awaiting a response from Trewirgie School having contacted them for assistance, and advised an electronic alternative would be easier but was expensive. Referring to item 19.3 Flooding at base of Bucketts Hill, Cllr Thomas advised he was awaiting feedback from Cormac who had commissioned camerawork underground. A discussion took place regarding the vandalism that had occurred at the New Cut Public Conveniences. The FCM advised the recent damage to the steel door may result in costs in the region of £2500 if necessary to replace it. Vandalism to the doors was ongoing and costs to keep the toilets open were more than the charges could cover. The damage had been reported to the police and crime referenced. The CCTV camera in the New Cut car park was positioned too far away to give any meaningful coverage, and a time window for the crime would need to be provided for recordings to be checked. Cllr Thomas asked if the CCTV could be moved to a position where it would cover the toilets. The current location worked in winter but not in summer when the view was obscured by leaves on trees. Cllr Brown agreed where it was currently located it did not help but was still a deterrent and protected the car park. He enquired if a portable camera could be used, or a visible camera near the site to act as a deterrent. Cllr Mrs Biscoe advised that the new CCTV cameras were much better than previous versions and it was likely a useful image could be obtained. The existing camera was positioned not only to cover the car park but to cover Nettles Hill and Green Lane, and other cameras in the town may be able to catch the offender escaping. Cllr Barnes expressed concerns the Council could not continue to keep repairing the toilets, and that CCTV must be installed which covered them or they would have to be closed down. The Town Clerk would place the item on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Amenities committee.

- 1386.9.1 Unanimously RESOLVED the report is noted and approval granted for necessary works, equipment disposal and purchases [Proposed Cllr Brown; Seconded Cllr Davidson]

1386.10 Cllr Barnes asks that members discuss the “Patch of land at the entrance to North Country” from the A30 side

Cllr Barnes reminded the Members the item had been considered previously and would like the land to become a garden with some parking available marked out with boulders. It was currently being used as public land with many vehicles badly parked, some of which were not taxed. Following discussion with Cornwall Council he had found some of the land was part of the old highway and that there were many disputes over ownership. Cllr Brown asked if enquiries had been made to Land Registry. Cllr Thomas advised he had also spoken with a local resident who thought the land was part of the highway. He further advised he had received complaints about the North County Garage using the area to park vehicles, and suggested they be invited to any site meeting held. The Town Clerk advised that until ownership of the land was established the item could not be taken any further, and to bear in mind no funds had been set aside for any works. Cllr Barnes agreed to take the project forward and would be in contact with the Community Link Officer for assistance with contacting the Land Registry. He would then return to the Members with a broader proposal. He asked the Town Clerk to contact the police with regard to unroadworthy vehicles parked on the land.

1386.11 Update from the Environment Working Group

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Ms Reeve further advised the Group were due to meet the following week to formulate a response to the draft proposals Climate Emergency DPD. If Redruth Town Council wished to submit comments it would need to be by the next meeting of the Full Council on 25th January to meet the deadline. The Town Clerk would place the item on the agenda.

1386.12 To exclude the press and public from the meeting for the remaining item of business as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest by virtue of the confidential nature of the subject matter (potential commercial contract), and on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the 1972 Local Government Act.

1386.12.1 Unanimously RESOLVED [Proposed Cllr Brown; Seconded Cllr Davidson]

Cllr Thomas and Cllr Broad left the meeting at this point.

PART II – PRIVATE SESSION

1386.13 To confirm members can communicate with others at the meeting and to confirm that no unauthorised people are able to view or hear proceedings

1386.14 To consider a request from a Unit Licence holder in Market Way that the Town Council consider a rent reduction during the pandemic

1386.14.1 RESOLVED by Majority that rents will continue to be charged as they are currently, but the matter will be reviewed in a Private Session at the meeting of the Full Council to be held at the end of February [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr Mrs Davidson] Cllrs Mrs Biscoe, Biscoe and Ms Page voted against.

1386.15 To consider a request from a Unit Licence holder in Market Way that the Town Council consider a review of rent based on size of unit

1386.15.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that an Independent Commercial Valuer of Property be asked to review the rent for every unit in Market Way [Proposed Cllr Brown; Seconded Cllr Biscoe]

MINUTES APPROVED - YET TO BE SIGNED