



Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2AT
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Town Mayor: Cllr M J Brown

Town Clerk: P B Bennett

Minutes of a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council Amenities Committee held at Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth on Monday 6th September 2021

Present: Cllr W Tremayne Chairman
Cllr S Barnes
Cllr P Broad
Cllr M Brown
Cllr L Collins
Cllr B Ellenbroek
Cllr D Reeve
Cllr I Thomas

In attendance: Mr P B Bennett Town Clerk
Ms A Hunt Administration & Finance Officer
Mr C Strugnell Facilities Supervisor
Ms C Welsh Redruth High Streets Heritage Action Zone
Ms B Lang Mining Exchange Studios
Mr P Kincaid Mining Exchange Studios
Ms M Lawson Local resident

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

1426.1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Biscoe and Mrs Biscoe (other commitments).

1426.2 Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this Agenda.

Cllr Broad declared an interest in Item 14 on the Agenda and signed accordingly. Cllrs Tremayne, Mrs Ellenbroek and Ms Reeve declared a personal interest in Item 15 on the Agenda and signed accordingly.

1426.3 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 Reeve; Seconded Cllr Collins]

1426.4 To allow the public to put questions to the Council on any item on this agenda

Ms Lang and Mr Kincaid introduced themselves and advised that they were seeking permission to install hook fixings in Market Hall. The intention was to obtain funding to enliven the area by creating banners representing the town's legacy of arts. The banners would be removable, flexible and visually unobstructive, with the fabric hanging down to brighten the area and encourage people through. It was hoped the project would bring

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P B Bennett', located in the bottom right corner of the page.

together the artistic community. Councillors were advised that the intention was to install hooks similar to those already in the wooden ceiling. A picture of a sample banner had been sent by email and the focus would be on the past, the present and the future. In response to a question from Cllr Thomas, Ms Lang advised that the desire was for the banners to be seen from both Market Way and The Buttermarket. It was clarified that there would be no expectation on the Town Council to put the banners up or take them down. At present, the intention was for four double-sided banners, however in future there was the possibility that they could be changed for specific events. Ms Lang advised that it was hoped the banners could be a stepping stone, with the space being used for exhibitions as well as markets. Cllr Thomas stated that access to Market Hall was currently abysmal and asked that thought be given as to how to improve the Market Strand side. In response, the Town Clerk advised that early conversations were already taking place about the area. Ms Lang and Mr Kincaid were thanked for their time.

Ms Lawson spoke in relation to a community orchard. She stated that St Ives had a fantastic community space, that she had helped to set up such projects before and that she was looking for a space in Redruth. Mulch and a water point would be needed, with Cormac funding available for some trees. Other funding and grafted trees would also be available. Ms Lawson stated that a community orchard could be a positive reason to get people together and that she was keen to volunteer herself to get people involved. Cllr Barnes suggested the old allotments in North Country as a potential site and Cllr Ms Reeve added that GI4G had done some work to clear the area with the idea of obtaining funding for some fruit trees, but that this had not been within the scope of the project. She further stated that the Engagement team had been working on a community orchard, along with tree-planting for the upcoming Jubilee. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek advised that a community orchard had been part of the plan for the Murdoch & Trevithick site. Cllr Barnes would look into whether this remained the case. It was queried whether several smaller plots could be utilised rather than one larger and Redruth Taskforce was mentioned as a potential contact. It was agreed that Cllr Tremayne would forward the correspondence from Ms Lawson and that the Town Council would explore how to get those with ideas together for further discussion. Ms Lawson was thanked for her time.

Ms Lawson left the meeting at this point.

1426.5 To reinstate Standing Orders

Unanimously RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr Collins]

1426.6 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 5th July 2021

1426.6.1 RESOLVED by Majority to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 5th July 2021 as a true and accurate record of proceedings [Proposed Cllr Brown; Seconded Cllr Ms Reeve]. Cllr Broad abstained as he had not been present at the meeting.

1426.7 Town Clerk's Report

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk further advised that confirmation was still awaited from Cornwall Council in relation to Strawberry Fields and the Skate Park was progressing well. The letter to Cornwall Council in relation to Registered Social Landlords had been acknowledged. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek advised that a housing report would be going to Cabinet in mid-September and she would ask a question if necessary. Work on the lease for The Chambers was ongoing, with contractors due to start work soon. Councillors were also advised that work had now been completed on the Clocktower, with the clock now awaiting service. The report was noted.

1426.8 **To receive correspondence**

Proposal for Redruth Covered Market Banners

- 1426.8.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to approve in principle the installation of hooks and the hanging of banners in the Market Hall covered market area, subject to all fixings being checked [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek]

Ms Lang and Mr Kincaid left the meeting at this point.

1426.8.2 *Carbon Neutral Cornwall 2030 – Climate Literacy training for local Councils*

An email had been circulated prior to the meeting and had also been forwarded to the Chair of the Climate Change Working Group.

1426.9 **To consider a proposal from Redruth HSHAZ that the Town Council adopt the red telephone box outside The London Inn, Fore Street**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Concerns were raised that the box might be used for other than the intended purposes. The Youth Council had conducted a survey, in which they had asked what people would like to see a telephone box being used for. The results would be fed back to Council at the end of the month. Ms Welsh advised that she hoped public realm works and community ownership would dissuade antisocial behaviour. In addition security, such as a lock, could be investigated. There was a desire to work with the Town Council to get community involvement and ideas. There was a strong buy in for a flexible space with a vibrant and exciting cultural programme, but ultimately it was down to the wider community.

- 1426.9.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the red telephone box outside The London Inn, Fore Street, to enable consultation to take place with the community with regard to its future use [Proposed Cllr Thomas; Seconded Cllr Brown]

Ms Welsh left the meeting at this point.

1426.10 **To receive a report on the work of the Facilities Department**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. In response to a question, the Facilities Supervisor advised that the cause of the leak in the corridor at the Civic Centre was currently unknown. A number of concerns were raised in relation to the condition of the public conveniences. The Town Clerk would look at the costs of opening the Market Way toilets to the public on market days, together with the subsequent increase in the cleaning regime. It appeared that the leat had yet to be cleared at the old Brewery site. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek would chase this up. It was suggested that the Town Council to contact the Chair of the Coach Lane Allotment Association to offer support if needed. Cllr Broad asked that thanks be passed on to those involved in the town floral display, which had been commented on as being the best yet. The report was noted.

The Facilities Supervisor left the meeting at this point.

1426.11 **Further discussions on Community Garden Project/land at North Country**

Cllr Barnes advised that a local group had asked for land for a community garden and a site at North Country had been suggested. The land was currently a mess and belonged to Highways, who had offered railway sleepers to help, but a plan was needed which could be put to them. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek suggested that the various areas of derelict land in the Parish could be mapped to enable the Town Council to see where they were and look at what could be done with them. The Town Clerk stated that there was no capacity to undertake such work at present.



1426.12 To consider an Amenities Committee response to the recent email from Cllr Jordan of Cornwall Council, in relation to seeking Town & Parish Council views on Cornwall Council

Cllr Brown stated that Cornwall Council were impossible to deal with on issues such as transfer of freehold. The process was ill-defined, whereas it needed to be clear and transparent with lines of communication and time frames. It was agreed that the devolution process was painful, with one small piece of land often taking years to resolve. Other issues were poor communication; the situation in relation to the old Brewery site; the need for Cornwall Council to make those facilities it wanted the Town Council to take on more appealing, for example not leaving behind a huge amount of outstanding maintenance costs; that Cornwall Council were the worst landlords in terms of neglect yet those in charge were not held to account; procedures in relation to devolution frequently changed but were not signposted; Cornwall Council was so intent on cost-cutting that there was a lack of resources and no capacity; the Legal Department in particular was very slow to act, with delays of over twelve months in response time; that precepts, and burden on the taxpayer, had to increase year on year to accommodate those areas for which Town and Parish Councils were required to take over responsibility, yet they were being publicly blamed for not taking on additional facilities and services despite having no resources or capacity; there was no understanding that Town and Parish Councils set their budgets at the same time as Cornwall Council, meaning that they were often approached to take on additional services after this had already been done; staffing levels at the Town Council had needed to increase to accommodate all of the extra facilities and services which it had needed to pick up; those Cornwall Council officers who were working very hard and, as a result, were stressed were the ones most likely to accept voluntary redundancy when offered, meaning that all of their knowledge and skills were lost to the Council; and the prioritisation of saving money over delivery of services.

1426.13 To consider the erection of new football posts at East End Playing Fields

An email had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Broad stated that, with the construction of the skatepark, it was a good time to enhance facilities at East End and complement what was there. The playing field was large and an appropriate site could be located. In addition, posts had previously been in place.

1426.13.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to consider the erection of new football posts at East End Playing Fields once the Skatepark was finished [Proposed Cllr Broad; Seconded Cllr Barnes]

Cllr Broad left the meeting at this point, having previously declared an interest

1426.14 Leasing of Units in Market Way

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Thomas suggested that, were Units 3 and 4 to be combined, it would reduce the variety of shops within Market Way. He also argued that there was a failure to understand that Market Way was not a prime shopping area, that it was not marketed appropriately, that its appearance and approach were an issue, as were costs and location. Cllr Collins suggested that the rents were reasonable and that it wasn't appropriate to have low rents together with no commitment. He pointed out that work was going on in that area which was not happening in other areas of town. Cllr Ms Reeve asked what was happening with Unit 7, given that the lease ended at the end of August but it was still occupied. The Town Clerk stated that rent would continue to be charged and, if necessary, legal action could be taken.

1426.14.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to allow the leaseholder of Unit 3 to also occupy Unit 4, at the rate currently being charged by the Town Council [Proposed Cllr Ms Reeve; Seconded Cllr Brown]

Cllr Broad re-entered the meeting at this point.

1426.15 Update on the lease with Friends of Gweal-an-Top

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek advised that it was challenging for the Friends of Gweal-an-Top to not know what was going on. She remained happy to try and move things along if asked to do so. The Chief Executive of Cornwall Council had visited the facility and been very impressed. Cllr Ms Reeve asked whether devolution of the site to the Town Council was still an option and pointed out that Redruth was fortunate to have such an amazing resource in town. The facility provided a free play space and also meals. At present, the lack of a signed lease made obtaining funding very difficult, leaving a very precarious position.

1426.15.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that the Town Council enquire as to the possibility of obtaining the freehold transfer of the site and also write to Cornwall Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek requesting that she make efforts to progress matters [Proposed Cllr Brown; Seconded Cllr Ms Reeve]

1426.16 Changing Places Toilets

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Ms Reeve would make enquiries of the HSHAZ team to determine whether providing funding in relation to public toilets was something which they would consider.

1426.16.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to submit an expression of interest with regard to funding for installation of a Changing Places toilet [Proposed Cllr Ms Reeve; Seconded Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek].

1426.17 Civic Centre building – water leaks from Redruth Foyer area

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

1426.17.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to authorise use of an alternative firm of solicitors to those currently appointed [Proposed Cllr Ms Reeve; Seconded Cllr Brown].

1426.18 To receive an update on the Town Council Climate Change Working Group

Cllr Ms Reeve advised that new members had now been appointed to the group and a meeting would take place on 20th September, with the first task being to review the Climate Change Action Plan.

Chairman

