



Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2AT  
Tel No: 01209-210038 e-mail: admin@redruth-tc.gov.uk

**Town Mayor: Cllr M J Brown**

**Town Clerk: P B Bennett**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council Operations Committee held at Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Present: Cllr A Biscoe Chair  
Cllr S Barnes  
Cllr H Biscoe  
Cllr L Collins  
Cllr B Craze  
Cllr C Garrick  
Cllr D Reeve  
Cllr E Smith  
Cllr I Thomas

In attendance: Ms A Hunt Operations Officer  
Miss S White Engagement Officer  
Mr C Strugnell Facilities Supervisor  
Ms C Coomber Administration Manager  
Miss K O'Dell Administration Assistant  
Cllr Skinner

PART 1 - PUBLIC SESSION

**1517.1 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tremayne, & Broad (work commitments) and Cllr Brown (unwell).

**1517.2 Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this Agenda.**

None were declared.

**1517.3 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

1517.3.1 RESOLVED by the majority to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true and accurate record of proceedings [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr Garrick] Cllr Smith abstained as she had not been present at the meeting.

**1517.4 Clerk's Report**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the invitation to tender for works on the East End Playing Field pathway had been released. The Engagement Officer confirmed that meetings with interested parties had already commenced.

The Engagement Officer advised that the possibility of enhancing the lighting in Market Way, by installing festoon lighting, was being considered. The funding for this work would be coming from the HSHAZ, with the aim to brighten the area prior to the completion of works in the Buttermarket. Blachere Illumination, (the same contractor used for the Christmas lights) had been approached to quote.

Cllr Barnes asked if there was any further information regarding the removed telephone kiosk. The Engagement Officer confirmed that following removal, the kiosk was currently being refurbished. Due to the scaffolding on the building next door, Historic England had given permission to delay the kiosk's return and reinstallation. The report was noted.

**1517.5 To receive correspondence.**

None received.

**1517.6 To receive a report on the work of the Facilities Department**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Facilities Supervisor confirmed that a new Facilities Technician had been successfully recruited and was due to commence work on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

A proposal for continuing to improve and maintain all areas of St Rumon's Gardens had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Facilities Supervisor advised that the ivy and other vegetation would be removed from both St Rumon's Gardens and the Civic Centre. Cllr Reeve confirmed that the mural was previously located in the offices at Penryn Street. Comments were made by several Members regarding the different areas of the gardens including the stage and shrubbery in front of the stage. Cllr Smith suggested that it may be helpful to install signage, explaining the history of the gardens and area. The Engagement Officer suggested putting Perspex into the windows to help reduce traffic noise, and make the area look more attractive. Cllr Collins suggested decorative glass, or something that could be installed and removed as necessary.

The Facilities Supervisor confirmed that there was still lighting in the gardens, but that it needed to be checked to confirm if it was still connected and safe to use.

Cllr Reeve asked if the area could be used as a function space that Redruth Town Council could charge for. The Operations Officer confirmed that it would be investigated along with use of other Council-owned spaces. The Engagement Officer suggested that now people were allowed to get married outdoors the gardens could potentially be used as a wedding venue.

**1517.6.1 Unanimously RESOLVED** for the Facilities Supervisor to investigate the cost for the removal and repair of the mural, and to investigate options for Perspex glass for the windows. [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr Collins] The report was noted.

**1517.7 To receive a report on the work of the Administration Department.**

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

**1517.8 To consider a request for purchase of Redruth Town Council land at East End Playing Field.**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Biscoe commented that the land had been gifted to the children of Redruth many years ago therefore he would agree with the Town Clerk's recommendation that we refuse the request to sell the land.

**1517.8.1 RESOLVED** by Majority to refuse the request to sell the small area of land to the left of the entrance to East End Playing Fields on the grounds of future impact on Redruth Town

Council access improvements, and the likely costs involved to Redruth Town Council. [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Reeve] Cllr Thomas abstained.

**1517.9 To consider future use of Units 11 and 12, Market Way.**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Operations Officer stated that six months ago it had been agreed by the Committee that Units 11 & 12 Market Way would be used as a combined Town Council space and pop-up shop. Initially the units were well used, but since Christmas the take up has been very low. The Operations Officer suggested that a potential solution would be to let the builders who were working on the Buttermarket rent the units until the building works had been completed. This would ensure a regular rent, and they would not be affected by any reduced footfall in Market Way. It would also ensure a regular presence overlooking Market Hall. Cllr H Biscoe agreed that the Town Council needed to make the best financial gain from the space, so agreed it was a good solution.

Cllr Collins expressed his concern that it would be a shame to lose more retail space and may set a precedent for less retail in the town centre. Cllr Smith also raised concerns about the space not being used for retail and asked the Engagement Officer how well the units were advertised. The Engagement Officer confirmed that advertising for the units had been widely circulated by the Engagement Team, but reminded Councillors that it was a sign of current financial struggles affecting businesses. Few could grow a retail business, therefore leasing to the builders offers a pragmatic solution.

**1517.9.1 RESOLVED** by Majority to approve the use of Units 11 & 12 as a site office for those carrying out the building works at The Buttermarket. [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Barnes] Cllr Collins and Cllr Smith voted against the proposal. The report was noted.

**1517.10 To consider options for the Redruth Floral Display 2023.**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Operations Officer confirmed that the previous maintenance contractor had decided not to continue their involvement in the floral displays. She and Facilities Supervisor had made repeated attempts to locate a new contractor, who would be willing to take on the maintenance of the floral display. The Facilities Team did not have the capacity to bring the maintenance of the full floral display in-house. Due to the timescales involved in organising the display, the Operations Officer confirmed that there was no further time available to continue the search for a suitable contractor for this year.

The only viable options for 2023 would be: (i) no floral display or (ii) have a reduced display with the baskets only being placed on property owned by the Town Council. The Facilities Team would make temporary scheduling amendments to maintain the reduced display. Cllr H Biscoe suggested that as the floral displays were so popular, it would be better to have a reduced display. Floral Baskets could be also offered to retailers who wished to maintain them themselves. The Operations Officer confirmed that this could be an option, however the Town Council would need to be very clear with regard to liability insurance.

**1517.10.1 Unanimously RESOLVED** to approve a reduced floral display for 2023, with any surplus baskets offered to retailers on the proviso that they maintain them themselves and have suitable insurance in place. [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Collins].

**1517.11 To consider strategic objectives for the Operations Team for the year 2023-2024.**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Operations Officer commented that as the Operations team moved towards the end of the current Council year, the team were intending to set new objectives for the

forthcoming year. She explained that it would greatly assist and benefit the team at this point if the Operations Committee could advise of its priorities, as it saw them.

The Operations Team was looking to understand three objectives at a strategic level. There was a desire for the Operations Team to be less reactive and more proactive within their work. The Operations Officer was looking at ideas for all Redruth Town Council owned spaces, with East End Playing Field and St Rumon's Gardens already being prioritised.

Following a discussion by Committee members, it was generally agreed that the Town Council needed to maximise use of all available spaces, even on weekdays and potentially looking at renting spaces for use as entertainment venues. Cllr Reeve suggested strengthening partnerships with other Town Councils and sharing equipment and resources. Cllr Reeve also suggested that the team could focus on ensuring that the Town Council was being sustainable and environmentally friendly whilst also meeting its climate priorities. Cllr Thomas suggested that accessibility of the play areas be looked at, as access was restricted at some entry points. The report was noted.

- 1517.12 **To exclude the press and public from the meeting for the remaining items of business as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest by virtue of the confidential nature of the subject matter (commercial in confidence), 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.**
- 1517.12.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to exclude the press and the public from the meeting for the remaining items of business as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest by virtue of the confidential nature of the subject matter (commercial in confidence), 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. [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe].
- 1517.13 **To consider a Cornwall Council consultation on a property asset in Redruth Parish.**
- 1517.13.1 RESOLVED by the Majority to respond that the Town Council had no interest in the property in question [Proposed Cllr A Biscoe; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe] Cllr Thomas abstained.



Chairman