



The Chambers, Penryn Street, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2SP

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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 at The Chambers,
Penryn Street, Redruth, on Monday 13th January 2020

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

Chairman

From the point mentioned

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

Town Clerk
Administrative Assistant
Facilities and Contracts Manager
Redruth United Football Club
Cornwall Council

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

1346.1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Ms MacCaul (other commitments).

1346.2 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.

1346.3 To receive a presentation from Andrew Bishop of Redruth United FC about their proposals for improvements at Clijah Croft

Cllr Thomas joined the meeting at this point.

Mr Bishop introduced himself as the Chairman of Redruth United FC. He gave a presentation for his plans for a 3G all-weather pitch and sports complex at Clijah Croft. He hoped to establish an FA Elite Development programme for 6 – 18 year olds and offer higher education programmes in sport and coaching. The 3G pitch would be available for all of the community to use. He explained he could not progress with his plans unless he was granted a lease on Clijah Croft from Cornwall Council. He would then apply for funding to develop the site. Redruth United FC used the all-weather pitch at Cornwall College four nights a week at a significant cost, and played at Clijah on Saturday and Sunday. Cornwall Council were currently at the site undertaking repairs for mine workings that had become unsafe. Mr Bishop thanked the members for listening. Following Mr

Bishop's presentation, Mr Wallace introduced himself as part of Cornwall Council's Public Space team. He gave a detailed presentation explaining Cornwall Council's Open Space Strategy. Demand for outdoor sports pitches exceeded supply, and there was a drive towards all-weather pitches, of which there were only two in the area (Cornwall College and Pool Academy). There was support and funding from the FA for an additional all-weather pitch. Carn Brea also wanted such a facility, but there would only be enough funding for one. Mr Wallace explained the problems that had been occurring at Clijah Croft. In the winter of 2018 the ground had sunk. Mining records dated back to the year 1800 only and there were no records previous to that. Some mineshafts were problematic and had not been capped properly. There were too many difficulties to simply cap them. At Field 1, a Geogrid membrane which would be placed over all of the ground was the only option. Cormac were excavating the area by 0.5m then placing the membrane down in overlapping strips. The membrane would last 100 years and was strong enough to take weight of a 7.5 tonne lorry, and would guarantee the public were safe. The membrane had been previously used in works at Sandy Lane. This work was due to be completed mid February, with the final finish not until sub-soil was placed on when dry enough. Playing Fields 2 and 3 were more complicated. There were problems with shafts on boundaries, upon which the membrane could not be placed. The only option at one part was to fence off the area with security fencing, which would be extra tall and industrial in style. This area was considered too dangerous to plant trees, instead gorse would be planted. In the rest of the problem area 2000 trees would be planted over both fields, and there would still be space for one mini soccer pitch. The public access through route would continue as now. The work was at a cost of £1 million and was part of the 2019/20 budget, with work to be completed by 31st March 2020. Cllr Barnes had concerns that children would play near the dangerous area to be fenced off. Mr Wallace advised that Cornwall Council would need to keep inspecting and monitoring the site for further problems, and the best solution they could come to was to build colossal fencing around that particular area. For this reason the site needed to be under local authority control. If the site were devolved to Redruth Town Council the costs of maintenance due to mining risks could be kept out of any agreement. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek enquired who would maintain the trees and what species would be used. Mr Wallace advised the public would be excluded from access to the danger area but there would be access for maintenance. Native tree species would be selected. He further advised tree maintenance costs were lower than those for grass cutting. Cllr Thomas had concerns on the impact for local residents, and asked if they had been made aware of the mining problems. Mr Wallace advised all residents had been written to, and would be sent further details of the works planned that week. There was no official right of way for the private houses onto the land at Clijah Croft, but two houses would have their route blocked with the installation of the new security fencing. There were no plans or funding on this scheme to place Geogrid membrane over the whole area. At present it was safe, but if further holes were discovered it would need to be done. There would be two pitches available to play on by the summer. Cornwall Council needed to know the RTC position to move on with lease discussions. Cllr Ms Reeve thanked Mr Wallace for attending the meeting.

At this point Mr Wallace left the meeting.

Mr Bishop advised the members he did not have any preference if the land were leased directly from Cornwall Council or from Redruth Town Council. He would require a minimum of 25 years lease. Cllr Ms Reeve asked for the matter to be placed on the agenda of the next Amenities Committee meeting to be held in March, and advised Mr Bishop he would be welcome to attend then.

At this point Mr Bishop left the meeting.

1346.4 To receive an update on the Green Infrastructure for Growth (GI4G) Project by Melissa Ralph, Cornwall Council.

A report from Ms Ralph was circulated, who was unable to attend the meeting due to being unwell and sent her apologies. The report was noted.

1346.5 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 4th November 2019

RESOLVED by Majority to accept the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th November 2019 as a true and accurate record of proceedings. [Proposed Cllr Garrick; Seconded Cllr Biscoe]. Cllrs Broad, Barnes and Tregunna abstained as they had not been present at the meeting.

1346.6 Town Clerk's Report

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk thanked Cllr Thomas for his work in securing funding to match RTC's contribution of £5000 for the shortfall on the Redruth Chasewater Heritage Railway feature. Regarding the Community Orchard Growing Space, the Town Clerk noted that in Melissa Ralph's report it was stated the trees would need to be sourced by RTC. Cllr Ms Reeve would look into the matter further. Cllr Barnes advised he had held site meetings with Cllr Geoff Brown of Cornwall Council, the Portfolio Holder for Transport. At Nettles Hill, it had been agreed to place yellow lines where there had been ongoing visibility problems with parked vehicles. It was suggested that the land outside the old Jobcentre could become a car park and meters installed. A white line would be placed the top of Bellevue at Paulls Row where there were parking issues. Cllr Brown would look further into the possibility of installing boulders to restrict parking and creating a planted area at the piece of land at North Country. The remainder of the report was noted.

1346.7 To receive correspondence

Cornwall Council – Business Rates Relief on Public Conveniences

The Town Clerk advised that as the legislation had not gone through parliament Redruth Town Council may still have to pay Business Rates from 1st April on the New Cut Car Park Public Conveniences. The correspondence was noted.

Cornwall Council – Waste Collection and Cleansing Contract and Devolved Sites

Redruth Town Council had currently three devolved sites where waste was collected by Cornwall Council, being Plain an Gwarry Play Area, St Rumons Gardens and East End Playing Field. The Town Clerk advised this contract would continue next year at a cost of £2000 for the three sites, but going forward the contract would be looked at again when more time allowed. The correspondence was noted.

Cornwall Council – Trefusis Park Green Gym

The correspondence was noted.

1346.8 To receive a report on the work of the Facilities Departments Work

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Facilities and Contracts Manager further advised regarding item 4 of the report that scaffolding was now in place and work would commence when weather improved. There was inadequate natural light provision in the large open plan office, particularly at the far side. The FCM had asked the contractor to look into creating a narrow window to provide more light. Regarding item 8.1, double glazed windows were to be installed at the Cornwall Centre to prevent them being smashed due to any vandalism that might occur. The FCM advised he was awaiting

quotes from Festive Lighting to alleviate the problems there had been this year with the Christmas Lights in the town, and thanked Cllr Biscoe and Will Tremayne for their assistance. Cllr Thomas had concerns that the doorway to the stairway from Market Way leading up to The Cornwall Centre would not be re-opened as part of the relocation project. He suggested it may affect trade, and as the stairwell had a lift it was also a means of access for persons with mobility problems going from Alma Place to the lower part of town. This could make access more difficult for those with mobility or other disabilities and issues. It was also blocking off a means of escape. The Town Clerk advised that there were severe safeguarding issues for staff members and his advice to Councillors was that the stairs should not be opened to the public. They could still be used as a fire escape if necessary. Cllr Mrs Davidson felt there was a level access route to the lower part of town through The Buttermarket if required. Cllr Ms Reeve advised she had been approached by members of the public and unit holders in Market Way about the stairway. It was felt it could bring more trade to Market Way with persons visiting Library able to go down into Market Way, and the point should be discussed further. The FCM advised the stairway had not been a fire escape route in the past, and on the plans for the building it was a staff only area behind the doors. If plans were to be changed access control provision would need to be looked at. CCTV would be required and there were safeguarding issues with many areas to hide in. A decision would be required quickly in order to address these issues if it were to be opened up. Cllr Mrs Davidson suggested a full time security guard could be employed in that position. Cllr Thomas advised new fire doors could be installed, CCTV wiring was already in place near the lift and there was already anti-social behaviour in the town. Cllr Garrick asked if a scheme could be set up for mobility scooter hire to make getting around the town easier, as there were such schemes in other towns. Cllr Barnes thought it was a dark stairway and good use should be made of the space such as for noticeboards.

- 1346.8.1 **RESOLVED** by Majority to keep closed the stairway link between Market Way and the Cornwall Centre to ensure the safeguarding of Redruth Town Council staff members [Proposed Cllr Brown; Seconded Cllr Mrs Davidson] Cllr Thomas voted against. Cllrs Barnes and Broad abstained.
- 1346.8.2 Unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant approval for all necessary works and purchases as detailed in the FCM report [Proposed Cllr Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Mrs Davidson]
- 1346.9 **Update from the Environment Working Group**
- Cllr Ms Reeve had attended a meeting of the Environment Working Group and would forward the notes when available. Nineteen members had attended from every Parish or Town Council in the area, and the group would hold monthly meetings in future.
- 1346.10 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 (commercial information), 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 Mrs Davidson; Seconded Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek]

PART II – PRIVATE SESSION

- 1346.11 **To further consider the future of The Chambers post-relocation following a survey carried out on the building**

1346.11.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that (i) the FCM will obtain quotations for repairs to the roof and (ii) the Town Clerk will continue to seek organisations interested in leasing The Chambers on either a Social or Commercial rent rate once we have moved to our new location, at which point if no leases obtained, the property will be placed on the market for either rent. [Proposed Cllr Ms Reeve; Seconded Cllr Biscoe]



Chairman