



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

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Town Mayor: Cllr T H Biscoe

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 7th November 2016

Present: Cllr Ms D Reeve Chairman
Cllr Mrs A Biscoe
Cllr H Biscoe
Cllr Mrs J Davidson
Cllr Mrs B Ellenbroek
Cllr I Thomas

In attendance: Mr P B Bennett Town Clerk
Ms A Hunt Administrator
Miss S Hoare Facilities & Contracts Manager
Cllr M Chappell

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

1159.1 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Broad (unwell), Ms Eyre and Nicholls (other commitments), N Thomas (unwell) and Tremayne (other commitments)

1159.2 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.

1159.3 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5th September 2016

Unanimously RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5th September 2016 as a true and accurate record of proceedings. [Proposed Cllr Mrs Biscoe; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe.]

1159.4 Town Clerks Report

The Town Clerk advised that he was still awaiting confirmation of the date for delivery and installation of the bus shelter at Closehill. In relation to the Devolution Working Group, the Town Clerk confirmed that he had met with Cllrs Mrs Ellenbroek, Ms Reeve and I Thomas, and that a further meeting of the Group would take place on Monday 14th November at 5:30pm. The Community Emergency Plan, transfer of assets and the multi-wheeled facility at East End Playing Fields would be covered under separate agenda items later in the meeting.

1159.5 To receive correspondence

1159.5.1 Rachel George – Disabled Access in Redruth

Cllrs Mrs Ellenbroek and I Thomas confirmed that the facilities proposed by Ms George are already in place at Gweal An Tops and Treleigh School. Cllr Mrs Biscoe queried whether investigations could be made into installing such a facility at Kresen Kernow.

1159.5.2 Unanimously RESOLVED that the Town Clerk respond to Ms George advising that (i) her comments had been taken on board, (ii) the facilities proposed by her would be suggested to Cornwall Council as a possibility for installation at Kresen Kernow, (iii) current facilities did not have the requisite amount of space for installation, however her proposals would be borne in mind for any future development and (iv) the proposed facilities are already in existence at Gweal An Tops and at Treleigh School [Proposed Cllr Ms Reeve; Seconded Cllr Mrs Biscoe].

1159.5.3 Lewis Shaw – Redruth Public Toilets

The Town Clerk pointed out that the toilets are cleaned every morning and that the Town Council has no control over what happens once the cleaners have left. He further commented that the problem of the doors being jammed open appears to be lessening. Cllr H Biscoe suggested responding by setting out the cleaning regime, but stating that the Town Council does not at present have the facility to get the cleaning done on an hourly basis. In addition it could be pointed out that the Town Council have had the facilities deep-cleaned and that this will continue to be done on a regular basis. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek suggested that a phone number be provided for users to call if the toilets are dirty. The facilities could then be closed if necessary. This would be good PR and also enable records to be kept.

1159.5.4 Groundwork South – Community Resilience Support/Training Offer

It was agreed to discuss this correspondence alongside the Community Emergency Plan at Item 13 on the Agenda.

1159.5.5 Cornwall Council – Review of Service Level Agreement – Local Maintenance Partnership

The Town Clerk advised that an e-mail had been received from Cornwall Council asking whether the Town Council would be interested in taking over the maintenance of churchyards in its area. Cllr H Biscoe stated that there were a number of Commonwealth war graves in St Day Churchyard. He queried whether the War Graves Commission would be minded to make a contribution to its upkeep. This was also something which was being discussed by the Youth Council. The matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Devolution Working Group.

1159.6 To receive a report from the Facilities & Contracts Manager on her work to date

Councillors thanked the Facilities & Contracts Manager for her thorough and comprehensive report. Cllr Chappell queried the recommendation that Sparkles Cleaning and Property Maintenance conduct a quarterly deep cleaning service at the New Cut Public Conveniences. The Facilities & Contracts Manager advised that the company had undertaken a trial and that their service was very thorough. Cllr H Biscoe questioned whether there was a possibility of Sparkles taking over the standard cleaning contract as well. The Town Clerk advised that the service would be put out to tender when the contract was up in twelve months' time and that this would be open to Sparkles if they were interested.

Cllr H Biscoe commended the Grounds Team for their work maintaining New Cut and Flowerpot Chapel car parks. Cllr Chappell agreed that the work of the team was being noticed and stated that a member of the public had approached he and Cllr Nicholls during their recent street surgery specifically to thank the team. Cllr Mrs Davidson stated that

criticisms had previously been heard about the car parks and it was nice to see that the issue had been picked up so quickly.

Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek advised that Murdoch House had also encountered problems as a result of the Inland Art Festival. In addition a number of triangles still remained around the town. It was suggested that if funding were applied for next year, the Town Council would need to be very stringent. The Facilities & Contracts Manager stated that the organisers of the festival had not fulfilled the trust placed in them.

1159.6.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that the Facilities & Contracts Manager be given delegated authority to award the Town Clock Survey contract up to the sum of £3,500 + VAT in consultation with the Town Clerk. [Proposed Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek; Seconded Cllr Mrs Davidson]

1159.7 **Transfer of assets/services from Cornwall Council to the Town Council – an update:**

1159.7.1 **Redruth Community Centre and Plain-an-Gwarry Play Area**

The Town Clerk advised that he was still awaiting completion of the lease between Redruth Town Council and Redruth Community Association.

1159.7.2 **Redruth Library**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk advised that the report covered everything which had been discussed. The Town Clerk further advised that he and the Chair would be having fortnightly meetings in relation to this matter and that information was still being awaited. Cllr Mrs Biscoe expressed concerns that the outstanding maintenance costs could significantly increase by the time any transfer took place. The Town Clerk confirmed that he would ensure that this sat within any transfer. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek suggested that the Town Council would need to think very carefully about the implications of potential capping and that a plan was needed. She warned that it needed to be understood that other things may have to go. There were concerns about providing a library service for people who were not in the parish. The Town Clerk advised that the library service alone would be a substantial hit on the Redruth taxpayer but that a lot of users would no longer be paying for the service. Cornwall Council had been asked to break down users by postcode. Cornwall Council was insisting on free access for all and would not allow member charges or fees for non-Redruth residents. Cllrs I Thomas and Ms Reeve stated that this may be a statutory requirement. Cllr Chappell queried whether Cornwall Council could dictate conditions if the Town Council were taking on the service. The Town Clerk advised that the Library service itself would still sit with Cornwall Council and that the Town Council would just be providing the staff and the building. Cllr Ms Reeve advised that money could be generated from a café, photocopying and the renting out of rooms, but that this was not enough in the greater scheme of things. Cllr I Thomas stated that the Town Council should be robust in its argument as to maintenance costs. £1 million had been set aside for the tapering of staff costs and the smoothing of the library devolution process. Cllr I Thomas suggested that the Town Council state that it wants the service but also for some of the maintenance to be dealt with. The Town Clerk advised that there would be a grant for providing the one-stop-shop service, however this would be tapered over three years so that at the end of this period the Town Council would be providing the service for nothing. Cllr Mrs Davidson said that the Town Council needed to be prepared to say “no”. Cllr Ms Reeve advised that the Devolution Working Group had discussed wanting something back from Cornwall Council. Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek suggested that there was an opportunity to do something through CALC as there was strength in numbers. Cllr Ms Reeve and the Town Clerk advised that for now the process would continue in its current state, however the Amenities Committee needed to be aware that the matter may come back before them at short notice for a steer.

- 1159.7.3 Unanimously RESOLVED to agree to the outline proposals identified in the report on the transfer of the Library Service to the Town Council. [Proposed Cllr Mrs Davidson; Seconded Cllr Mrs Biscoe]
- 1159.8 **To receive an update on work towards the proposed multi-wheeled facility project at East End Playing Field**
The Town Clerk advised that work was still being done on the tender document. The noise survey had been received and had thrown up a number of issues. Advice had been received from Groundwork South that another skate park needed to be measured rather than generalised numbers being used. The report was noted.
- 1159.9 **To consider a report outlining the purchase of trousers as part of the uniform for the Facilities Grounds Team**
- 1159.9.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to approve the authority to proceed with the procurement of workwear trousers as outlined in the report and in the quantities stated. [Proposed Cllr Mrs Ellenbroek; Seconded Cllr Ms Reeve]
- 1159.10 **Community Emergency Plan – to receive Members inputs and discuss the next stage**
It was agreed to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Amenities Committee. Cllr Ms Reeve thanked those councillors who had done work on the topics allocated to them. It was pointed out that the Community Emergency Plan needs to be sorted. The Town Clerk agreed to remind councillors that this matter was outstanding. It was agreed to contact Ruth Rockley at Groundwork South advising that the Town Council may well come back to her but that at present it was still in the process of considering its community emergency plan.
- 1159.11 **To consider the Amenities Committee budget requirements for FY 2017-2018 and make recommendations to the Audit & Accounting Governance Committee**
A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk advised councillors that the increase in the proposed budget was considerable. It was pointed out that the Town Council had little choice but to bite the bullet as it was faced with an opportunity it needed to take. Councillor Mrs Davidson suggested that the Town Council could not have everything and that it was a question of where it was going.
- 1159.11.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that the budgets for the Amenities Committee for the financial year 2017-2018 be forwarded to the Audit and Accounting Governance Committee for consideration as presented [Proposed Cllr Ms Reeve; Seconded Cllr Mrs Davidson].


Chairman