

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held electronically on Thursday 25th February 2021.**

Present

Councillor J Anderson – Mayor
Councillor R Taylor – Deputy Mayor

Councillors

R Chamberlain, J Moore, J Taylor, A Pearce & K Simms

In attendance: Town Clerk
Cornwall Councillor P Giles
Cornwall Councillor J Rowse
Charlotte Russell – Eden Project
Laurence Pinn – Tate Harmer

2102/01 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor T Chapman, T Nethercott & A Seel.

2102/02 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 28th January 2021 were confirmed as being correct and later signed by the Chairperson.

2102/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2102/04 **MATTERS ARISING**

2011/13 The work on the bus shelters will be carried out in March.

2102/05 **PRESENTATION BY THE EDEN PROJECT REGARDING UPCOMING PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Charlotte Russell told the Council about the Eden Project plan to restore Restineas Farmhouse sympathetically. It will be transformed into learning facilities for the Higher Education students. There will be no change to the structure providing small teaching areas for green education. Each room will accommodate 5-10 people in a teaching setting. The build will consider biodiversity and ecology as does the rest of the site.

Laurence Pinn told the Council about the plans to transform the Lemon Car Park into a Nursery. The Eden Nursery is currently at Watering Lane and is not in good condition and the cost to bring it up to standard would not be viable. The build would form part of the learning landscape and will link into the Geothermal Project and

enhance water management as rainwater from the roof will be used for irrigation as well as reducing parking on site.

The Nursery will be 7,500 square metres and will have no impact on the larger landscape. They will restore Cornish hedgerows and plant wild meadows and install sympathetic lighting.

The new greenhouse will be 50% larger than the current which will be either leased or sold and it is intended to be completed within 18 months. It is hoped that the project will gain employment opportunities and encourage biodiversity jobs.

2102/06 **COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden will return to work on Monday and therefore Trail Blazer Park will re-open.

2102/07 **REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR PAULINE GILES**

I was delighted to see that the devolution of the parks has now been completed. This is a great achievement for St Blazey Town Council and the people of the estates who will benefit from new park equipment or a repaint.

At the CC Neighbourhood overview & scrutiny meeting yesterday, I sought assurance that Covid Enforcement will be out over Easter when we will still be under lockdown, to ensure that we are not overrun with tourists. I am not against tourism, but after the sterling effort the Cornish people have made to see such a fantastic drop in cases, I don't want to see us slip back to the detriment of our residents and our seasonal economy.

It was interesting to hear what a radical change in Cornwall Council's working from home in the last year has meant for our environment. Over 4,000 Council employees worked from home at the height of the pandemic which resulted in a 70% reduction in business travel from April to September 2020. The 12 of the 35 core Council office buildings closed or partially closed resulting in an energy saving. The Council printing was reduced by 90%. This reduction is massive for Cornwall, and something I want to see worked on even more when lockdown comes to an end.

St Blazey, Recycle online cookery school has been a resounding success, with between 25 & 30 families joining in on Saturday mornings and will be doing a two week course of Cornish Cookery to celebrate St Piran's Day and our Cornish heritage.

I voted against the Council Tax rise at Full Council on Tuesday. With the year we have all had, with many struggling with the loss of income, I felt an added burden was uncalled for. Whilst I do not want to see a reduction in services, I do not feel spending £20 million in one year on Consultants a very unwise use of the Taxpayers money, and residents shouldn't be made to pay for the administration's poor judgement.

2102/08 REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR JORDAN ROWSE

Council tax WILL increase by the maximum amount. Cornwall Council has voted to increase our council tax bill by an average of £79.24 a year. I voted against increasing our council tax. Four years ago when I stood for election, I did so to try and improve the lives of families in this area. On Tuesday I stood by that.

The total rise this year is 4.99%, the maximum rise legally allowed, despite the fact that inflation is currently only 0.8%. The people of St Blazey should not have to pay for Cornwall Council's mistakes and financial mismanagement, they deserve better. Cornwall Council should be supporting our residents in these difficult times not slapping a further financial burden on them.

As I have reported previously, I have been working on improving active travel links (walking and cycling) between Par, St Blazey and St Austell along Par Moor. This is a popular and walking and cycling route but the footpaths up not up to standard, or non-existent in places, and the road is dangerous for cycling given the speed vehicles travel at on this road. It has been a long-term ambition to connect Par, St Blazey, Tywardreath and Fowey to the A30 for walkers and cyclists.

This is a huge project, but is getting it up and running. Phase 1 being the road from the Brit Roundabout on the A390 to the junction at Cypress Avenue has £118,000 of s106 money through improving transport in the accordance with the St Austell, St Blazey and China Clay Area regeneration plan. I am pleased to confirm that a further £150,000 from St Austell's section 106 has been secured. St Austell did not have to do this and I am incredibly grateful for their generosity. I am sure the Town Council will join me in showing our gratitude and will hopefully see Phase 2 increasing the walking and cycling route further along Par Lane

The first phase of the StARR project works have started on 12th January at Par Lane, St Blazey Road and Harbour Road with the removal of the existing kerbs. Utilities were identified that had not previously been located during searches, resulting in the need for hand digging in order to safeguard them. A minor redesign was subsequently required and the installation of the new, specialist drainage kerbs now follows which are causing delays meaning work in the vicinity will take a little longer than anticipated. The same process will be carried out on the opposite side of St Blazey Road, with completion aimed for around 2nd March.

From 2nd to 26th March, the next phase of the works will be underway on Harbour Road. On the 24th, 25th and 26th resurfacing of the carriageway will be carried out at night time, which can be quite a noisy operation but efforts will be made to complete this as early as possible each night.

There is also a new water outfall located off Harbour Road, and both new and existing systems have removable covers which enable them to be cleaned as required.

In March the second phase of the StARR Project works commences nearby Edgcumbe Terrace, a storage pond will be installed to assist with the drainage of excess water on the highway, work will last in the region of fourteen weeks.

The work on Spit beach path has taken place and looks amazing. I am now working with Imerys and CORMAC to deal with the path under the bridge from the car park to the coastal path. Cormac have agreed to CCTV the drainage for the area and will be carrying out jetting also, to help the water flow away more effectively. However, and frustratingly, some youths have taken advantage of this and have been setting off fires within the redundant part of the docks. The police, as I understand it, are aware of this.

During this lockdown it has not gone unnoticed the increase of dog fouling that is around the area. If anyone knows of any hotspots then please let me know.

2102/09 **TO APPROVE THE PAR AND ST BLAZEY EMERGENCY PLAN**

Councillor R Taylor has sent around to all Councillors the updated version of the Emergency Plan. Councillor Moore proposed that the Town Council approve it, Councillor Pearce seconded the proposal, all the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2102/10 **TO CONSIDER DONATION REQUESTS**

Victim Support have asked for a donation towards the on-going work development of their work supporting people living in our area. Councillor J Moore proposed a donation of £300, Councillor J Taylor seconded the proposal, all the other Councillors were in favour and so it was RESOLVED.

Cornwall Hospice Care have asked for a donation towards the much needed local charity. Councillor J Moore proposed a donation of £300, Councillor J Taylor seconded the proposal, all the other Councillors were in favour and so it was RESOLVED.

2102/11 **PROJECT LIST**

Neighbourhood Planning –

No further progress.

Devolution of Play Areas

The devolution was completed on Monday 22nd March. The Clerk sent around the quotes to all Councillors for consideration. The Council instructed the Clerk to arrange consultation with the neighbours to each of the parks.

The Clerk said that she was concerned as these areas are now our responsibility and as the equipment had been deemed no longer fit for purpose measures should be taken to replace them at the soonest. The Clerk was instructed to order new equipment as soon as a two week consultation had been completed with the neighbour's choice.

Tasha Davies expressed her congratulations to the Town Councillors for the completion of the devolution and the Clerk asked the Councillors if they would ratify

their decision for the funding agreement that was agreed in November. All the Councillors agreed.

2102/12 **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk has received information regarding the Eden Geothermal Community Fund which is open to us to apply for funding. The Clerk asked if an application should be sub-mitted for additional play equipment. All the Councillors agreed.

Treverbyn Mobile Community Larder in St Blazey on Wednesdays from 10 March, stopping at the Burrows 12.30 - 1.00 and St Blazey Football Club 1.30 - 2.00. Anyone who needs a little help with groceries can go along.

The Clerk has looked around Manor View which has very few places large enough to situate a grit bin, where there are areas the neighbouring properties have been spoken to but all have objected. The Clerk believes that the only suitable place is next to the electric boxes near the roundabout as suggested by Councillors Rowse and Chamberlain. Installation will be arranged as soon as possible.

The Clerk has looked around the Porth Meadow estate and couldn't find many suitable places due to narrow pavements. With assistance from Councillors Rowse and Chamberlain the most sensible area is near the play area and so Blenheim's (the property management company) were asked for permission and this has been granted.

Blenheim's would like a Grit/salt bin for Hilltop Crescent Estate William West Road, however on visiting the area the Clerk found one nearby. The Clerk asked the Councillors for permission to have it filled. All the Councillors agreed.

The Clerk and Councillor Jenny Moore and others met with Caitlin Lord to discuss the Town Vitality Funding. St Blazey is apparently viewed as one of the towns eligible for Town Vitality funding due to the number of electors. Towns should have a delineated high street (defined as a cluster of 15 or more retail addresses within 150 meters) and to demonstrate readiness it should have a town team or a place shaping partnership. St. Blazey is on the eligible list for Town Vitality funding so can come forward with an application for funding up to £50,000.

Applications to the scheme must be made by the Town Council and supported by a place shaping organisation/group/partnership. The funding is for towns to have a plan in place to be prepared for future funding opportunities. The essential ingredient is for the partnership to have an emerging plan or strategy for the revitalisation of their town centre, either in whole or part.

We face an obstacle with not having a high street or not currently having a partnership with a group or organisation with a developed strategy. Councillor Moore has had discussions with Matthew Vowels from Cornwall Development Company and they both agree that clarity is needed from Stephen Facer at Cornwall Council who is the lead on the fund.

Councillor Moore believes that a group could be put together as a result of the StARR project and the FANAG group that emerged. The definition of the group should be -

A community led initiative that allows groups of key stakeholders to identify priorities and ambitions for their area under four key themes:

What would you like your place to be, the main priorities for your community, how the community will deliver these priorities, what help you might need to support making this a reality.

Councillor Moore told the Councillors that it would fit well with the Adaptation Plan, a group started by the EA that fits with all the flood amelioration work which was called a Masterplan. It is in its formative stages and because St Blazey is seen as having unrealised potential it could help put St Blazey in the running for funding.

The application deadline was originally 31st March 2021 but this has been extended to 2nd June.

The Clerk asked the Council for permission to proceed with the funding application which was given.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 S.14: Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

Location: Coast Path to Spit Beach, St Blaise

Timing: 23rd February 2021 to 16th March 2021 (24 hours)

2102/13 **PLANNING MATTERS**

There have been two planning application received and it was RESOLVED to not object to either of them:

PA21/00794 Works to Trees 1 Sycamore Tree Ref T5, Tree 2 Oak Tree Ref T6, Tree 3 Oak within Group G6
The Orchards
Penny's Lane
St Blazey

PA21/00909 Formation of vehicular access with on-site surfaced, parking and turning.
2A St Austell Road
St Blazey Gate
Par

2102/14 **ALEXANDER HALL/ ST BLAZEY COMMUNITY ROOMS/ JUNE ANDERSON HALL**

The Clerk has had to turn the alarm off at Alexander Hall as the rear fire doors have warped and therefore the sensors don't meet and the alarm is constantly being set off. The Councillors agreed that the doors should be repaired.

Councillors decided that rents should not increase at this current time.

2102/15 **ACCOUNTS****February 21****Payments Received**

Hall Bookings	
Interest	0.48
High Deposit Int	13.76
Community Room	
JA Hall	
Grant	
Furlough	613.44
Black Sacks	

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627.68

Expenditure

Clerks Wage	1588.37
Wardens Wage	666.13
Broadband	21.95
UK Fuels	
Insurance	208.25
HMRC	651.41
CC (Pen)	582.19
Scribe	561.60
Tools	3.99
Electric (foun)	28.98
Screw Fix	319.98
<u>AH</u>	
Chubb (parts)	14.76
EDF (Elec)	-142.30
Corona (Elec)	65.34
SWW	21.50
EDF (Gas)	- 480.17
Cleaners Wage	45.60
<u>PC</u>	
Locking	30.00
<u>Community Rooms</u>	
Electric	91.68
Water	38.49
<u>JA Hall</u>	
Electric	17.46

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4,335.21

All the Councillors RESOLVED to accept the accounts submitted.

2102/16 **TOWN BUSINESS**

Councillor Jenny Moore asked if the Council would support making the St Blazey Facebook Page non-political. Councillors agreed to support this as the Town Council is non-political.

Councilor Chamberlain told the Council that the next PL24 magazine would begin being distributed this weekend.

2102/17 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on 25th March 2021, time and place to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.59 pm.