

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL  
Held at St Blazey Community Rooms, St Blazey, on Thursday  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

**Present**

Deputy Mayor – J Anderson

Councillors

C Parrock, R Taylor and C Williams

**In attendance:** Town Clerk

2308/01 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors T Nethercott, A Pearce, F Wearne, D Brock and K Simms.

2308/02 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were confirmed as being correct and later signed by the Chairperson.

2308/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2308/04 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

2307/11 St Blazey Fountain is now working.

2308/20 The Clerk has enquired about the Tommy Statues but has not received a reply so will chase this.

2308/05 **REPORT FROM SERGEANT IAN CHAMBERS**

Firstly, apologies that we could not provide an update in person. Shift patterns and other work commitments have meant that none of the Neighbourhood team are available this evening, but I will ensure that someone is available for the next meeting if our attendance is requested.

A basic overview of staffing on the St Austell Neighbourhood Team is as follows:

There is currently one Sergeant plus 6 Police Officers, assisted by 5 PCSO's. The team have recently reduced in size due to officers retiring/resigning from the force.

The Policing sector of St Austell is divided into 3 areas, with each area having dedicated PC's and PCSO's.

The area of St Blazey, Par, Fowey and Lostwithiel is currently covered by PC Craig Boundy and PCSO Graham Wade. Two officers who also previously covered this area have left the force in the last month. PC Jason Gosling has retired after 30 years of service and PCSO Jamie Ward has resigned to take up a new role in the Environment Agency.

Staffing in this area will increase in the immediate future with recruitment and changes to the staffing levels.

There has also been a recent change of sector inspector – with Inspector Matt Trevivian taking over from Inspector Ian Jolliff. Matt is a former St Austell Neighbourhood Sergeant, so has a good working knowledge of the patch and is settling into his new role well.

Since the latter part of last year, Devon and Cornwall Police have introduced a new computer system called NICHE. This has replaced many of our older systems and is responsible for recording various data such as crime reports, non-crime incidents, property and many more.

Due to this recent change, it is not possible to compare year on year crime stats as we have not had a full year of NICHE recording yet. I can however provide full crime and ASB statistics for the previous 2 years, and the current crime/ASB stats up to August for 2023.

**Crime data** – 2021 = 332 recorded offences  
2022 = 469 recorded offences  
2023 to date = 193 recorded offences

As you can see, there was a rise in reported crime in 2022, which is typical of other areas in Devon and Cornwall. This was partly due to COVID restrictions fully lifting and an improved reporting rate. The 2023 stats suggest crime rates are lower this year which is encouraging.

There are no crime trends to be concerned about in the area, with no spike in any crime types.

**ASB data** – 2021 – 196 reported ASB incidents  
2022 – 168 reported ASB incidents  
2023 to date – 126 reported ASB incidents

The neighbourhood team have been working hard to address ASB and low-level offending amongst children and young adults. Worryingly, we have recently seen children much younger in age commit serious offences. Some of the children we have been dealing with are as young as 11 and 12 years old. There are thought to be a group of around 10 young people that are responsible for the majority of ASB in the area.

We have worked with partner agencies including the Youth Justice Service, Cornwall Council ASB team, the SAFER partnership and many others to combat their offending and trying to steer them back onto the right path.

Over the past year, we have issued all the group ASB warnings, with some of them being escalated to Youth Cautions and Community Resolutions. One young person was also sent to court for a series of offences which resulted in them being issued with a Youth Rehabilitation Order.

The Youth Justice Service are working with several children in the St. Blazey/Par area currently. As always, we encourage the public to report any incidents to us via any of the usual ways. Whilst our attendance will depend on demand at the time, every call is logged and may lead to increased presence in the area in the future should there be similar calls justifying further action.

St Blazey Police station is intended to re-open as soon as possible, allowing for officers to conduct enquiries and show a greater presence in the area.

Essentially the re-opening is in a queue, with the Force buildings and estates team weighing it up against other needs and demands we have in the force. As officers have recently been issued with improved mobile phones and laptops, it is anticipated that officers will begin to use the station again in the coming months whilst we wait for an official answer on re-opening.

If anyone has any questions or comments, I am happy to receive them and will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

#### 2308/06 **COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Wardens have been watering the flower beds, all grass cutting is up to date, all footpath maintenance is up to date. Weed treatment has begun with Station Road, St Blazey Road, Middleway and St Marys Road completed, the A390 from Middleway to Biscovey Petrol station, Par Lane from Penarwyn to old Roselyon has been started and weed treatment will continue.

The wardens have had to clean the fountain of debris on several occasions as the road signs and other equipment is being put in the fountain at every opportunity. The wardens have cut back the trees opposite the post office and removed weeds from the pavement at the same time as the pavement was becoming unusable.

A play inspector went to the park to make repairs to the seesaw but unfortunately this was beyond repair and so has had to be removed for safety reasons.

#### 2308/07 **REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR PAULINE GILES**

Mid Cornwall's refuse collection will change in January 2024. Leaflets highlighting the changes will be delivered to every household in this area w/c 4 September. In the meantime, here is a little bit of info on how it will work. Once the new service starts, you'll need to start separating your food waste from your rubbish ready to put

out every week for collection in the new food waste caddy. If you're not already recycling, you'll need to recycle your cardboard, glass, plastics, cans, paper and textiles. This is because they'll start collecting your rubbish fortnightly and, in line with most other councils, will only take rubbish put out in the bin you are given with the lid closed. If you're separating your food waste and recycling, your rubbish should easily fit into the wheelie bin or sack (which you will be provided with) – it holds about 3 to 4 black bags' worth. You will also receive a green 'outdoor' food caddy and a silver 'indoor' food caddy.

Your collection day may also change, you will be sent a new collection calendar in December. It will tell you your new collection day, (if yours is changing), and the date your new service starts. The leaflet will have an email address and telephone number on it for those who have questions. Mid Cornwall is the first area to be rolled out, there will be teething problems, please be patient. We all need to do our bit to save our planet.

#### 2308/08 **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The clerk had distributed the Financial Regulations. Councillor C Williams proposed that the current document be accepted without change, Councillor C Parrock seconded the proposal, all the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

#### 2309/09 **REVIEW OF BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN**

The clerk had distributed the Business Continuity Plan. Councillor C Williams proposed that the current document be accepted without change, Councillor C Parrock seconded the proposal, all the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

#### 2309/10 **IMPLICATIONS OF CORNWALL COUNCIL CUTS AND LOCALISM**

As We all know Cornwall Council are providing less and less services however they are now denying responsibility for areas on estates that have been adopted telling residents when they call to contact us.

#### 2308/11 **COUNCIL TO CONSIDER CYBER INSURANCE**

This matter has been deferred to next month.

#### 2308/13 **PROJECT LIST**

##### **Neighbourhood Planning**

Unfortunately, the Clerk has made no progress since last month.

##### **Community Event**

This matter has been deferred to next month.

##### **Councillors Surgery.**

Councillors Brock and Parrock hosted the Surgery on August 5th. The Surgery on September 2<sup>nd</sup> will be hosted by Councillors Williams and Anderson.

## 2308/14 **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

The Speed camera in Station Road recorded that 67.01% of incoming vehicles, up from 66.41% are above the speed limit and 75.08% down from 76.24% of outgoing vehicles are above the speed limit.

## 2308/15 **PLANNING MATTERS**

There has been one planning applications received and it was RESOLVED to not object to it.

PA23/05586            Single storey extension and loft conversion, fitting of solar panels, new drainage, rebuilding of storage, ramp for wheelchair access; installation of a sprinkler fire safety system.  
Cadmus  
Doubletrees  
St Blazey

Results Received

PA23/04766            The demolition, rebuild and extension of an existing (un-used) brick built store (The Old Brick Store), to form a new three bedroomed family dwelling, to become the applicants future home without compliance of Condition 2 in relation to Decision Notice PA22/03929 dated 20/7/2022.  
The Old Brick Store  
59A Penarwyn Road  
St Blazey  
APPROVED

## 2308/16 **REPORTS ON COUNCIL BUILDINGS**

### **St Blazey Public Toilets -**

Our current Public Convenience Warden is beginning full time employment in September, we have appointed a new person but are awaiting his work permit as he is still in education.

The Gentlemen's toilets have been vandalised twice this month.

### **Alexander Hall**

The Hall continues to be used but bookings could be better.

### **St Blazey Community Rooms**

The Hall continues to be used but bookings could be better.

### **June Anderson Hall**

The Hall continues to be used.

## 2308/17 PLAY AREA UPDATES

Deeble Drive – Play inspections and ground maintenance is up to date.

Penarwyn Green – Play inspections and ground maintenance is up to date.

Polgover Way – The caps missing from the climbing frame have still not been repaired by Sovereign. Play inspections and ground maintenance is up to date.

Vandals have damaged the log / basket swing and carved into the children's swing. The Clerk has talked to IN2PLAYGROUNDS who have said that a vandal proof bucket would be the best option. A replacement will cost between £700 -£2000 depending on quality. The Residents Association have offered £770 and the Councillors agreed to pay up to £1200. The Clerk will plan.

Users of Polgover Play Area are concerned about a tree on the edge of the park that neighbours a private property, the owner of the property previously put in a TPO that has been withdrawn. The Clerk has contacted the property owner and asked for the details of the application.

Trail Blazer Park – Trailblazer Park is still constantly being misused as those gathering there are intent to empty the bins distributing the rubbish around the park. They are also moving the builder's equipment from Polgrean into the park. We have had it reported that youths are trying to build fires in the park. The Wardens are constantly cleaning up. The surfacing under the MPU and the Tyre Swing has now been repaired.

The Expression of Interest to the Community Levelling Up fund for an adult gym and new equipment has moved onto the second stage. Various quotes have been sought as the Full Application has to be received by 11<sup>th</sup> September.

## 2308/18 ACCOUNTS

### **Payments Received**

Hall Hire	40.00
Interest	45.07
High Deposit Int	117.69
JA Hire	860.00

### **Expenditure**

Clerks Wage	1710.55
Wardens Wage	769.07
Broadband	40.31
UK Fuels	125.40
HMRC	730.09
CC (Pen)	604.46
Warden Wage	1008.25
Insurance	306.13
Fountain Elec	16.81
Wardens Equip	54.75
Cormac	179.87
Walter Bailey	35.64
Radmore & Tuc	-3162.00
SW Gard Mach	3499.00
Kompan	142.60

All Connections	55.09
Hyundai	479.99
Plumbase	4.87
ICO	35.00
Viking	94.70
<u>AH</u>	
Chubb (parts)	16.75
Corona (Gas)	39.96
Corona (Elec)	65.78
SWW	55.00
Cleaners Wage	17.40
PPL/PRS	166.78
<u>PC</u>	
Electric	
Locking	40.00
Water	
<u>Community Rooms</u>	
Electric	
Business Rates	109.00
Water	95.12
Broadband	
<u>JA Hall</u>	
Water	148.76
Cleaning Mats	32.25
Electric	128.86
=====	=====
1,062.76	7,646.24

All the Councillors RESOLVED to accept the accounts submitted.

#### 2308/19 TOWN BUSINESS

No items for discussion or report.

**PART TWO-** ITEMS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE TO BE DEBATED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC as per Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) ACT 1960

#### 2209/20 CO-OPTION OF A NEW TOWN COUNCILLOR

1. To resolve to exclude the press and public for items of a confidential nature. It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public.
2. Co-option of 1 Town Councillor.  
No application received.

#### 2308/21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at St Blazey Community Rooms.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.14 pm.