MINUTES of the MEETING of the ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at St Blazey Community Rooms, St Blazey, on Thursday
25th April 2024

Present

Mayor – Tony Nethercott
Deputy Mayor – J Anderson

Councillors

S Burt, C Parrock, K Simms & R Taylor.

In attendance: Town Clerk

2404/01 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors C Williams, F Wearne and A Pearce.

2404/02 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 28th March 2024 were confirmed as being correct and later signed by the Chairperson.

2404/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2404/04 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 29th FEBRUARY 2024**

2402/11 Councillor Wearne has informed us that Belt it Out Bodmin will now be unavailable to perform at the Community Event on June 9th.

2403/14 Councillor Parrock has set up a Town Council Facebook Page.

2404/05 **COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

All work is up to date. I have started preparing the planters for the bedding plants. I am halfway through the kerb side weed treatment. I have started work on the LMP footpaths.

2404/06 **REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR PAULINE GILES**

Although St Andrews Rd Wetlands are not within the bounds of St Blazey, they are an asset to its residents. I therefore had a meeting with John Page earlier this month, with regards to improvements that need to be made and the theft of many of the bird and bat boxes which is infuriating! There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour on the site and I have had many calls from concerned residents. I have

another meeting on site with Mr Page and the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change in June, to look at its future potential.

I attended the StARR Event at June Anderson Hall on 4 April. It was a washing up of the project and a celebration and debrief of its achievements. Despite the time it has taken, exacerbated by the Covid lockdown, most of the work is now done, and I was impressed with the work conducted throughout St Blazey. There is still an ongoing issue around the parcel of land adjacent to the football club and Aberdeen Close, but I am told this will be completed shortly.

I would like to say a big thank to you our residents for their patience whilst the work took place, and we all have a debt of gratitude to the landowners farther up the valley, whose ground will now be used to stem the flow of water into St Blazey on particularly heavy days of persistent rain. In the recent weeks I am sure it has helped enormously.

I have been contacted by several residents of Aberdeen Close about the random cutting of the grass at the entrance of the estate. I contacted Cormac and requested the area be properly cut, so that the children could play on it. Cormac have kindly agreed to re-cut, but wished me to let residents know, that the grass area is NOT a council asset and that they are under no obligation to cut it at all. They will cut it again before the children break up for their summer holidays.

Complaints are still coming in with regards to the change in the Bus Service, Route 24 is not subsidised by Cornwall Council and we have no say in the route they choose to take, those unhappy with the change can and should complain to firstbus.co.uk, if enough people complain, they may just take some action! It goes without saying that it is a case of ‘Use it or Lose it’ with all the buses, perhaps consider a trip to Lostwithiel on Bus 28, on a sunny day for a wander and an ice cream just to prove that the route is needed? I rode it the other day and chatted with an elderly lady whose husband was in a Home in Lostwithiel, without the bus service she would not be able to visit so often as a taxi would be too costly. People’s lives and circumstances change, keeping that connectivity might help one of us in the same position one day.

The Police Station saga rolls on, I received an email saying that there was nothing on the table to reopen St Blazey but after a further conversation it was explained that we had never had a front desk and merely wanted it reopened with IT connectivity of a standard that the Officers in the building could use with adequate security! They will get back to me. I do not think we are asking too much just to have a Police presence back in St Blazey and I am going to keep on at them until they do something about it.

Ocean have been out on one of their estates doing a survey with their residents, there seems to be some confusion still with the refuse collections and what week they should be putting out what! I think it would be a good idea to ensure all noticeboards in St Blazey has the calendar, so those residents who do forget, have something to reference. I also think some consideration should be given to how many noticeboards we have in the St Blazey division, for many this is there link to what is happening in their area.

We have continual offenders not paying their rent to landlords whether they be private landlord or social housing. Those in receipt of Universal Credit who get housing benefit need to understand that taking money and not using it for the purpose provided is fraud!

If renters come to me complaining that their landlord has served a section 21 eviction order when they have brought it on themselves, they need to understand I can not help them. There is an element of responsibility here and it is unfair to think the landlord will put up with not getting paid, they too have bills to pay.

If there is a genuine reason someone cannot pay, contact the landlord to discuss.

2404/07 **IMPLICATIONS OF CORNWALL COUNCIL CUTS AND LOCALISM**

The Clerk and Councillor Nethercott went to a Cormac Engagement Event on Friday 19th April. The focus was meant to be Climate Change however this was overtaken by conversation regarding the Local Maintenance Partnership.

They began by explaining the three-part relationship – Cornwall Council – Highways-Cormac. Cormac had a new contract from CC in April 2022. Cormac have 4500 miles of roads, 270 staff of which 33 focus on potholes. They use four types of Tarmac which are Spray Injection Treating, Velocity, Cold Water Lay Patch and Mastic Asphalt (only being tried).

Because of the Climate Emergency they are very focussed on Insects, Birds, Wild Animals, Flora and Fauna. Rather than No Mow May due to bad weather it is now Low Mow May. 150 Town and Parish Councils have a LMP agreement. We were told that there are no plans to devolve any more work to Town and Parish Councils.

2404/08 **END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS**

The Council all agreed and approved: -

The Council have prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

The Council made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.

The Council has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.

The Council has during the year given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.

The Council has considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.

The Council has arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this authority.

The Council has responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.

The Council has disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.

The Town Clerk presented the accounts for 2023/24 to the Council. Councillor J Anderson proposed that they be accepted, Councillor R Taylor seconded, all the council agreed, and it was RESOLVED.

The Council will carry £208,434 into the new financial year. £700 belongs to Emergency/Flood group and £17500 belongs to Burrows Centre Ltd. The reserves will be apportioned as follows: -

Our actual balance is £190,234.

Council running costs (in case of emergency) –		61,000.00
To build up Reserves	-	129,234.00

Reserves to be used for new play equipment and improvements to the Town Car Park.

Algaard Renshaw the internal auditors reported.

Having undertaken a comprehensive Internal Audit of St Blaise Town Council Town Council's accounting records and system of internal control, we have concluded that, based on our inspection, the Town Council has maintained an effective and accurate system of internal control arrangements for the accounting period 2023/24.

The Clerk/ RFO and the Members of the Body are to be commended for the efficient and effective way they have conducted the business of the Town Council during the past financial year. It is the opinion of the Internal Auditor that it is a well-run organisation.

The Town Council's 'Internal Audit Report', of the Annual Return, has been duly completed and signed. We are of the firm opinion that the control objectives set out in that report have been achieved within the financial year to a high standard and thereby easily meets the needs of the Council.

2404/09 **PROJECT LIST**

Neighbourhood Planning
The Clerk has made no further progress.

Community Event
Councillors agreed to give the Clerk a £500 budget for Childrens entertainment at the event.

Councillors Surgery.
The Surgery on April 6th was hosted by Councillors Williams and Wearne, Councillors Taylor and Simms will host on May 4th.

2404/10**TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

The Speed camera in Station Road recorded that 65.81% of incoming vehicles, up from 64.96% are above the speed limit and 78.04% down from 78.33% of outgoing vehicles are above the speed limit.

Cornwall Council contacted the Town Council some time ago to ask if we would be interested in buying a parcel of land at Tredenham Close and we said we would be interest to use for Warden Storage. Cornwall Council have asked again but has said that the Environment Agency requires 24/7 vehicular access onto and across the Property (from Tredenham Close) to inspect, maintain etc its assets under and adjacent to the Property. Additionally, the owner of the adjacent Hairworx property has a right of way by vehicle and foot over the Property to Tredenham Close. Councillors agreed the land would be of no use to us.

We have received a CIL payment from the Roselyon Development of £7,714.41. This money must be used for the benefit of the community and therefore asked the Councillors to think of ideas.

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

Location: Footpath from Par Lane to Old Roselyon Road, PAR

Timing: 13th April 2024 to 26th April 2024 (24 hours)

Footway resurfacing.

Notified 19/4/24 E-m 22/4/2024.

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

Location: Footway at rear of Aberdeen Close, St Blazey

Timing: 29th April 2024 to 7th June 2024 (24 hours)

2404/11**PLANNING MATTERS**

There have been four Planning Applications received and it was RESOLVED to not object to any of them.

PA24/02071 Listed Building Consent for replacement rainwater goods, painting and window replacement.
Merthen Farm
Par Moor Road
St Blazey

PA24/02293	Application for tree works subject to TPO namely fell one oak tree (T1). Roselyon School Trust Ltd St Blazey
PA24/02876	Works to trees subject to TPO, works include T1-Beech. Install static brace 1m above weak union (approx. .2m from ground level). Reduce crown by 0.5 to 1m to suitable growth points. 141 Manor View St Blazey
PA24/02765	Installation of 114 ground mounted solar panels with associated cable run to a nearby building. East Crinnis Campsite East Crinnis Par Moor Road St Blazey

Results Received

PA24/00245	Change of use from single flat to two flats (retrospective) 31 Station Road St Blazey APPROVED
PA24/01975	Non-Material Amendment in relation to PA21/09437 dated 7.2.22 to change the pitched roof of the garage to a flat roof. 15 Doubletrees St Blazey WITHDRAWN
PA23/09839	Development of former Imerys site with erection of two buildings to accommodate 10 Commercial Units (E, B2 and B8 use), repositioning of access, provision of access road, pedestrian access and associated landscaping works. Pentruff Dry Par Moor Road Par APPROVED
PA24/02293	Application for tree works subject to TPO namely fell one oak tree (T1). Roselyon School Trust Ltd St Blazey APPROVED

2404/12 **REPORTS ON COUNCIL BUILDINGS**

St Blazey Public Toilets -
Cleaned daily.

Alexander Hall
There is a new soft play group using the hall on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

St Blazey Community Rooms
Mike has cleaned the gutters and outside walls.

June Anderson Hall
Mike has repaired the fire doors.

2404/13 **PLAY AREA UPDATES**

Deeble Drive – Play inspections and ground maintenance is up to date, the safety surfacing has been cleaned again. A new safety sign has been erected.

Penarwyn Green – Play inspections & ground maintenance is up to date. A new safety sign has been erected.

Polgover Way – Play inspections and ground maintenance is up to date. The damaged seat on the swing has been replaced. A new safety sign has been erected.

Trail Blazer Park –We continue to suffer from vandalism and broken glass but this has reduced. Play inspections and ground maintenance is up to date.

The Clerk told the Councillors that the bids for funds had been approved and therefore we can look forward to a new Childrens Play Area and Adult Gym.

King Edward Gardens – Ground maintenance is up to date.

2404/14 **ACCOUNTS**

Payments Received

Hall Hire AH	1105.00
Interest	63.44
High Deposit Int	150.69
JA Hire	720.00
C/R Hire	156.00
Flower Donation	100.00
CC CIL	7,714.41
Precept	61,000.00
Black Sacks	24.50

Expenditure

Clerks Sal	1827.36
Wardens Wage	1062.16
Broadband	41.28
UK Fuels	117.01
HMRC	585.41
CC (Pen)	632.73
CALC m/ship	2330.15
Insurance	306.13
SLCC m/ship	238.00
Cake Dep	125.00
Wisdom Signs	624.00
Warden Uniform	115.90
AH	
Water	45.50
Chubb (parts)	17.90
Corona (electric)	95.51

Cleaners Wage	19.20
Cleaning Mats	10.50
Intruder Alarm	177.12
PC	
Locking	40.00
Wallgate	917.71
Community Rooms	
Water	49.98
Business Rates	114.75
JA Hall	
Water	
======	=======
70,558.85	9,493.30

All the Councillors RESOLVED to accept the accounts submitted.

2404/15**TOWN BUSINESS**

Councillor Nethercott had attended the Community Area Partnership the evening before where he had discussed the lack of policing in St Blazey.

Councillor Parrock said he extremely concerned about the speeding traffic in St Blazey Road and Middleway. Councillor Burt asked what could be done and was informed that the police should be attending our annual meeting next month and this will be mentioned and discussed.

Councillor Taylor asked if it was known what the works in Aberdeen Close currently being undertaken were for and was told it was to do with St Blazey Service Station.

Councillor Simms attended the end of project StARR event on April 4th and said it was worth attending however he learned nothing new.

2404/16 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on 30th May 2024 at 7.00pm at St Blazey Community Rooms.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.56 pm.