

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at St Blazey Community Rooms, St Blazey, on Thursday
28th November 2024**

Present

Mayor – Tony Nethercott
Deputy Mayor – J Anderson

Councillors

A Billings, S Burt, K Simms, C Williams & R Taylor.

In attendance: Town Clerk
Community Warden
Councillor Pauline Giles
Caroline Stephenson

Before the meeting began Caroline Stephenson spoke to St Blaise Town Council about the work that Meadow Barns are doing along with the Luxulyan Valley Partnership.

Caroline has been working on the history of the area with Historic England, area 8 (Charlestown and the Luxulyan valley) of the World Heritage Site for mining. During her research she found a 5-year plan from 2019 to 2024 where the area was awarded £3.400,000 by the Heritage Lottery. This money had to be given back.

The next amount of funding will be for the 5 years beginning in January 2025 however time has not been given for a formal request even though information about proposals is sought ASAP. It is unacceptable that a plan is being drawn up without consultation and the many landowners and businesses who will be affected have not been consulted.

2411/01 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

2411/02 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 31st October 2024 were confirmed as being correct and later signed by the Chairperson.

2411/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2411/04 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 31st OCTOBER 2024**

2410/06 Councillor Burt read a message sent by Councillor Parrock saying that he thought the Town Council had been unfair charging St Blazey Recycle for the hall hire for Santas Grotto.

The Clerk explained that procedures were not followed and if they had been the result may have been different.

The Councillors agreed that rescinding a decision of the Council cannot be within six months so will be added to the April 2025 Agenda.

2410/06 The Clerk is to meet the owner of Westgate next week to discuss a gate between their property and our Town Car Park.

2410/19 The Clerk has been in contact with Fourways and been given the name and e-mail for their Treasurer. We have asked him to attend a meeting but no reply has been received.

2411/05 **COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

All work is up to date. We continue to consult with the workers in Trailblazer when they are on site. We have put new chippings around the war memorial and strimmed the pathway to the memorial. We also cleaned the leaves from the area outside the church. We have rebuilt the wall at the entrance to the Town Car Park again. We have started to remove plants from the planters around the town.

2411/06 **REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR PAULINE GILES**

I am delighted to report that after much badgering, it looks like we are to get an extension to the pavement from the bus stop to the Doctors surgery! There is currently a consultation out for the public to send in their views, but given the positive comments on social media, I am sure that the pavement will be put in early in 2025.

The path running adjacent to Biscovey Infant School has had 803 rolled onto it. Unfortunately, not all the path has been done, meaning that water is now pooling farther down the path. I have asked Cormac to look at it, and complete the job, as children are still not able to walk to school on this footpath which is a shame. I know money is very tight, but I am hopeful that this job will be completed.

I was delighted to be invited to go up and look around the bungalow known as Cadmus (on Doubletrees) last week, Harbour Housing have done an amazing job in turning it into three self-contained units for people awaiting a care plan from Cornwall Council. It has been renovated to a high standard and has a downstairs flat which is suitable for a wheelchair user complete with lift from the car parking space to the back door. The first resident has already moved in and is incredibly happy.

I am pleased to say that recycling rates in the St Austell & Newquay constituency have increased from 30% to 50%. I have requested a breakdown by division so I can see how St Blazey are doing in the league table.

St Austell HWRC will start taking bookings to take waste from Monday 9 December, no booking, no entry. It will be interesting how this will affect the onsite shop, as when I asked recently how people would be able to access the shop and would they need to accept a drop off appointment, no one was sure.

I met Cllrs Parrock and Taylor up at St Blazey church on the 11th, to lay a wreath for Remembrance, Eddy Bond attended and read the roll call of the fallen from both world wars, Lest We Forget.

Sadly, the bridge behind CoOp which leads to Polgrean was vandalised recently. Due to its dangerous nature, CoOp had the sides speedily replaced, which over the first night, were unscrewed and thrown in the river! I had a meeting onsite with the CoOp Manager and Safer St Austell who have come up with a few options to improve security. The Manager has been tasked with finding out more information about the responsibilities surrounding the adjacent ground, the river, and indeed the bridge, this will be useful in the future.

Tomorrow evening the railway junction at Tywardreath Highway closes for the weekend for much needed repairs to the railway line. This has been an absolute shambles to get information about! I have been passed from pillar to post! I suggested a one-way diversion around Kilhallon to avoid congestion and possible accidents but was told it would take an order to do that and that needed to have been applied for weeks ago! Why no one gave this thought I do not know, I have suggested that when roads need closing and diversion would be required, the divisional member should be consulted because we have more idea than the pen pushers. After being contacted by many residents, I asked if there would be pedestrian access, I still await a reply and the work starts tomorrow! I will be on the phone tomorrow morning and if I don't get an answer, am minded to call Radio Cornwall and ask live on air, just to call out the incompetence of those in charge!

Thankfully, Fowey School have an inset day, so there is no need to re-route the bus, and after some discussion the bus company have agreed that Bus 28 can stop at the old Football Club bus stop over this weekend.

I look forward to the official opening of the Polgrean development next Friday. I am sure you will all agree the kerb appeal of St Blazey has been greatly improved and believe this will take us off the list of areas with high deprivation.

St Blazey Recycles free Christmas Grotto will take place on Saturday 7 December. It is unfortunate that we are not yet in our new premises so will not be able to go to town as in other years, with the decoration, we have however, purchased some lovely backdrops for families to use as photo opportunities.

This being the last meeting of the year, I will wish you all a Happy Christmas and see you in the New Year.

2411/07 IMPLICATIONS OF CORNWALL COUNCIL CUTS AND LOCALISM

No updates.

2411/08 CLERKS PAY AWARD

The Clerk told the Council that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed a £1290 pay award for all staff, pro-rated for part time employees for 2024/25. Councillor Nethercott proposed that St Blaise Town Council give the pay award, Councillor Billings seconded the proposal, all the other Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2411/09 REVIEW OF RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk had sent all the Councillors the Risk Assessment. Councillor Williams proposed that the document be accepted, Councillor Simms seconded the proposal. All the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2411/10 REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF CONTROL

The Council considered the Statement of Internal Control. No changes were made. Councillor Williams proposed the document be accepted; Councillor Burt seconded the proposal. All the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2411/11 REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Clerk asked the Council to consider if adequate internal controls are in place and that they accept the responsibility of safeguarding public money. The Clerk asked if the Statement of Internal Control was adequate, and to consider that the Minute Book, Risk Assessment, Attendance Book, and Declarations of Interest are being kept properly, the accounts are being verified correctly, enough insurance is in place, banking arrangements are acceptable, approved the direct debits, variable and static.

Councillor Taylor proposed that all internal controls are adequate, Councillor Billings seconded the proposal. All the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2411/12 TO SET THE 2025/2026 PRECEPT

The Clerk had written a budget with a proposed increase of 6.25%. Councillor Anderson proposed the increase, Councillor C Nethercott seconded the proposal, all the other Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2411/13 ST BLAZEY WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk has had a reply from the Church Diocese who have said that we must consider the legal position regarding maintenance of the churchyard and that regarding maintenance of the war memorial as different considerations arise.

From the information they hold it has been identified that the Churchyard of St Blaise Church was closed by order in council dated 6 January 1862. They have confirmed

that Cornwall Council took over responsibility for maintaining the churchyard at St Blaise Church which was previously exercised by the PCC. This is the only information held and they do not hold a copy of any Section 215 Notice from the PCC to Cornwall Council formally giving notice to transfer liability for maintenance of the churchyard.

The requirement to give notice to a local authority was introduced by the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 1972) so that the absence of such a notice, does not mean that Cornwall Council did not in fact assume responsibility for maintenance as this may have effectively been assumed prior to the provisions in the LGA 1972 relating to the requirement to give notice coming into force.

Accordingly, if there is evidence to show that Cornwall Council has been maintaining the churchyard for many years, it is reasonable to assume that liability for maintenance of the churchyard has de facto been assumed by them such that no further notice under the LGA 1972 is required.

Where responsibility has been passed on, it cannot formally be passed back to the Town Council, but an arrangement could be made with Cornwall Council under s.101 of the LGA 1972 whereby the Town Council would be authorised to exercise Cornwall Council's powers, with or without a financial contribution in pursuance of s.214(6) of the LGA 1972.

The Clerk has contacted Cornwall Council and once we have a definitive reply from them, we can ask for a licence allowing us the maintenance of the War Memorial.

2411/14 **CAROL CONCERT**

Councillors Nethercott and Anderson will meet and greet, Councillor Williams will take a photo of the recipient accepting the Good Citizens Award, 16 seats will be reserved for the Councillors. The Clerk will arrange for the Church to be unlocked at 3pm for the band to have access.

2411/15 **GDPR UPDATE**

The GDPR committee met earlier and agreed all procedures are being followed correctly.

2411/16 **PROJECT LIST**

Neighbourhood Planning

The Clerk has not made any further progress within the last month.

Community Event

The next event will be the official opening of the new Trail Blazer Park once completed.

Councillors Surgery.

Councillors Billings and Parrock hosted on November 2nd. There were no visitors.

Councillors Nethercott and Simms will host on December 7th and Councillors Williams and Burt will host on January 4th.

2411/17 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Speed camera in Station Road recorded that 65.66% of incoming vehicles, down from 67% are above the speed limit and 81.53% up from 77.94% of outgoing vehicles are above the speed limit.

The Clerk and Councillor Nethercott attended the online Cornwall Council Finance Briefing on 7th November presented by Tracie Langley (Chief Operating Officer), Will Tarrant and Leah Plummer. We were told that CC have used £3,000,000 of their reserves during 2024/25 financial year which will accumulate to £11,400,000 and the auditors have warned them that this is the first step to bankruptcy. They have used a “cash-flat” budget for 2025/26. They cannot approve a deficit budget. £58,000,000 of savings need to be made and £49,000,000 has been written into the budget. Another £9,000,000 needs to be found and they are waiting to hear regarding funding from central government.

Areas that have used more than their budget include child social care which has seen an increase in cases of children being taken into care and each child can cost more than £500,000. Another area is homelessness.

CC will be paying their care workers £15 per hour during 2025/26 so the cost is expected to be £5,000,000.

Local Government employers including Town and parish Councils will not be entitled to the NI employers’ reduction that some employers will be able to claim.

CC expect to gain £2,300,000 from the Council tax premium on second homes.

The Clerk has received the renewal for the Local Maintenance Partnership for 2025-2026, the Councillor’s agreed that we will continue with the scheme.

The Clerk has learned that other Councils have signed up to the Cornwall Devolution Deal. Town and Parish councils have not been asked by Cornwall Council to do this yet but the Clerk asked if this should be considered as an Agenda item. The Councillors believe this should be done.

The Clerk had forwarded the Councillors an e-mail regarding a Middleway Footway Scheme, The Clerk was instructed to reply with the Town councils Support.

The Clerk and Councillors Nethercott and Billings attended the Cornwall community Flood Forum on November 8th where many interesting speakers spoke about Flood Resilience Measures and Emergency Plans.

The Clerk has received a request from an organisation that want to build a self-driven tour area asking for funds. Councillors did not believe that we could help.

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

Location: Prideaux Road, St Blazey

Timing: 19th November 2024 to 22nd November 2024 (07:30 to 18:00 hours)

E/mailed 19/11/24.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 S.16A

Location: St Blazey Feast

Timing: 3rd February 2025 (18:00 to 19:00)

2411/18 PLANNING MATTERS

There has been two Planning Applications received and it was RESOLVED to not object to one of them.

PA24/08230 Erection of two storage units.
Land East of Carvear Dry
Par Moor Road
Par

It was RESOLVED to object to:

PA24/06674 1 bedroomed bungalow
Land North of 2 Duke Street
Duke Street
St Blazey

Results Received

PA24/07215 Ground Floor and first floor extension.
Biscovey Garage
St Austell Road
St Blazey Gate
APPROVED

PA24/07309 Addition of single storey rear extension and front porch.
Barn 1
Biscovey Farm
Biscovey Road
St Blazey Gate
APPROVED

2411/19 **REPORTS ON COUNCIL BUILDINGS****St Blazey Public Toilets -**

Cleaned daily.

Alexander Hall

We have changed the strip lights.

Bookings are good at the moment.

St Blazey Community Rooms

We have cleaned the guttering.

June Anderson Hall

Bookings are good.

2411/20 **PLAY AREA UPDATES**

Deeble Drive – All maintenance is up to date.

Penarwyn Green – All maintenance is up to date.

Polgover Way – All maintenance is up to date.

Trail Blazer Park – Very little work done due to new equipment being installed and wet weather.

King Edward Gardens – Ground maintenance is up to date. Fox gloves and shrubs have been planted.

2411/21 **ACCOUNTS****Payments Received**

Hall Hire	AH	495.00
Interest		55.92
High Deposit Int		151.39
JA Hire		667.50
LMP		516.44
C/R Hire		156.00

Expenditure

Clerks Sal	1827.16
Wardens Wage	1531.05
Broadband	41.28
UK Fuels	57.01
HMRC	836.57
CC (Pen)	632.75
Insurance	309.86
RBL	300.00
Stationery	9.95
Warden Equi	50.36
Foun Water	35.74
Foun Electric	48.26
St Austell GM	152.40
Xmas Tree	140.00
Cumbrian Clock	234.00
Deeble	45.00
Penarwyn	60.00
Polgover	60.00

Snowland Emb	69.90
Fourways	2500.00
<u>AH</u>	
Water	114.50
Chubb (parts)	17.90
Corona (electric)	102.07
SSE (Gas)	110.16
Cleaners Wage	25.10
Repair	11.89
<u>PC</u>	
Locking	50.00
Water	188.00
<u>Community Rooms</u>	
Business Rates	112.00
Water	
<u>JA Hall</u>	
Electricity	132.56
Water	52.55
=====	=====
2042.25	9858.02

All the Councillors RESOLVED to accept the accounts submitted.

2411/22 TOWN BUSINESS

Councillor Williams told the Council that the dropped kerbs had been put in at Penarwyn Green.

Councillor Nethercott told the Council that there had been a lot of break ins and thefts in St Blazey recently and he had learned that Devon and Cornwall Police have been placed under Special Measures.

Councillor Simms said that he was grateful that our Wardens had been regularly clearing the culverts at the end of Penny's Lane but complaints had been received that they were not clearing away the debris.

Councillor Billings had attended the Community Flood forum along with Councillor Nethercott and the Clerk on November 8th and as a result has started to work on our Flood Plan. He has learned that Cornwall Council are asking that Flood Plans be replaced with Emergency Plans. He has spoken to Chasewater Parish Council who have been very helpful and guided him to various useful information services. He believes he is about 75% the way through the updated document. Councillor Billings told the Councillors that Risk Assessment would have to be written as part of the Plan.

Councillor Billings asked the Clerk if Maps of the area could be made available.

Councillor Billings had attended an on-line Telecommunications Resilience update which is information regarding the new system coming in during 2027. He was concerned that vulnerable people would have no way of contacting emergency

services during power cuts so would be contacting the company who maintain the phone networks in this area to see what back-up generators would be available.

Councillor Billings asked if Councillors could be given ID cards, the Clerk will get this arranged.

Councillor Nethercott thanked Councillor Billings for all the work he has done so far on the Emergency Plan.

2411/23 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on 30th January 2025 at 7.30pm at St Blazey Community Rooms.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.16 pm.