

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at St Blazey Community Rooms, St Blazey, on Thursday
27th February 2025**

Present

Mayor – Tony Nethercott

Councillors

A Billings, S Burt, K Simms, F Wearne & R Taylor.

In attendance: Town Clerk
Jo Tagney
Simon Tagney
3 Members of the Public

2502/01 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors J Anderson, C Parrock, C Williams and A Pearce.

2502/02 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 30th January 2025 were confirmed as being correct and later signed by the Chairperson.

2502/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2502/04 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 30th JANUARY
2025**

2501/09 The Clerk contacted Highways regarding the three-year license to maintain the grass verge at Bridge Street and asked for a 99-year deal which was refused. A counteroffer of ten years was made and when asked would likely be renewed. The Councillors decided not to take up the offer.

2501/12 Councillors Parrock, Nethercott, the Clerk and the Warden met with 3 members of St Blazey Church on February 10th. It was decided that the Warden would repair the cross and joints and repaint. Councillor Parrock would get another quote for the granite and then after these works had been completed investigation into the cleaning of the brass would be made.

2502/05 **COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

All work is up to date. I have spent quite a lot of time checking for damage after each storm, I have cleared the grill in Penny's Lane again. I have had the fountain cleaned

and since the new pump was fitted it seems to be working well. I have cleaned the steps at the Mount. I have repaired the broken joints at the War Memorial.

2502/06 **REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR PAULINE GILES**

Councillor Giles sent her apologies and the following report:

It was lovely to see such a big turnout for the St Blaise Lantern Festival. I was very pleased to allocate £350 of my community chest towards the three events held that week. The Lantern Festival grows year on year and brought out lots of our community, either to participate or watch, well done to Jenny Moore and the Feast and Fete Team for a well-run event and to all those who joined in or turned out to watch on a dark February evening.

I was quite surprised to hear that Harbour Road had flooded after the recent heavy rainfall. I have spoken to Cormac and they will be out to clear the drains shortly. There was also flooding under the bridge by Par Harbour, Cormac initially came out and removed the surface water via a pump but will be returning soon to clear the tanks under the road which have silted up.

I was sad to hear about the impending redundancies at Eden and have been speaking to their CEO Andy Jasper, he expects there to be approximately 80 redundancies. Nineteen employees have subsequently come forward to take either voluntary redundancy or early retirement. I will keep in close contact with Eden should any of St Blazey's residents be affected and need support.

SWW have had their desalination proposal rejected by the Marine Monitoring Organisation requesting additional information which SWW intend to submit, this is not over.

This week the Council Budget was confirmed after a vote at Full Council. There will be an increase of 4.99%. It has been extremely difficult to produce a balanced budget given the Govt. reduced the Duchy's allocation by £5million without prior notice. In addition, the increase in NI contributions has cost a further £1million, both of which have sadly resulted in further cuts to services.

St Blazey Recycle has signed the contract for the new warehouse, there is much to do before opening, but hope the date will be in March, to which you will all be invited.

2502/07 **PAR DESALINATION GROUP**

Jo and Simon Tagney wanted to talk to St Blaise Town Council regarding their findings as we will be the primary consultee when/if a Planning Application is received.

SWW started surveys in April 2023 and the results were available in the Autumn however these surveys did not mention the seagrass bed which is believed to be the biggest in the country or the Maerl (seaweed/Cornish coral) when this information had been available since 2016.

The plan is to extract 20 million litres of sea water per day (original figure 2.5 million litres) and return concentrated brine during drought. What will happen to the 60 + species of creatures within the extraction and what other materials will be in the brine. The tunnel to Restormel treatment works will be 15 miles affecting many landowners. SWW have said that this would be a template for 10 other similar projects but not said where these will be. Why is it needed in Cornwall when we are the second wettest county, Cumbria being the first.

No business case has been provided to demonstrate need, the proposals have not sufficiently considered the site, maerl has not been included, the pipeline through organic farms, woodland and archaeological sites has not been well considered and there has been a lack of information and consultation.

SWW have said that Cornwall Council did not need an Environmental Impact assessment however the Marine Management Organisation have said it is needed and refused the application and have stopped the drilling in St Austell Bay.

There are no testing labourites in England and in December 2024 SWW admitted the project had been underestimated but are still hoping to submit a planning application in early 2025.

There are similar desalination plants the world over , Saudi Arabia is an example, but again consultation with them has not been made. We also must remember that the pipeline will go through Par Docks affecting other organisations.

2502/08 **IMPLICATIONS OF CORNWALL COUNCIL CUTS AND LOCALISM**

No updates.

2502/09 **TO CONSIDER DONATION'S**

CORNWALL AIR AMBULANCE

Cornwall Air Ambulance have asked for a donation to extend their services. Councillor Simms proposed a donation of £150, Councillor Burt seconded the proposal, all the other Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

CORNWALL SCRAP STORE

Cornwall Scrap Store have asked for a donation to fund their charity which provides low-cost materials for creative projects, help reduce waste, and promote sustainability, all while serving as a valuable resource for schools, community groups, artists, and individuals alike and reduce environmental waste, contributing to Cornwall's broader sustainability efforts.

Councillor Billing proposed a donation of £50, Councillor Burt seconded the proposal, all the other Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2502/10 **REVIEW OF INVESTMENT POLICY and STRATEGY**

The Council considered the Investment Policy and Strategy. Councillor F Wearne proposed that the document be deemed acceptable, Councillor Taylor seconded the proposal, all the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

2502/11 **PROJECT LIST**

Neighbourhood Planning/ Neighbourhood Priority Statements

The Clerk is waiting to hear further details regarding Neighbourhood Priority Statements.

Community Event

The next event will be the official opening of the new Trail Blazer Park on Sunday 23rd March at 2.00pm. Invites will be sent and advertising will begin.

Councillors Surgery.

Councillors Nethercott and Billings hosted on February 1st. No visitors. Councillors Wearne and Billings will host on March 1st.

2502/15 **TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

The Speed camera in Station Road recorded that 67.35% of incoming vehicles, up from 66.08 % are above the speed limit and 79.16 % up from 77.45 % of outgoing vehicles are above the speed limit.

The Clerk told the Councillors that she had not yet received the quote for the footpath between Fore Street and the Lawn and would chase this up.

Redruth Town Council have written asking for support to a motion to be put to Cornwall Council:-

After studying the recent tax base figures for the new second home council tax premiums, we propose that Cornwall Council consider a much fairer way of proportioning the proceeds, so that all areas have equal benefit reflected in their precepts, and not those only with busy tourist locations or wealthier areas which have a much higher rate of second home ownership. Poorer areas should receive similar amounts to those wealthier locations, where the need is often greater, and this would benefit the county as a whole.

Looking at second home council tax in general, Cornwall Council should ring fence this money solely for providing housing, reparation works to current council housing and those currently empty due to repair status, and potential CPO for properties empty in towns/villages that could provide much needed accommodation, as well as helping areas improve.

Like when the second home council tax rate 50% deduction was removed to support local housing, the second home premium was introduced as part of the levelling up strategy, in response to the housing crisis and need for additional social and local support. This is similar to the way in which the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is distributed.

St Blaise Town Council RESOLVED to support a motion to be put to Cornwall Council.

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

Location: Harbour Road and Par Moor Road, St Blazey

Timing: 1st February 2025 to 7th February 2025 (24 hours) E/mailed 3/2/25.

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

Location: St Marys Road, Par

Timing: 17th February 2025 to 21st February 2025 (24 hours) E/mailed 3/2/25.

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

Location: Luxulyan Road.

Timing: 3rd March 2025 to 5th March 2025 (09:30 to 16:00 hours)

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

Location: Par Moor Road and Harbour Road, St Blazey

Timing: 14th April 2025 to 16th April (19:00 to 06:00 hours)

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

Location: Biscovey Road, St Blazey Gate

Timing: 22nd April 2025 to 25th February 2025 (07:30 to 18:00 hours)

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

Location: St Blazey Road, St Blazey

Timing: 28th April 2025 to 30th April 2025 (19:00 to 07:00 hours)

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

Location: Harbour Road

Timing: 24th May 2025 to 1st June 2025 (23:30 to 07:00 hours)

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

Location: Road from Junction Southwest of Wheal, Par to Bodelva Road, Bodelva

Timing: 9th September 2025 to 10th September 2025 (09:30 to 15:30 hours)

2502/16 **PLANNING MATTERS**

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

PA25/01074 Works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order T1 – Ash Pollard to safe height (9m). Tree is showing early signs of Ash Die Back.
56 Chyandor Close
St Blazey

PA24/09281 Proposed extensions and alterations
13 Hillside Avenue
St Blazey

It was RESOLVED to object to:-

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

There is insufficient access to the site, Duke Street is a narrow lane. Overdevelopment of site. The land is unstable as seen by the land slide last winter.

The Planning Officer wrote saying he was minded granting permission and asked the TC to choose an option. The TC chose option 2

1. Planning officer Agree with my recommendation.
2. Agree to disagree.
3. Maintain your objection for the proposal against my recommendation and request committee consideration by the planning committee.

Results Received

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

PA24/04111 Demolition of existing garage and rebuilding it in the same place but 1.5 meters longer which will be used as a one bedroomed annexe. (Planning Officer rang to clarify the old garage was not being demolished but extended.
49 Station Road
St Blazey
APPROVED

- PA24/09818 Replacement of existing double garage and workshop with a home gym (ground floor) and a study/home office (first floor).
87 Station Road
St Blazey
APPROVED
- PA25/00003 Change of use from C3 residential dwelling to C2 care home use with internal alterations.
Rosehill House
Middleway
St Blazey
APPROVED
- PA25/00126 Demolition of existing garage and construction of new extension and garage with associated works.
12 Pembroke Close
St Blazey
APPROVED

2502/17 **REPORTS ON COUNCIL BUILDINGS**

St Blazey Public Toilets -

Cleaned daily.

June Anderson Hall

Mike has repaired the guttering.

St Blazey Community Rooms

Electrical upgrades will be made 17th/18th March 2025.

Alexander Hall

The Clerk is awaiting a quote for replacing the roof tiles.

2502/18 **PLAY AREA UPDATES**

Deeble Drive – All maintenance is up to date.

Penarwyn Green – All maintenance is up to date; repairs have been made to the swings.

Polgover Way – All maintenance is up to date.

Trail Blazer Park – All the new equipment has been installed, we have concerns over the groundwork, we will remedy this before the opening on Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 2.00 pm.

King Edward Gardens – Ground maintenance is up to date. The new light was vandalised within days of installation. Mike has cleaned the algae from the granite seat and painted the lamp post.

2502/19 **ACCOUNTS****Payments Received**

Hall Hire AH	360.00
Interest	54.36
High Deposit Int	144.83
JA Hire	938.00
Donation	100.00

=====

1597.19

Expenditure

Clerks Sal	1875.86
Wardens Wage	1111.95
Broadband	41.65
UK Fuels	62.00
HMRC	607.96
CC (Pen)	651.71
Insurance	309.86
Stationery	22.01
Warden Equi	40.27
Foun Electric	101.92
Foun Water	13.12
Viking	197.57
Toilets Electric	21.84
Toilets Water	122.69
<u>AH</u>	
Water	114.50
Chubb (parts)	19.12
Electric	132.04
SSE (Gas)	244.10
Cleaners Wage	20.20
Cleaning Mats	12.70
<u>PC</u>	
Locking	50.00
<u>Community Rooms</u>	
Business Rates	
Fire Safety Corn	300.00
Electricity	146.60
Water	74.16
<u>JA Hall</u>	
Electricity	176.37
Westward	1261.43
SWW	24.28

=====

7755.91

All the Councillors RESOLVED to accept the accounts submitted.

The Councillors RESOLVED to appoint Aalgarrd Renshaw as Internal Auditors for 2024/25 Accounts.

2502/20 **TOWN BUSINESS**

Councillor Burt reported that the LVP have updated terms of reference and there is to be a meeting at Redmoor School on March 26th 2025 at 5.30pm. They request that a 2nd Councillor be at the meeting. The Clerk will ask Colin Parrock to attend.

The partnership has a grant system that all can apply to, the Clerk will contact Charlotte Evans.

Councillor Wearne attended the Community Area Partnership Meeting on January 22nd where Inspector Simon Andrews, the new inspector covering St Austell was introduced.

Councillor Billing has almost finished the new Emergency Plan.

Councillor Nethercott had met with Duncan Mitchell from M Power Kernow which is a training centre for engineers near the Roundhouse run mostly by volunteers. They are holding an open day on March 11th which Councillor Nethercott will attend and will also invite Councillor Parrock.

2502/21 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on 27th March 2025 at 7.30pm at St Blazey Community Rooms.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.23 pm.