

# ST COLUMB MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Full Council Meeting of St Columb Major Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Columb Major, on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm, and broadcast live on the Town Council's Facebook Page.

**Present:** Cllrs P Wills (Mayor), E Culley, B Daniels, Mrs F McLeod, S Allen,  
Mrs F Fuery, K Roberts

**In attendance:** Mr M C Uren (Town Clerk) and two members of the public

**346/19**      **Mayor's Welcome:**

The Mayor, Cllr Wills, welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

i)      **Housekeeping:**

The Mayor addressed Councillors, giving advice on emergency procedures, asking that all mobile 'phones be switched off, or turned to silent.

ii)      **Diary Report from Mayor and County Councillor:**

Cllr Wills presented his report:-

"I sincerely hope you had a lovely August with your loved ones, and enjoyed the Summer weather, which, of course, was during Lockdown, that's when we had the best of the sunshine.

I have dealt with many queries from residents during August, covering a range of different issues from Housing Benefit, Council Tax questions, Rubbish Collection, Potholes, Hedge and Verge Trimming, to name a few.

There were very few Cornwall Council Virtual Meetings during August, but we are gearing up for more Meetings in the weeks ahead.

I am pleased to report that three out of the five public toilets in the parish have now been reopened. These being the two behind the Town Hall, and the disabled toilet at the Recreation Ground. These are single use toilets, and hand sanitisers have been placed outside for use before entry, and inside for use upon exit. The cleaning regimen has also been

increased. The two other toilets at the Recreation Ground remain closed for now, due to the difficulty in imposing Social Distancing Regulations. Please respect these facilities, and abide by the rules reference hand sanitising. Covid 19 is still with us. It is likely to be so for some time to come. Figures suggest a surge in cases worldwide! We must ALL do our bit in trying to keep our community safe, and Covid-free. It is the civic duty of EVERYONE of us to do the best we can, in these trying and uncertain times. If you are required, under law, to fill out a "Track and Trace" form in a shop, restaurant, or pub, please make sure you do so. Stay within your social bubbles, and mask up. Thank you to all the business's in the parish. You have all been wonderful, and we as a community are very grateful to you all".

**347/19**

**Questions from the public:**

Patricia Davenport's questions and answers -

Could I ask the Town Council if they are able to do anything about the increasing population of Feral Pigeons in the town? Whilst you are improving the town with hanging baskets, there is an increased number of pigeons pooping in the main street, over the seats, and generally making an awful mess.

Basically, the answer to this question is no. The pigeons in question "live" in the former Funeral Parlour in Higher East Street, which is up for development at present. The control of feral pigeons and all other wild birds in the UK, is legislated by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), courtesy of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Chapter 69). The Act deals with all matters relating to the management of wildlife, the provision of licenses and wildlife conservation. Although DEFRA oversees and legislates where all issues relating to the management of wildlife in the UK are concerned, it does not provide any type of "pigeon pest control" service, nor is it responsible for problems caused by wild birds. The responsibility for dealing with problems caused by wild birds is the sole preserve of the property/landowner concerned.

Also, my other question is to do with the new car park. Whilst it does look lovely, it is not very helpful to both residents, or visitors, to the town. It is costly for both, and there needs to be a fairer system in place to assist the local residents, and to encourage shoppers/visitors to come into the town. Are you going to review the current situation? Perhaps look at other places for a model of what works, and is fair.

The Town Council considers that the car park paying system is fair. It will be reviewed after 12 months, as was originally agreed.

Neil Kirkland's questions and responses -

Please could you explain why the discussion and decision to introduce charging (and not have a public referendum on it) at Trekenning Car Park, was not minuted at the Meeting 3rd October 2019, and nor was the item on the Agenda for the Meeting?

We have no record of a Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. I think you are referring to the Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> of October where the Working Party reported back to Council with its recommendations on Trekenning, and other devolved areas, which was discussed and agreed by consensus by the Council. Minutes are not verbatim.

Please could you explain why the Council put up the precept by £28k, and introduced charging (estimated income say £12k) to pay for the cost of resurfacing of Trekenning Car Park (c £100k before contribution from Cornwall Council) when the resurfacing will last for 15 years, and the Council already had the Reserves required to pay for the works?

You have asked this question before, albeit with different wording, and I will give you the same answer as I did before. This year's increase will be wholly spent on Trekenning Car Park and it is very likely there will be NO INCREASE in the precept next year, or even possibly a slight decrease. We don't know how much will be generated by the pay and display side of the car park yet! Again, it's important for residents to know that pay and display only operates from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. The car park is free at night from 5pm – 9am and free at weekends, and all bank holidays.

When you say is it the Council plan to pay off the cost, we have already paid the bill. Sound fiscal management of the Town Council's finances has always been the bedrock of this administration. Doing the best we can, with the limited resources at our disposal. We have NO Public Works Loans. However, we did inherit a sizeable loan from the pre-2013 administration, almost £35k of Public Works Loans, which was used to pay for the concrete skate park in the Recreation Ground, which we paid off almost immediately after taking office.

Further to your unsolicited advice that the Town Council precept has gone up on average by 1% in real terms in each of the last 7 years, please can you confirm it went up by 35% in the year before the 7 (being 2012/13) and that increase was agreed to meet the expected costs of taking on assets from Cornwall Council ?

I cannot speak for past administrations prior to this Council taking office in May of 2013. I can tell you that the 35% increase you refer to was NOT for devolved projects. It was put up by the previous administration, to pay for a Public Works Loan of over £1 million, proposed to build a community hub on the recreation ground, something I was very much against, and I voted, along with one other at the time, against that increase. The increase was also to allow the Council to take over the public toilets from Cornwall Council.

Please could you provide an update on the suggested on-street problems caused by the introduction of charging at Trekenning, and whether the Council is minded to reconsider the charges given the detrimental impact it may be having on residents of SCM, and the people who come to SCM to work.

There is no evidence to suggest that charging is having a detrimental impact on the people of the parish, or those who work here. As stated before, the Council will review the charging policy in 12 months.

Would the Council please undertake to publish at the earliest time possible, information for each of the assets it has taken on from Cornwall Council, as to how much these have (1) cost (2) will cost in the future, (3) what the people of SCM can expect to see from the assets in the future, in terms of benefits to the community.

When these assets were devolved, the cost to the taxpayers of St Columb Major was one pound per asset, payable to Cornwall Council, a token charge. The cost to the taxpayer for The Hurling's is mainly in grass cutting. It is now cut fortnightly, at £150 per cut - that's £3,300 per year; Highfield Green is now cut 7 times a year, at £100 per cut – that's £700 per year; the play areas at Carloggas and Trelawney Parc, are cut 7 times a year at £60.00 a cut, which is £420 each a year. That is a total of £4,840.00 per year for grass cutting. The Council intends to invest next year in Carloggas play area, making it a toddler play area - estimated cost approx. £35k – 40k., and the following year in the Hurlings play area, again estimated cost £35k – 40k.

Finally, please would the Council undertake to give a full explanation for any above inflation increase, when it sets the precept for next year in October/November.

NO is the simple answer, as the precept for next year is yet to be set, so I cannot give you a definitive answer to that question.

John Foley –

The bin must be sorted out, as well as the grass, which has not been cut this year. If not, we will have to get health and safety involved.

The bin is not the responsibility of the Town Council. It is still Cornwall Council's responsibility to get it emptied. The Town Council is only responsible for the cutting of the grass on The Hurlings field. Cutting the grass on the estate is the responsibility of whoever is responsible for the estate, presumably Cornwall Council.

**348/19**      **Report from County Councillor and Police:**

The County Councillor's report had already been presented.

There was no Police presence, but a report had been received. The Town Clerk proceeded to read the report:

“Here is a brief report for August –

There were 15 reported crimes for August, which breakdown as follows:

3 x criminal damage  
1 x sexual assault  
5 x assault – 3 were from the same incident, but crimed separately  
1 x threat to damage property  
2 x use of threatening/abusive/insulting words  
1 x theft  
1 x dog dangerously out of control  
1 x action fraud

PCSO Malcolm Burgess”

**349/19**      **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Warner, and Cllr Mrs Jiggins (social distancing). Cllr Mrs Rogers was not present, and no apologies had been received.

**350/19**      **Members Declarations of Interests:**

**i)      Declarations of Interest, in accordance with the Agenda:**

Cllr Allen – Planning Application PA20/04404

ii) **Declarations of gifts to the value of £25:**

None

**351/19** **To confirm Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020:**

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020, were presented by the Mayor.

With regards to the cutting of the hedge on Newquay Road, the Mayor advised that this has now been undertaken by the Town Council's Contractor, even though it is the responsibility of Cornwall Council.

As agreed at the last Meeting, the Football Club rent has been suspended for this year. It was also agreed that rent would be suspended for the Bowling Club for this year. However, the Bowling Club paid the rent at the beginning of March, so the rent for next year will be suspended.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Mrs McLeod seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the Minutes be accepted.

The Minutes of the Closed Session of the Full Council Meeting, held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020, were presented by the Mayor.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr. Allen seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the Minutes be accepted.

**352/19** **Payment of Accounts – Members to Approve the Payment of Accounts to the end of August 2020:**

The Mayor presented the Accounts, to be paid up to the end of August 2020. There were in fact two Finance Statements – one to the end of July, and one to the end of August.

A number of questions were asked, and answers provided, about cheques paid, monies received, and Standing Orders/Direct Debits paid for from the July Finance Statement.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Daniels seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously, to approve the payment of accounts up to the end of July 2020.

A number of questions were asked about cheques paid, monies received, and Standing Orders/Direct Debits paid for the August Finance Statement. There was a query over one of the cheques paid to Amazon, which the Town Clerk will investigate.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Culley seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously, to approve the payment of accounts up to the end of August 2020.

**353/19**

**Planning Matters:**

**PA20/05870 – Demolition of existing rear two-storey extension, with a replacement two-storey rear extension, and a connecting single-storey extension – 7, Bridge Hill, St Columb TR9 6BY – Judith Hughes**

Mrs Hughes was afforded time to explain about this Planning Application. The current rear extension is made of wood. The front entrance porch will be removed, and entrance gained via the single-storey side extension. Two bedrooms will now become four. The idea is to make optimum space. The two-storey extension will not be visible from the front. There is a genuine need to carry out this work.

Cllr Fuery advised that she and Cllr Mrs Jiggins had viewed the property over the weekend, and could see no problems with the improvements whatsoever. Cllr Daniels was of the opinion that this will vastly improve the property.

Cllr Mrs Fuery proposed, Cllr Mrs McLeod seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to support the Application.

Cllr Allen left the room.

**PA20/04404 – Proposed sand school to allow for the exercising of horses for private use – Whiterose Farm, Goss Moor, St Columb Major TR9 6HP – Mr Geoffery Varcoe**

Everything appeared to be very straight forward with this Application. Hopefully, it will improve a presently neglected area.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Mrs McLeod seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to support the Application.

Cllr Allen returned to the room.

**PA20/06117 – Removal of a S106 Agreement in respect of Decision Notice C2/09/00308 (Conversion of barn into dwelling) – Lucky Barn, Ruthvoes, St Columb TR9 6HS – Mrs Hancock**

There was some confusion as to exactly what this Application meant. The removal would be in line with current legislation, February 2020. It would appear that if the Agreement is not removed, the property can only be sold at 65% of the market value. So, the reason for the Application is purely financial.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Allen seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to support the Application.

**PA20/06469 – Proposed demolition of the ancillary storage building and the erection of a replacement ancillary building – Blackacre Bungalow, St Columb TR9 6JA – Mr and Mrs P Emery**

Cllr Daniels advised that the current building is dilapidated, and the new building will look much better. He could see no problem with the Application. The proposed building will consist of an Art Studio, Gym, Bathroom and Office. The building will have the same footprint as the old building.

Cllr Daniels proposed, Cllr Culley seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to support the Application.

**354/19 GDPR Audit Report and Action Plan:**

Members had received a copy of the GDPR Audit Report Year 3 July 2020, Version Three, and the Action Plan (Version Three). The Town Clerk commented briefly on both documents. There is nothing further which has to be done this year to ensure that the Town Council is complying with the GDPR legislation – all actions have been taken.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Roberts seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to accept both the GDPR Audit Report and Action Plan.

**355/19 COVID – 19 Road Signs:**

The Town Clerk explained why the signs had been investigated, and what they would say. He also outlined the three sets of prices which he has received for the signs. After some discussion, it was agreed unanimously not to proceed with the purchase of the signs.

**356/19      Insurance Renewal:**

The Town Clerk took Members through the documentation for the Insurance Renewal, together with the actual cost for the coming year.

There is only a slight increase in the cost - £5,027.72 (which is approx. £25 higher than last year).

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Roberts seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to accept WPS's insurance renewal cost in the sum of £5027.72 for the coming year.

**357/19      Special Dispensation for Non-attendance at Meetings:**

Cllr Wills explained about the "6 month" rule for non-attendance at Council Meetings, and the fact that it still applies, even through Lockdown. After some discussion, Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Culley seconded, and it was RESOLVED to give special dispensation for non-attendance to Cllr Mrs Warner, and Cllr Mrs Jiggins, up to the end of this Council (which in effect will be March 2021). One Member voted against the proposal.

**358/19      Audit 2019/20:**

The Town Clerk read an e-mail which had been received from PFK Littlejohn, regarding the 2019/20 Audit. It states that "As the Authority has Income/Expenditure which has exceeded £200,000, it is subject to intermediate level review procedures this year. Therefore, please could you send copies of the following additional documents, which are requested for intermediate level procedures this year; A copy of the relevant minutes, agenda papers, and any related reports from 2019/20, to support the setting of the budget for the subsequent financial year, and if the 2018/19 external auditor report included any "except for" matters, copies of minutes, and any agreed plan showing the corrective action taken to address these matters". All documentation will be sent to PFK Littlejohns, as requested. With regards to the "except for" matters, as Members will probably remember, this dealt with figures being included in wrong boxes on the AGAR. Whilst you, Members of the Town Council, were happy with the figures in the boxes, the External Auditor was not. Having spoken to Littlejohn's today, they state they do require the boxes to be altered. The overall figures will remain the same. All that is required is to amend the boxes accordingly, and for the Mayor and Town Clerk to initial them.

Cllr Daniels proposed, Cllr Allen seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously that this be the course of action taken.

**359/19**      **Suggested Names for New Housing Estates:**

We have received requests from the developers, as to whether the Town Council would like to suggest names for the two new housing estates being built in St Columb Major. The new builds are at the top of Hawkens Way, and along Station Road. After some lengthy discussion, when such names as Queens Drive and Jubilee Close were suggested, it was thought to be a good idea for Members to think about this, and inform the Town Clerk with any suitable names as soon as possible. It was also suggested that we ask members of the public if they have any ideas as well, via our Facebook page perhaps.

**360/19**      **Donation Request from Cornwall Air Ambulance:**

We have received a request from Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust for a donation. We last made a donation of £200 to the Cornwall Air Ambulance in September 2019. Three Members voted for £200, and four Members voted for £300. It was therefore agreed, that we send a donation of £300 to the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust.

**361/19**      **Correspondence:**

The following items of correspondence had been received:

- a) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 24.07.20
- b) Town and Parish Council – Highways and Environment Update – 20.08.20
- c) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 21.08.20

**362/19**      **Any Other Business:**

- a) Cllr Culley advised that Mrs Glanville has requested her documents back please. If you can advise which documents we are talking about, we will oblige. It is thought that some are photographs she lent for the Smallseum. It was reported that the Team working on the Smallseum are progressing, albeit slowly.
- b) Cllr Mrs Fuery again expressed some concern regarding the indiscriminate parking in Halveor Close, and Glebe Close. She has passed on registration numbers of vehicles concerned to the Town Clerk, who in turn, will refer the matter to Ocean Housing.
- c) Cllr Daniels referred to the Public Right of Way at the bottom of Union Hill, leading up to the A39. County Highways advised that they would be undertaking work to “tidy up” this area. Nothing has happened. The matter will once again be referred to Adrian Drake (Highways Manager).

- d) Cllr Daniels referred to an “abandoned car” in Union Hill. It appears that the car in question is not taxed, and has no MOT. Cllr Wills asked to have the registration number, etc., and he will then contact the Police to have the vehicle removed.
- e) Cllr Daniels wondered what was happening regarding the Christmas Lights Switch On this year. Cllr Wills advised that we currently do not know. It has to be assumed that there will be no Parade, or Fireworks, or Stalls, or a Band. He will speak with the Chairman of the Christmas Lights Committee, to get a definitive answer before the next Meeting. It would be possible, presumably, to still have the lights erected.
- f) Cllr Allen reported that the CCTV cameras on the old Barclays Bank is covered with pigeon droppings. It needs to be cleaned urgently. We will deal with this matter.
- g) The Town Clerk advised that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has agreed the new pay scales for 2020 – 21, to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The agreement is for a 2.75% increase, and an additional days’ leave. This increase will apply to all Town Council paid staff.
- h) Cllr Culley advised that there are a number of Public Footpath signs that are damaged, or have disappeared completely. He will inform the Town Clerk of which signs they are, and we will try to get the matter sorted.
- i) Cllr Daniels advised that the new owners of the old Lloyds Bank building are going to call it, as previously, The Cornish Bank. They are also proposing to place substantial railings at the front of the building.

**363/19      Date of Next Full Council Meeting:**

The date of the next Full Council Meeting is scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The Meeting ended at 8.10pm

Dated:      6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Signed: