

# 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, 8<sup>th</sup> December 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, Mrs F Fuery, S Allen, Mrs L Jiggins, S Whetter

**In attendance:** Mr M C Uren (Town Clerk)

**399/19**      **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:-

"Since we last met, I have attended several All-Member Briefings on various subjects. The first being "Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health and Care Partnership", on becoming a Designated Care System. A further meeting was on Brexit Transition Impact and Perpetration, plus Corserve Business Plan for the coming years, and how the group of companies hope to operate to give a return to the Council. Finally, there was a briefing on Safeguarding during Covid.

The Network Panel met during the first week of Lockdown, to see if there were any problems, and we met again last week. Next week's full meeting of the Panel has been postponed until January.

I undertook some training with our web page provider, Seadog IT, on how to put events on the webpage. I suggest you all have a look at the new design webpage. It is very good, and is now Assessibility Compliant.

As Cornwall Council prepares for the new Council in 2021, the Independent Remunerations Panel have met with Members, to discuss the Members' Allowance, and they will shortly be putting forward their recommendations to Full Council for its approval. With the number of Councillors falling from 123 to 87, and the workload for Cornwall Councillors expected to increase dramatically, the allowance should reflect that.

There was a meeting of the Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> of November - details are available on the website. This was a six-hour virtual meeting.

I also attended a Refresher Course via Teams on Meeting Protocols.

Of course, we have been in Lockdown for over four weeks, only coming out of it six days ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. With the news that the vaccine is to be rolled out nationally over the coming months, and possibly up to a year, we still all need to be vigilant. Keep socially distancing, wash your hands and cover your face. Above all "Stay Safe".

**400/19**

**Questions from the public:**

Neil Kirkland:

"Further to my previous questions, please see below -

Question: Further to some Councillors' giggles at the Council's last meeting to the Mayor's announcement that more questions have been received from Mr Kirkland, does the Council think it is a laughing matter that it seems to have spent £75,000 on making the car parking in the town much far worse, for some at least?

Response: No, we do not consider it a laughing matter

Question: Does the Council think that having spent over £75,000 on the Trekenning Car Park, that it is a good thing that it is now operating at a quarter of its previous capacity?

Response: Yes, we do think it's money well spent, considering the state it was for many years. There is no evidence that it is now operating at a quarter of its previous capacity.

Question: Where does the Council think the 50 or so cars that are no longer being parked in the Trekenning Car Park because of charging, are now being parked?

Response: It is obvious, even to those who do not care about the Car Park, and the charges, that since resurfacing, and the introduction of charges from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday only, free at weekends and Bank Holidays, that only a certain amount of people use it anyway. Over the last month during Lockdown, the Car Park was free for a whole month, as indeed were all the Town Council Car Parks. Trekenning Car Park had the same number of vehicles using it during the free month, as it did since charging was introduced. There is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

Question: The Mayor said at the last Meeting that the problem of road safety at school drop-off times is not in the jurisdiction of the Council. As far as I can see problems with roads maintenance in the Parish are also outside of the Council's jurisdiction, but clearly you engage with Cornwall Council on them. I think you do this as the elected representatives of the town, and I see no difference between this, and you working to try and find a solution to the drop-off problem before there is a possibly tragic incident. I do not see the fact that this is a historic problem as a reason not to try and sort it now, given what is at stake i.e. childrens' lives. Similarly, your advice that the Council has looked at it before perhaps says more about the competence of the Council than it does the need to look at the problem afresh with new eyes. Given this, would the Council organise a Public Zoom Meeting so that the people of the town have an opportunity to put forward and discuss any ideas they might have, to solve this problem?

Response: No, we will not be holding a Public Meeting on drop-off and pick-up at the school.

Question: Similar to the above, the Mayor has stated publicly in the past that problems with the standards of service provided at the Surgery in the town are outside of his remit. As our elected representatives I think this is far from the case. In light of this, would the Council organise a Public Zoom Meeting so the management of the Surgery might explain to the people of the town why the delivery of adequate customer standards at the Surgery seem to be such a problem?

Response: No, we will not be holding a Public Zoom Meeting on the Surgery. When we come out of Lockdown, the Manager of the Surgery will be invited to attend a Full Council Meeting, to answer any questions that residents may have.

**401/19**

**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:

“Police Crime Figures from 08/11/2020 to 08/12/2020:

1. Harassment without violence
2. Assault ABH
3. Non-counting action fraud
4. Use of threatening words and behaviour
5. Dog not under proper control
6. Second report of dog not under proper control
7. Sending letter, communication of a threatening nature
8. Common assault
9. Assault by beating
10. Assault by beating
11. Assault by beating
12. Theft other
13. Assault by beating
14. Sending letter, communication of a threatening nature
15. Driving a vehicle whilst unfit through drugs

Could parents be advised NOT to park on the chevrons outside St Columb Major Academy School, which is obscuring the view of the School Crossing Patrol and endangering the children crossing the road. Police will be active in dealing with these parking issues.

The St Columb Christmas Lights look really lovely - brightening up the town. Well done to the team responsible.

Regards

Anita Parry PCSO 30046  
P C Dan Carthew 13338”

**402/19      Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Roberts (self-isolating), Mrs Rogers (family commitment), and Mrs Warner (self-isolating).

**403/19      Members Declarations of Interests:**

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

Cllr Culley – Planning Application PA20/01425

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

None

**404/19** **To confirm Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020:**

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, were presented by the Mayor.

Cllr Wills confirmed that the Town Clerk and himself had visited Cllr Mrs Warner, and she had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Oath of Allegiance.

With regards to the installation of an additional street light in Barn Lane, Cllr Wills advised that the matter has been discussed with the Network Highways Manager, who has confirmed that it may be possible to find funding from the Network Highways Budget for this work. Similarly, it is hoped that the lights requested for Higher East Street/Hillcrest Close and Trelawney Parc can be facilitated from the same budget.

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

The Minutes of the Closed Session of the Full Council Meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, were presented by the Mayor.

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

**405/19** **Payment of Accounts – Members to Approve the Payment of Accounts to the end of November 2020:**

The Mayor proceeded to present the Accounts, paid up to the end of November 2020.

Some brief explanations were given on cheques issued, payments received, and Standing Orders/Direct Debits. The purchase of the new Phoenix seat is to replace the old rotten wooden seat on Newquay Road. It is our intention to make this seat in memory of Rex Wade. A plaque will be placed on the seat accordingly. Cllr Wills explained about the kerbset re-imburement at the Cemetery. We have now taken possession of the kerbset. An explanation was given about security and Kestral Guards, and why we have a contract with Cormac to inspect the playing field equipment. The monies received from Grantscape are for St Columb in

Bloom, and the Christmas Lights. When we have paid for the electrical work that has been undertaken at the Lych Gate, the remainder of the grant will be given to the Christmas Lights Committee. From now on, as they have their own bank account, they will be requesting grant money from the Denzell Downs Community Benefits Fund. The Town Clerk explained about the Burial Plan item in "Monies Paid In".

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Culley seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Payment of Accounts, up to the end of November 2020.

**406/19**

**Planning Matters:**

At this point Cllr Culley left the Meeting.

**PA20/01425 – Demolition of existing garage/store and erection of single detached dwelling – Garage/Store, West Street, St Columb, Cornwall – Mr Wilton**

Cllr Wills gave an update on this Application. There are some comments on the Planning Portal, regarding the five-metre distance from a Sub-station requirement. It was confirmed that the garage will be on the ground floor, with the accommodation on the first floor.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Daniels seconded, and it was RESOLVED to support the Application. Two Members voted against the proposal.

At this point Cllr Culley returned to the Meeting.

**PA20/08124 – New residential unit for holiday letting – Land adjacent to Tregaswith Farm, Tregaswith, St Columb Major TR8 4HY – Mr Paul Young-Jamieson**

Cllr Daniels advised that internally all seems fine, but externally not so. The metal cladding is certainly not in keeping with the location, and there must be questions about the flat roof. Aesthetically it is unsuitable. He is not happy with the exterior look of the building.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Daniels seconded, and it was RESOLVED to object to the Application, on the grounds as described earlier. There was one abstention.

**PA20/08223 – Outline Planning Permission for the erection of a dwelling – Three Acres, Killaworgey, Black Cross, Newquay – Miss I Chambers**

Cllr Daniels advised that there was very little detail of the actual property being proposed included. Where it is, and its location is fine. However, the applicant is only requesting Outline Planning Permission at this stage.

Cllr Daniels proposed, Cllr Wills seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to offer “No comment” on this Application, until more details are available.

**PA20/10322 – Application for Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved for the construction of one dwelling – Land at Tregaswith House, Tregaswith, Newquay, Cornwall – Mr S James**

Cllr Daniels advised that there are a lot of vague reasonings included in this Application, and a lot of “policy waffle”. There is no designated bus stop at Westways, despite copious pages of timetables indicating there was. It was also mentioned that the field next to Tregaswith House is now full of cars. Cllr Wills confirmed that there is an Enforcement Case ongoing at present regarding this matter.

Cllr Daniels proposed, Cllr Wills seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to offer “No Comment” on this Application, until more details are forthcoming.

**PA20/08222 – Variation of Condition 16 (time limit) of PA11/00560 (Development of a 5 MW solar photovoltaic farm on 16.1 Ha of land along with attendant equipment and infrastructure) – Trekenning Farm, Trekenning, Newquay, Cornwall – Lightsource bp**

We have now received the following response from the Planning Officer –

“The agent has advised, that they do not have any current proposals to provide a community benefit fund at this time. They may be in a position to provide a community benefit fund, where planning permission is received for the extension of time, and an extension to the lease for the solar farm operator has been agreed (after the existing lease comes to an end). However, they are unable to agree this at this stage. The agent has advised that the security of the site will be maintained as it is now, and that all the equipment will also be maintained to the same standard it is now”.

Cllr Mrs McLeod asked about whether the solar panels would need replacement, if the period is extended to forty years. It was stated that the Panels have been there now for some six/seven years.

Councillors agreed that the information received made no difference to their original support of the Application. One Member abstained.

**407/19**      **Consideration of Capital Projects, which have been deferred due to the Pandemic:**

Cllr Wills spoke on this matter. The original intention was to possibly provide more equipment at the Hurlings Play Area, and provide some Toddlers Play equipment at Carloggas. Although monies have been set aside for these projects, it will be dependent on cost, and whether the projects are actually feasible. To this end, it was suggested that we pass these projects on to the Deputy Mayor, for her to investigate, and bring forward prices in due course. Members eventually agreed to this course of action.

**408/19**      **Survey of Town Hall Roof:**

Cllr Wills spoke on this matter. What is really required, is for a new survey to be undertaken on the roof of the Town Hall. It was explained that the problem is really the slates, and not so much the timbers. The slates were, a while ago, coated with some form of protection, and this would be extremely difficult to remove. Therefore, it would be sensible to have the slates replaced. Members agreed to obtain three prices, to complete a new survey of the Town Hall roof.

**409/19**      **Flagpole on Church:**

Cllr Wills advised that included in the Parish Magazine recently, was an item regarding a flagpole on the Church. He thought it would be lovely to have a flag flying on special occasions. It appears that the flagpole blew off during the Great Storm of 1948. We do not know whether all the fittings are still in place. It is possible that a Faculty will need to be completed, and possibly Planning Permission obtained. Cllr Daniels asked why the Church would not be paying for this work. Members thought that the Church should certainly make a contribution towards the cost of this. Another suggestion made, was for a flagpole to be erected on the Town Hall, but a suitable location on the roof was doubtful. It was agreed that we will check the matter out in the first instance with Mr. Phil Tremain. Members agreed, that we should investigate the cost of providing a Flagpole on the Church Tower.

**410/19**      **Donation Request from True Butterflies Foundation:**

The Town Clerk advised that we have received a donation request from the True Butterflies Foundation. He explained what this Foundation actually was, and its purpose, in providing support for victims of domestic abuse, and that it has Charity Commission Status.

Cllr Mrs McLeod proposed, Cllr Daniels seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to make a £50 donation to the True Butterflies Foundation.

**411/19**

**Correspondence:**

The following items of correspondence had been received:

- a) CC – Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 30.10.20
- b) CC – Budget Consultation – Town and Parish Council Bulletin - 05.11.20
- c) CC – Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 06.11.20
- d) CC – Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 27.11.20
- e) CC – Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 04.12.20

**412/19**

**Any Other Business:**

- a) Cllr Culley advised that people can park in Newquay at this time of the year for £1 a day. Should we reconsider our charges? It was agreed to include this as an Agenda Item at the next Meeting.
- b) Cllr Mrs Fuery asked whether there should be two people working in the Post Office. If it is private, we do not know the answer, but if it is Post Office Counters that run it, it would presumably be up to them.
- c) Cllr Mrs Jiggins was concerned about the state of the chippings, and indeed the trees, opposite Co-op. The whole area needs to be sorted out. It was agreed to include an Item on the next Agenda.
- d) Cllr Daniels stated that recently the Phone Box opposite Co-op was removed. He thinks that the cobbles at the bottom corner of the Co-op Car Park needed to be looked at. It was stated that they do actually act as a form of gully for rainwater.
- e) Cllr Daniels advised that there is another car in town parked on a road with no tax, no MOT, and presumably no insurance. Cllr Wills asked for all the information available on the vehicle, and he will try to sort the matter out.
- f) Cllr Allen expressed concern again about the state of dog fouling in West Street. The matter is being looked into. The Town Council is now part of the “We’re Watching You” Anti-dog Fouling Campaign.
- g) The Town Clerk advised that we have received information from Cornwall Council, regarding possible costs for the Town and Parish Council Elections next May. The cost for the three wards for an Uncontested Election will be in the region of £650. The cost of Contested Elections for the three wards will be about £4,700. It was also stated that it is not definite at this stage, that Elections will actually take place next May.
- h) The Town Clerk gave an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan. He read out an e-mail he had received from Richard Hooton. No

progress will be made, whilst the current COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

- i) Cllr Wills advised that we have had two pictures donated, that were originally in the old Barclays Bank in St Columb Major. As can be seen, we have hung them up in the Council Chamber.

**413/19      Date of Next Full Council Meeting:**

The date of the next Full Council Meeting is now scheduled to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**414/19      Resolution:**

**To consider the following Resolution: That the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972)**

Cllr Wills proposed the Resolution, seconded by Cllr Allen, and RESOLVED unanimously that we now go into Closed Session.

This part of the Meeting ended at 7.55pm

Dated:      12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Signed: