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, 6th October 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, K Roberts

In attendance: Mr M C Uren (Town Clerk)

364/19 **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 Members Briefings" via Teams for Cornwall Councillors, including the forthcoming budget for 2021/22, and Safer Cornwall, hearing about the multi-agency work that's involved in making our communities a safer place to live.

I hosted a meeting with the Church, the RBL, and the Military at RAF St Mawgan, here in the Town Hall, to discuss the forthcoming Remembrance Sunday, and how we make it Covid-safe for all concerned. It was agreed that this year will be a very much scaled back Act of Remembrance, bearing in mind the current situation relating to the Covid-9 pandemic. There will be no formal Parade, or Church Service. However, there will be an open Public Service in the Church following Wreath Laying at 11am, which is open to all, subject to numbers, with a maximum of 50 in the Church.

The Town Council respectfully request that all organisations make their own arrangements to lay a wreath, and pay their respects either before, or after the official 11am Wreath Laying. The reason for this request is due to the limited space at the War Memorial, and the need to observe social distancing in this confined space. No invitations to attend at 11am will be sent this year.

The official Wreath Laying will see only three wreaths laid - the Mayor's, on behalf of all the parishioners of the parish; the Station Commander - RAF St Mawgan, on behalf of all serving members of HM Forces, and the Chairman of the St Columb Branch of the Royal British Legion, on behalf of all past members of HM Forces. All other wreaths must be laid either before or after the official Wreath Laying. All organisations within the parish who are usually invited to attend have been written to.

Following the resignation of a County Councillor from the Cabinet, a vacancy became available to serve on the Constitution and Governance Committee at Cornwall Council. Volunteers were asked for by the Independents, and I put my name forward, and was accepted, so I now sit on that Committee. I attended my first meeting on 9th of September. This Committee looks at all aspects of work within the Council Committee Structure, to ensure that Terms of Reference are up to date, and can make amendments to those, or the constitution.

I am pleased to inform you that the Christmas Lights will go up this year, but there will be no formal Parade, or Switch On, no Band, or Fireworks. The Chairman of the Lights Committee met the Town Clerk here, at the Town Hall, and this was agreed.

I was invited to attend Retallack Resort and Spa, for another update on progress to date. They are moving ahead with the new lodges, and the area that you all visited, which was being cleared at that time, now has several lodges on it, and they hope to have the site fully finished and operational by 2022. If Members would like another visit, that can be arranged.

I sadly had to take compassionate leave due to the sudden, and unexpected passing of my mother, who died at home peacefully in her sleep on the 16th of September. I returned to work yesterday - the 5th of October. Naturally I missed a few meetings due to this bereavement. I thank those within our community who sent me personal messages of condolence".

365/19 **Questions from the public:**

Neil Kirkland:

Question: I asked you to 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. You answered by saying it was part of a bigger Devolved Projects item on the Agenda and Minutes were not required to be verbatum.

Given that charging at Trekenning Car Park was clearly a very emotive, and for those who use it during the day a very significant issue, I would now ask was the decision not to include the item on the Agenda for 1st October 2019 in anyway due to the Council not wanting the people of St Columb to come to the meeting to hear the discussion / participate in the debate?

If that was not reason, please could you explain how the people of St Columb were meant to know that charging at Trekenning was part of that Agenda Item?

Response: Firstly, there was no meeting of the Town Council on 1st of October, the meeting you refer to was held on 3rd. I have no idea why you keep mentioning the 1st of October 2019, as that meeting did not happen. The Agenda Item was "Devolved Projects", and Trekenning Car Park came under that heading. The Working Party reported back to the Council with its recommendations, and these were accepted by the Council by consensus. That meeting, and all previous meetings of the Council, and subsequent meetings up until the pandemic, were all open to the public. Records clearly show that Council Meetings are sparsely attended by the public, often with no members of the public in attendance at all. It is not the policy of this, or any Town or Parish Council, to solicit attendance at meetings. Members of the public are always welcome to attend meetings, and when the pandemic is over, I hope they do. You state that the Car Park is an emotive subject. Hardly so! The Town Council has received very positive feedback on the Car Park, and only one shop owner has complained that his staff now must buy a permit. It appears to me, and others, that it is you and Mr Middleditch who are trying hard to make this an emotive subject.

Question: I asked why the Council put up the precept by £28k for the 20/21 year, and introduced charging to pay for the cost of resurfacing of Trekenning Car Park when the resurfacing will last for 15 years, and the Council already had the Reserves required to pay for the works.

You answered this question by saying that the whole of the £28k increase went to the costs of car parks works. The Council did not know how much charging would generate, and the Council might not put up Council Tax next year, or might even reduce it slightly.

With all due respect such a response did not answer the question. I would therefore ask why the Council saw fit to introduce charging given that the Council Tax increase over the 15 years of the life of the resurfacing work will generate £420k. Charging can be expected to generate a further £180k over the same period. The cost of the works after the Cornwall Council contribution is £75k, and the Council already had the money required to pay the £75k cost?

Response: The £28k increase was indeed to help pay for the works needed at Trekenning Car Park, and this year's precept for the year 2021/22 should, I hope, see a decrease in the precept. You assume that the £28k increase will be a permanent increase, hence your projected figure of £420k over 15 years. This is simply not the case, as I am confident that people will see a decrease next year. The Council did have £50K in Reserves to help towards the cost, and indeed approximately £25k from Cornwall Council. That left a shortfall of £25k, which was the reason for the increase last year. I can assure residents, that your projected figure of £180k in charges, over the next 15 years, is wildly exaggerated. We estimate over the next 15 years £78k in charges. That's approximately £5,200 a year!

Question: I asked what the 35% increase in Council Tax in 2012/13 was for. You advised that the increase was to pay for an expected loan to build a community facility, and to take on the public toilets from Cornwall Council. The 35% increase amounted to some £65k a year. Given the community facility project was scrapped and no loan was taken, please can you advise why the Council Tax was not reduced the following year - that year being the first year as I understand that you became Mayor?

Response: Asking questions about an increase in the precept from nearly a decade ago, before I became Mayor, is hardly fair. Since becoming

Mayor in 2013, as stated before, the precept has gone down on five occasions, remained the same once, and increased twice. And I fully expect it to decrease again this year.

Question: I asked the Council to provide an update on the 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.

You said there was no evidence of a detrimental impact, and the Council, as previously advised, would review the policy in the next 12 months. I would now say that you are wrong, as clearly there is a detrimental impact for those workers who previously used the car park for free, and who are now required to pay hundreds of pounds to park, and there is also a detrimental impact for all residents who now find cars parked outside of their houses during working hours.

Given this, would the Council therefore go and collect information as to the detrimental impact that charging at the car park is having, and instigate a review of charging at the earliest possible time, taking into account that the additional money it will get from the Council Tax increase, and the introduction of charging over the next 15 years, is likely to be 8 times what the works costs, and that the Council already had the money required for the works?

Response: The Council has stated many times that it will review charging at Trekenning within 12 months of charging being introduced. Again, it is my opinion that your figures are wildly exaggerated. The Council has only received one visit from a shop keeper regarding the changes, and most residents are pleased with the works. I will remind residents that the Car Park is free from 5pm – 9am Monday to Friday, free at weekends, and all bank holidays. The charging now stops misuse and abuse of the Car Park, and those who say that people did not park there to use the Airport are simply just wrong, as was proven when the Car Park was closed for the works to be carried out.

Question: I asked that the Council provide information as to the costs of the assets it has taken on from Cornwall Council. You answered by talking about various green spaces around the town. You did not cover the public toilets, or the Library, where there are clearly costs being incurred. Please therefore could you explain how much the Library and public toilets have cost to date, and are expected to cost in the future.

Response: Your question last time was specific to the recently devolved projects, and you did not mention the Library, or Public Toilets. The cost of running the toilets are as follows; for cleaning and materials £750 per month, electricity £600 per year, rates £1,347 for the Rec. and the Town Hall public toilets £1,100, water rates for both combined £550. That's a total of £12,597. Before we took over the toilets, the annual running cost was estimated at just over £20,000 per year, so as you can clearly see from the figures, by employing locally, we have slashed the running cost nearly in half. The Library costs are as follows, Rates £5,500 per year, Salaries £25,000, Water Rates £400 per year, the Electricity is on the same bill as the Town Hall, and we estimate the yearly cost to be about £1,400 per year, Water Rates £350. That's a total of £32,650. That's the yearly cost of the Library and Public Toilets. I don't know what the future will bring, so can't answer the last part of your question.

Question: Finally, I asked the Council to undertake to give a full explanation for any above inflation increase that it might choose to agree when it sets the precept for next year in October/November. You responded by saying that you could not, as the precept had not been set. Clearly my question asked for an undertaking, and not an explanation. I would therefore ask again for that undertaking so that people of St Columb can understand both for next year and future years, the reasons for any above inflation Council Tax increases that are agreed by the Council.

Response: There will be NO above inflation increase this year, and as stated previously, I expect a decrease this year.

366/19 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:

"St Columb Council Meeting – 06/10/2020

Twelve crimes reported this month, from 6th September to 6th October 2020 –

1. 3 reports of communication of an offensive nature

2. 3 reports of ABH – Assaults

3. 2 reports of criminal damage

4. 1 theft from person

5. 1 dog not under proper control

6. 1 theft of a motor vehicle

Regards
PCSO Parry"

367/19 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for Absence were received from Cllrs Allen, Mrs Jiggins, Mrs Rogers, and Mrs Warner (all unwell).

68/19 **Members Declarations of Interests:**

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

None

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

None

369/19 **To confirm Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 1st September 2020:**

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 1st September 2020, were presented by the Mayor.

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

370/19 **Payment of Accounts – Members to Approve the Payment of Accounts to the end of August and September 2020:**

The Mayor presented the revised Accounts, paid up to the end of August 2020. One item had been omitted from the original document, and a correct explanation about another item was given.

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

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

Some brief explanations were given on cheques issued, payments received, and Standing Orders/Direct Debits.

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

371/19 **Planning Matters:**

PA20/06572 – Listed Building Consent for the proposed demolition of lean to garage and replacement with ground floor garage/store, utility and kitchen extension with bedroom over – Shepherds Purse, Road from Rosedinnick to Talskiddy, Talskiddy, St Columb - Mr & Mrs A Hewitt

There would appear to be no problems at all with regards to this Application.

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

PA20/06571 – Proposed demolition of lean to garage and replacement with ground floor garage/store, utility and kitchen extension with bedroom over – Shepherds Purse, Talskiddy, St Columb TR9 6ED – Mr & Mrs A Hewitt

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

PA20/05784 – All weather 20m x 40m sand school suitable for exercising horses all year round, including new timber fencing enclosure and timber entrance gate for personal use only – Trewan Farm, Talskiddy, St Columb, Cornwall – Mrs Emma Goodwin

The area involved is off the road, and cannot be seen by anyone. The details regarding surface materials, fencing, and drainage were satisfactory

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

PA20/07219 – Listed Building Consent for alterations to screen wall – 63, Fore Street, St Columb TR9 6AJ – Mr Paul Young-Jamieson

An explanation was given as to exactly where the screen wall is sited, and what works would be involved.

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

PA20/07494 – Reserved Matters application following approved Outline PA19/00452 for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale – Land South of Robena, Barn Lane, St Columb TR9 6BU – Mr Nick Wellstead, Legacy Properties

This is only a Reserved Matters Application.

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

PA20/07949 – Proposed erection of a two-storey side extension to the detached dwelling – Pollawyn, Tregamere, St Columb, Cornwall – Mr and Mrs C Shazell

The Town Clerk read an e-mail that had been received from the Applicants. The property concerned was a new build, about two years ago.

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

PA20/07456 – Notification of proposed works to trees in a Conservation Area: Felling of five Leyland Cypress and one Sycamore – 1, Fair Street, St Columb TR9 6RL – Mr Darren Wakelam

PA20/08099 – Works to trees in a Conservation Area, namely to fell Oak Tree due to shading, excessive dropping of acorns and structural damage to stone wall – 3, Bridge Hill, St Columb, Cornwall TR9 6BY - Wallington

As both of the above Applications are for works to trees in a Conservation Area, they will be decided under Delegated Authority. There is no need to submit any comments, as the communication is merely to notify that applications have been received.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Culley seconded, and it was RESOLVED that both these Applications be noted.

372/19 **Members to consider Precept 2021/22:**

The Mayor took Members through the Proposed Budget and Precept for 2021/22. He explained each of the areas; –
Expenditure - Admin. and Full Council.
Capital Projects.
Income.
There is a requirement that there should be a 10% Contingency Sum added, which can take account of any unexpected expenditure that occurs during the year.

Cllr Roberts stated that, in his opinion, it seemed very sound.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Roberts seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Budget and Precept for 2021/22, as presented.

373/19 **Suggested Names for New Housing Estates:**

No further names had been suggested by either members of the public, or Councillors. Cllr Daniels advised that Cornwall Council does have names that they will use on new housing estates. Where the new Housing Estates concerned are, was again explained to Members. It was agreed that we should submit the names suggested at the last Meeting – Queens Drive, and Jubilee Close.

374/19 **Smallseum:**

Cllr Wills gave an update on the Smallseum. Work is progressing satisfactorily with this Project. There were some issues with copyright, but this has now been resolved. It is anticipated that the Project will be completed, and opened, by Christmas. It is hoped that we will have media coverage on the Project.

375/19 **Parking in St Columb Major:**

Cllr Wills spoke on this matter. It is now nearly 18 months since the amended parking was brought into the town – reducing parking times from 2 hours to 1 hour. Cllr Roberts advised that he had received a number of comments from residents, stating that 1 hour is not long enough – 2 hours are better than 1. Cllr Culley also had received comments, stating that the 1 hour parking is not long enough. Cllr Daniels advised that if we go back

to 2 hours, it is encouraging abuse, and the 2 hour parking will certainly be abused. It was also noted that the CEO's would not be able to do their job effectively if it were moved back to two hours. People should use the proper Car Parks, if they know their visit will take longer than one hour. Cllr Culley stated that it is difficult for builders, for example, to just park for an hour. Basically, they will have to keep moving their vehicle. Cllr Mrs McLeod wondered whether we could go for 90 minutes. The Town Clerk advised that a new T.P O. will be required to be instigated, if we wish to change timings again, at a cost of approx. £3,500. The time scale will also be about 9 months. A vote was taken – 2 voted to go back to 2 hours, 1 voted for 90 minutes, and 2 voted for it to remain as 1 hour, with 1 abstention. It was eventually agreed to drop the 90 minute option, and take another vote. On this occasion, 2 voted to go back to 2 hours, and 3 voted for it to stay the same, with again 1 abstention. It was therefore agreed that the system remain as now, with a further review taking place next April/May.

376/19 **Donation Request from the Merlin MS Centre:**

We have received a donation request from the Merlin MS Centre, St Austell. We last gave a donation to them of £100 in September 2019.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Mrs Fuery seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to make a donation of £100 to the Merlin MS Centre.

377/19 **Correspondence:**

The following items of correspondence had been received:

a) Cormac - Town and Parish Council- Highways Update – 07.09.20
b) CC - Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 18.09.20
c) CC – Town and Parish COVID-19 Update – 25.09.20
d) CC – Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 02.10.20

378/19 **Any Other Business:**

a) Cllr Mrs Fuery reported a blocked drain in Victoria Street. The matter will be referred to Cornwall Highways.
b) Cllr Roberts reported that there appears to be an awful lot of "dog poo" around the town, including on the Recreation Ground. Dogs are banned from the Recreation Ground. We will investigate the matter further. The CCTV cameras may assist with this, and the possible purchase of some more cameras would possibly help to track down the culprits. Although if these actions were done under cover of darkness,

then this option may not be very effective, and prove to be too expensive.

c) The Town Clerk advised that he has now received a letter regarding the "missing signs" on Footpaths. We are working towards getting this matter sorted in the not too distant future.
d) The Town Clerk advised that we have a received a very nice letter from Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust, thanking the Council for their kind donation.
e) The Town Clerk advised that we have received a letter of thanks from the Bowling Club, regarding the waiving of next year's rent.
f) The Town Clerk advised that we have received a letter from South West Water, regarding "South West Water Shares £20M with customers". It was agreed that we choose to receive credits on our next water bills.
g) Cllr Mrs Fuery spoke about the cutting back of trees on Trekenning Road, at Springfield House. The matter will be investigated further.

379/19 **Date of Next Full Council Meeting:**

The date of the next Full Council Meeting is scheduled for 3rd November 2020.

The Meeting ended at 8.10pm

Dated: 3rd November 2020 Signed: